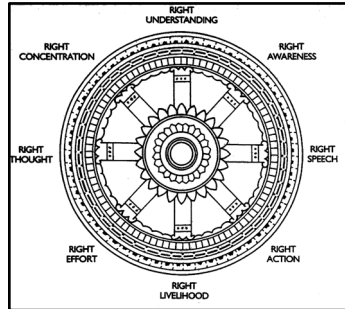


Buddhism

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 106, Fall 2023

Professor Todd T. Lewis

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1-2 PM || Wednesdays, 2-3 PM || and by appointment
Smith Hall 425 E-mails: tlewis@holycross.edu



Course Description:

An introductory survey of the Buddhist tradition, emphasizing its origin and development in India as well as its historical evolution in Asia. Beginning with the legend of the Buddha and the formation of the monastic community, the course surveys doctrinal developments including the Theravāda, Mahāyāna, and Vajrayāna paths. It is the gateway course for others on specific traditions such as Zen, Himalayan Buddhism, Buddhism in Global Popular Culture. The theme of the Modernity case study for the end of the term is “Buddhism and Artificial Intelligence”.

Course Design and Guidelines:

For Fall 2023, the course will have a weekly plenary lecture on Wednesdays, and smaller discussion sessions on Fridays. Attendance will be kept for the latter.

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

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 in Discussion sections is part of the course grade. Note: lectures will supplement the required readings, not replace them.

Reading assignments must be completed before the designated class and analyzed carefully. There are also recommended readings for some classes.

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. Mid-Term Examination I.....	20
3. Buddhist Art Encounter Paper....	15
4. Modernity Research Project.....	10
5. Final Examination	35
5. Discussion Participation.....	15
100 points	

In addition, a menu of “Creative Tasks” will be made available after the midterm 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 Bodhicaryāvatāra*. NY: Oxford Univ. Press, 1995.

Todd Lewis, Subarna Tuladhar, trans. *The Epic of the Buddha*. Boston: Shambhala, 2019.

Course Readings on Canvas/CCR/ [Note: some new readings may be added during the term;

Recommended Readings will deepen understanding of course topics and exam performance]

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



Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

Topic 1:

Foundations

8/30: PLENARY 1. Origins: Context in Ancient India; Birth and Youth; Renunciation and Enlightenment

Required Reading:

Sugata Saurabha, Part I, Chapters 1-3

9/1: Friday DISCUSSION. Studying Religions of 'Others'; Course Overview

Required Reading:

T. Lewis, "Introduction" to *Buddhists: Understanding Buddhism...* [

John Dunne, "Passing Over" [CCR] ; Donald Lopez, "The Scientific Buddha" [CCR]

Epic of the Buddha, "Introduction" (pp. 3-17; Chapters 4-7.

Topic 2:

The Three Refuges in Early Buddhism: Buddha, Sangha, Dharma

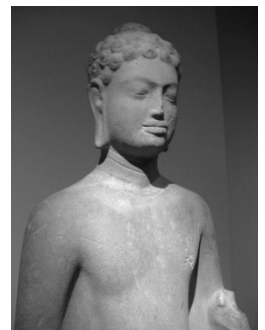
9/6: PLENARY 2. Preaching and Major Incidents

Required Reading:

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

Sugata Saurabha, Part I, Chapters 8-17

"The Buddha's Daily Habits" [CCR]



9/8: Friday DISCUSSION. Topic: "Close Reading"; Doing Exegesis reading Dharma

Required Reading:

Milindapañha, Pali Canon, "The Soul" [CCR]

Sigolavāda Sutta [CCR]

9/13: PLENARY 3. Last Years and Parinirvāṇa; The Sangha

Required Reading:

Sugata Saurabha, Part I, Chapters 18-19

“*Maha Parinirvāṇa Sutta*”

9/15: Friday DISCUSSION 3. TOPIC: “Vinaya texts”;

Required Reading:

“Pali Canon: Rituals, Chants” [CCR]

Recommended Reading

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

9/20: PLENARY 4. Early Dharma: “Basic Buddhism”

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 58-79

“Saints Poetry and Hungry Ghosts” [CCR]

Recommended Readings:

“The *Udana*” [CCR]; Alice Collett, “Bhadda Kundalakesa: The Ex-Jain”; C. Kabilsingh,

“Buddhist Texts from a Feminist Perspective” [CCR]

9/22: Friday DISCUSSION 4. TOPIC: The *Dhammapada*

Required Reading:

T. Byrom, *The Dhammapada*



Topic 3:

Buddhist India: Historical Narrative

9/27: PLENARY 5. Ancient History (500BCE-100CE); Ashoka

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 6-9; 46-55; 90-105-131; 176-195

“Moment to Moment Mindfulness” [CCR]

Recommended Reading

Gregory Schopen, “The Business of Buddhist Monasticism” [CCR]

✿ ✿ MAP ASSIGNMENT DUE

9/29: Friday DISCUSSION 5. Topic: Popular Narratives

Required Reading:

“Hare Jātaka”; “Golden Deer Jātaka” [CCR]

“*Sṛṅgabheri Avadana*” in Lewis, *Popular Buddhist Texts from Nepal...*, Chapter 2.

