

# Buddhism

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 106, FALL 2016

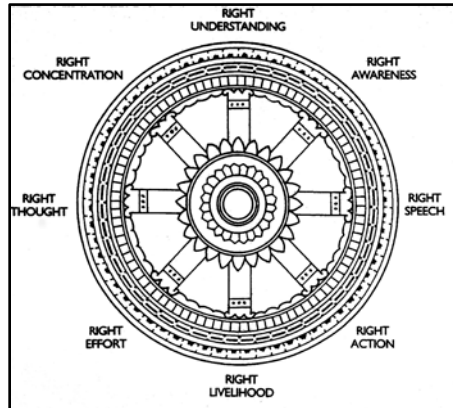
Professor Todd T. Lewis

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursdays 1-2; and by appointment

SMITH 425

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## Course Description:

A study of the Buddhist tradition, emphasizing its origin and development in India as well as its historical evolution in Asia. The course begins with the legend of the Buddha and the formation of the monastic community, its institutions and major sites; it then surveys doctrinal developments including the Theravāda, Mahāyāna, and Vajrayāna paths. Special attention will also be devoted to meditation, ethics, narratives, and Buddhist modernization.

## Course Design and Guidelines:

This course is planned as introductory and exploratory, conducted in a manner integrating lectures with regular discussions, incorporating recent scholarship. It emphasizes readings in the sacred scriptures, historical analysis, and anthropological studies of the living tradition.

**Participation.** All students are expected to participate actively in the coursework, share in the discussion, ask questions to help make unclear topics understood, and to make use of the office hours. Participation is part of the course grade.

**Reading assignments** are best completed *before* the designated class and analyzed carefully. Lectures will *supplement* the required readings, not replace them. There are also recommended readings for many classes. Please consult if you are interested in exploring other pertinent subjects.

The map of Asia and the paper must be in on time to receive full credit. Separate guidelines for each will be distributed.

## Grading:

1. Map Assignment.....	5
2. Paper 1.....	10
3. Mid-Term Examination I.....	20
3. Buddhist Art Encounter Paper.....	15
4. Final Examination.....	40
5. Course Participation.....	10

**100 points**

In addition, a menu of “Creative Tasks” will be made available to earn extra course credit.

**Required Textbooks:** (All ordered from the Holy Cross bookstore.)

Kevin Trainor, ed. *Buddhism: An Illustrated Guide*. London: Oxford Univ. Press, 2001.

T. Byrom, trans. *The Dhammapada*. Boston: Shambhala Pocket, 1993.

Kate Crosby & A. Skilton, trans. *The Bodhicaryavatara*. NY: Oxford Univ. Press, 1995.

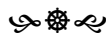
Robert Kennedy, *Zen Spirit, Christian Spirit*. New York: Continuum, 1995.

Todd Lewis, *Popular Mahayana Texts from Nepal*. Albany: State Univ. of NY Press, 2000.

Todd Lewis and Subarna Tuladhar, trans. *Sugata Saurabha*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

*Course Moodle Readings /MCR/* [note: some new readings may be added during the term]

Bring copies of the Buddhist texts assigned for specific days, according to the syllabus; if you have a question on that day's readings, there will be a chance to ask at the start of each class.



## Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

### Topic 1: **Foundations**

#### **1. 9/1: First Class: Syllabi Distributed and Course Overview**

**What do we mean by "Religious Tradition?"**

**Exorcising Ethnocentrism: Orientalism and Studying Buddhism**

Required Reading:

John Dunne, "Passing Over" [MCR]

Donald Lopez, "The Scientific Buddha" [MCR]

T. Lewis, "Introduction" to *Buddhists: Understanding Buddhism Through the Lives of Practitioners* [MCR]

### Topic 2: **The Life of the Buddha: Refuge and Paradigm**

#### **2. 9/6: The Life of the Buddha: Context in Ancient India; Birth and Youth**

Required Reading:

