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 1 ...... 20
4. Buddhist Art Encounter Paper .... 15
5. Final Examination ............... 40
6. Course Participation .............. 10

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

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

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 Ethnocentrisms: 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”
🌼🌼 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*

**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)

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-Yoginicinta 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”
David Cooper, “Who is Uncle Donpa” [MCR]

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