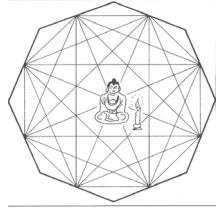




10/4: PLENARY 6. Traditions of Practice: Rituals, Stūpas; Morality, Merit-Making, and Karma

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 80-89; 106-119; 186-195
T. Lewis, "A History of Buddhist Ritualism" [CCR]; "The Stupa" [CCR]



10/6: An Experience of Vipassanā Meditation, 6-7:30 PM

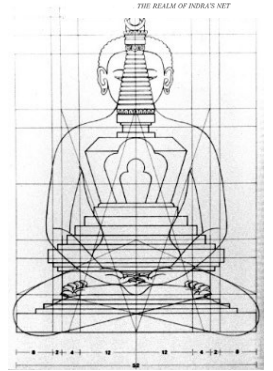
With Susan O'Brien, Insight Meditation Society

NOTE: October 7-15th Fall Break, No Classes

10/18: PLENARY 7. Ancient Indic History (500BCE-100CE); Ashoka; Later Buddhist India (200CE-1200CE); Buddhist Meditation Traditions

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 6-9; 46-55; 90-131; 176-195
"Moment to Moment Mindfulness" [CCR]
Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 132-149



10/20: Friday: Historical Topics and Review

10/25: PLENARY 8: Midterm Exam

Topic 4:

Mahāyāna Buddhism Buddhism's Diaspora to East Asia



10/27: DISCUSSION 8: Encounter with the Lotus Sūtra

Required Reading: "The Lotus Sūtra, Chaps 1-4 [CCR]"

11/1 PLENARY 9. "Cosmic Buddhahood"; Bodhisattvas: Human & Celestial; Śhūnyatā & Two-Truths Doctrine

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 132-149; 196-211
"Nāgārjuna's Mūla-Madhyamaka-Karika" [CCR]

Recommended Readings:

Joseph Walser, "Nāgārjuna: The Great Philosopher" [CCR]

11/3: Friday DISCUSSION #9: The Heart Sūtra /via Zoom/

Required Reading: "The Heart Sūtra" [CCR]

**11/8: PLENARY 10. Yogācāra School; Buddha Nature Doctrine;
Dharma as Teaching of Cosmic Power**

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 204-208; 152-3; “*Mañjuśrīmūlakalpa excerpts [CCR]*

Recommended Reading:

William Waldron “Teaching Yogācāra Buddhism Using Cognitive Science” [CCR]

11/10: Friday DISCUSSION 10. Topic: The Way of the Mahāyāna Bodhisattva

Required Reading:

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

**11/15. PLENARY 11. Buddhism in East Asia: Daoism and Confucianism;
Major Schools: Tendai & Nichiren; Chan/Zen; Pure Land**

Required Reading:

Buddhism: Illustrated Guide 144-173, 202-3; 219-221; “Nichiren” [CCR]

**11/17: Friday DISCUSSION 11. Six Syllable Visualization
Meditation /via ZOOM/**

Required Reading:

“Visualization Meditation Guidelines” [CCR]



Topic 5:

Vajrayāna Buddhism in Nepal and Tibet

**11/28: PLENARY 12: Exoteric and Esoteric Buddhism;
Case Studies in Himalayan Buddhism**

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 96-7, 162-173; 208-201

Todd Lewis, *Popular Mahayana Texts from Nepal*, Chapters 1, 6, 7.

“*Sahaja-Yoginīcinta Tantra*” [CCR] “*Chandamaharoshana Tantra* (Chaps 1,2)” [CCR]

Ronald Davidson, “Buddhism in Tibet” [CCR]

Required Viewing:

Video: “On the Road with the Red God”

12/1: Friday DISCUSSION. Topic: Popular Text of Avalokiteshvara, in context

Required Reading:

“*Simhalasāarthabāhu Avadāna*” in Lewis, *Popular Buddhist Texts from Nepal...*, Chapter 3.
Geoff Childs, “Hunger, Hard Work, and Uncertainty: Tashi Dondrup...” [CCR]



Topic 6:

Buddhism-s in the 21st Century

**12/6: PLENARY 13. Traumas: Colonialism & Westernization;
The Role of Sri Lanka; “Engaged Buddhism”**

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 212-237

Lewis, “Buddhism Under Colonialism” [CCR]

John Holt, “Sri Lanka”, J.R. Carter, “There are Buddhists Living in Sri Lanka Today”;

S. Sivaraksa, “*Buddhism in a World of Change*” [CCR]

“Corporal Monk: Venerable Sudinna...Army to Buddhist Sangha” [CCR]

Gary Snyder, “*Buddhism and the Possibilities of Planetary Culture*” [CCR]

12/8: LAST Friday DISCUSSIONS.

Topic: Buddhism and AI

READING PERIOD: *Plenary Zoom Review Session*

Exam Period: Comprehensive Final