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 10-21; 22-45

*Sugata Saurabha*, Part I, Chapters 1-7

#### **3. 9/8: Renunciation and Enlightenment; First Community**

Required Reading:

*Sugata Saurabha*, Part I, Chapters 8-12

**4. 9/13: Forty Years of Preaching and Parinirvāna**Required Reading:*Sugata Saurabha*, Part I, Chapters 13-19

“The Buddha’s Daily Habits” [MCR]

**Topic 3:****The Three Refuges in Early Buddhism****5. 9/15: Early Dharma: “Basic Buddhism”**Required Reading:*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 58-79

“Maha Parinirvāna Sutta” and “Saints Poetry and Hungry Ghosts” [MCR]

**6. 9/20: The Dhammapada: ❁ ❁ Discussion** Required Reading:T. Byrom, *The Dhammapada***7. 9/22: The Sangha**Required Reading:*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 98-107

“Vinaya texts” and “Rituals and Chants” [MCR]

Alice Collett, “Bhadda Kundalakesa: The Ex-Jain” [MCR]

Gregory Schopen, “Liberation Is Only for Those Already Free: Reflections on Debts to Slavery and Enslavement to Debt in an Early Indian Buddhist Monasticism” [MCR]

**8. 9/27: The Three Refuges in Early Buddhist India (500 BCE-200 BCE)**Required Reading:*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 6-9; 46-53

K. Scheible, “The Female Householder Mallika”

Gregory Schopen, “The Buddhist “Monastery” and the Indian Garden: Aesthetics, Assimilations, and the Siting of Monastic Establishments” [MCR]

❁ ❁ MAP ASSIGNMENT DUE

**9. 9/29: Buddhism in Practice: Stūpas, Early Rituals, Pilgrimage, Festivals**Required Reading:*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 108-114

T. Lewis, “History of Buddhism Ritualism” [MCR]

**10. 10/4: Popular Narratives**Required Reading:Todd T. Lewis, *Popular Buddhist Texts from Nepal*, Preface; Chapters 3,7

Readings from the Pali Jatakas [MCR]

**11. 10/6: Karma and Merit-Making; Buddhist Ethics**

Required Reading:

*Buddhism: Illustrated Guide*, 107-119

C. Kabilsingh, “Buddhist Texts from a Feminist Perspective” [MCR]

**Fall Break** 〰️ 🏞️ 🌲 🏠 〰️

**12. 10/18: Theories of Meditation; Topics in Early Buddhism; Review**

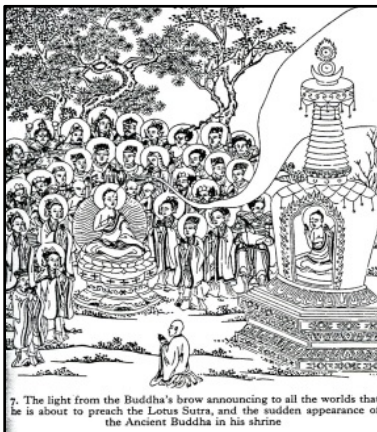
Required Reading:

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 80-89; 186-195

“Four Objects of Mindfulness” and “Nouns and the I-Noun” “Moment to Moment Mindfulness” [MCR]

**13. 10/20: IN-CLASS Mid-Term Examination**

**14. 10/25 (or date/time TBA): Vipassanā Meditation Session led by Susan O’Brien, Insight Meditation Society**



7. The light from the Buddha's brow announcing to all the worlds that he is about to preach the Lotus Sūtra, and the sudden appearance of the Ancient Buddha in his shrine

**Topic 4:**

**Mahāyāna Doctrines and Thought**

**15. 10/27: The Three Refuges in Later Buddhist India (200 CE-1200 CE); Schism in the Indic Monastic Sects**

Required Reading:

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 176-195

**16. 11/1: Lotus Sūtra: Cosmic Buddhahood; Celestial Bodhisattvas**

Required Reading:

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 132-149; 196-211

“The Lotus Sūtra, Chapters 1-4” “Praise of Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara” [MCR]

**17. 11/3: Elite Mahāyāna Philosophies I: Shūnyatā and Two-Truths Doctrine**

Required Reading:


“Excerpts from the *Prajñāpāramitā Sūtra* in 8000 Verses”, “The *Heart Sūtra*”, “Nagārjuna’s *Mūla-Madhyamaka-Karika*” [MCR]

Joseph Walser, “Nagārjuna: The Great Philosopher” [MCR]

**18. 11/8: Elite Mahāyāna Philosophies II: Buddha Nature Doctrine; Yogācāra School; The Practice of Visualization Meditation**

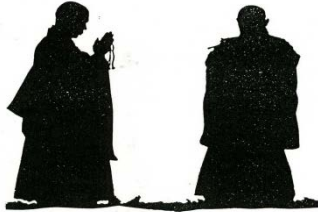
Required Reading:

“Mahāyāna Meditation”, “Vasubandhu’s Yogācāra Treatise” [MCR]

**19. 11/10: Human Bodhisattva Ideal: *Bodhicaryāvatāra* ❁❁ Discussion** 

Required Reading:

Crosby and Skilton, *The Bodhicaryāvatāra* (all of translation; skim chapter commentaries)



**Topic 5:**  
**Schools of Mahāyāna Buddhism**

**20. 11/15: Buddhist Adaptations in East Asia; Tendai and Nichiren**

Required Reading:

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 144-149; 202-203

“Nichiren Readings” [MCR]

Recommended Reading:

Robert Kennedy, *Zen Spirit, Christian Spirit*

**21. 11/17: Pure Land Buddhism; Chan/Zen Buddhism**

Required Reading:

“Excerpts from Three Pure Land Sutras”

“Genjo Koan Text” [MCR]

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 150-161; 162-173; 219-221



**22. 11/22: Vajrayāna Buddhism: Tantric Doctrines and Soteriology**

Required Reading:

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 162-173

“Sahaja-Yoginīcīnta Tantra”, “Chandamaharoshana Tantra (Chapts 1,2)” [MCR]

**23. 11/29: Vajrayāna Buddhism in Nepal**

Required Reading:

Todd T. Lewis, *Popular Buddhist Texts from Nepal*, Preface; Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6



## 24. 12/1: Buddhism in Tibet

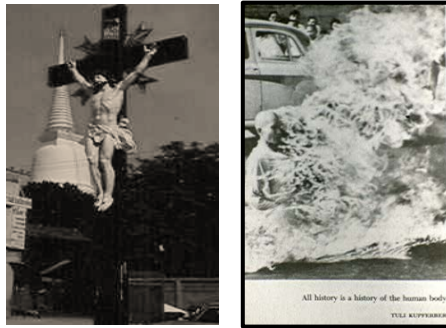
### Required Reading:

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 96-7, 170-171

Ronald Davidson, "Buddhism in Tibet"

Geoff Childs, "Hunger, Hard Work, and Uncertainty: Tashi Dondrup..." [MCR]

David Cooper, "Who is Uncle Donpa" [MCR]



## Topic 6: Buddhism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## 25. 12/6: Traumas of Modernity: Colonialism & Westernization; Sri Lanka [b]

### Required Reading:

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 212-231

Lewis, "Buddhism Under Colonialism" [MCR]

[b] John Ross Carter, "There are Buddhists Living in Sri Lanka Today" [MCR]

Corporal Monk: Venerable Sudinna's Journey, Sri Lankan Army to Buddhist Sangha" [MCR]

## 26. 12/8: Buddhism and the Beats, Engaged Buddhism; Future of Buddhism

### Required Reading:

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 232-237

Gary Snyder, "Buddhism and the Possibilities of Planetary Culture" [MCR]

S. Sivaraksha, "Buddhism in a World of Change" [MCR]

*Reading Period: Review Session*

**Exam Period: Comprehensive Final**

