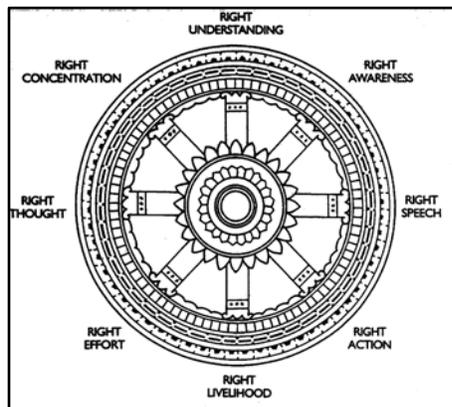


Buddhism

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 206, SPRING 2018

Professor Todd T. Lewis

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 1-2; Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 and by appointment
SMITH 425 Office Phone: 793-3436 E-mail: tlewis@holycross.edu



Course Description:

A study 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. Special focus in Spring 2018 will be on Tibetan Buddhism.

Course Design and Guidelines:

This course is planned as introductory and exploratory, conducted in a manner integrating lectures with regular 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 is part of the course grade. 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 many classes. Please consult me if you are interested in exploring other pertinent subjects.

The map of Asia and the papers 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 Assignment | 15 |
| 5. Final Examination..... | 40 |
| 6. Course Participation..... | 5 |

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.)

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*. NY: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Course Moodle Readings /CMR/ [some new readings may be added during the term]

Bring copies of the texts to class 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

1. 1/23: First Class: Syllabi Distributed and Course Overview

What do we mean by "Religious Tradition?"

Exorcising Ethnocentrism: Orientalism and the Study of 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. 1/25: 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. 1/30: Renunciation and Enlightenment; First Community

Required Reading:

Sugata Saurabha, Part I, Chapters 8-12

4. 2/1: Forty Years of Preaching and Parinirvana

Required Reading:

Sugata Saurabha, Part I, Chapters 13-19

"The Buddha's Daily Habits" [MCR]



Topic 3:

The Three Refuges in Early Buddhism

5. 2/6: Early Dharma: “Basic Buddhism”

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 58-79

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

Recommended Readings:

“The Udana” [MCR]



6. 2/8: The Dhammapada: ❁ ❁ Discussion

Required Reading:

T. Byrom, *The Dhammapada*

7. 2/13: The Sangha; Three Refuges in Early Buddhist India (500 BCE-100 CE)

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 6-9; 46-55; 90-105; 120-131; 186-195

“Vinaya texts” and “Pali Canon: Rituals and Chants” [MCR]

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

Recommended Readings

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

_____. “The Buddhist ‘Monastery’ and the Indian Garden” [MCR]

❁ ❁ MAP ASSIGNMENT DUE

8. 2/15: Buddhism in Practice: Karma and Merit-Making; Stūpas, Early Rituals

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 106-119

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

“The Stupa” [MCR]



9. 2/20: Popular Narratives

Required Reading:

Todd T. Lewis, *Popular Buddhist Texts from Nepal*, Preface; Chapters 3,7

10. 2/22: The Three Refuges in Later Buddhist India (200 CE-1200 CE)

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 176-195

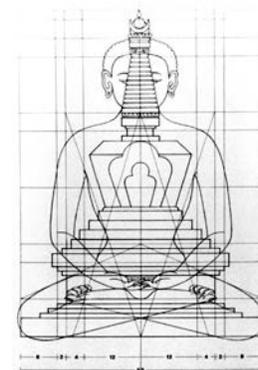
John Nelson, *Experimental Buddhism*, 71-74

11. 2/27: Buddhist Ethics; Review

Required Reading:

Buddhism: Illustrated Guide, 106-119

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



12. 3/1: IN-CLASS Mid-Term Examination

Spring Break ♪ 山 寺 鐘 樓 ♪

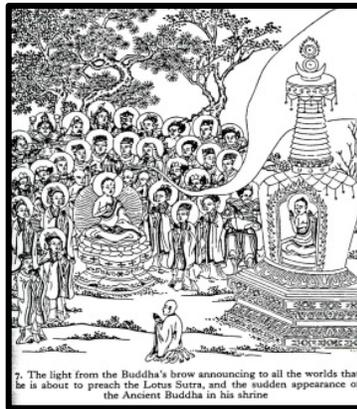
13. 3/13: Forms of Meditation: THEORY

Required Reading:

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

“Four Objects of Mindfulness” and “Nouns” “Moment to Moment Mindfulness” [MCR]

14. 3/15: Vipassanā 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 Sutra, and the sudden appearance of the Ancient Buddha in his shrine

Topic 4: Mahāyāna Philosophies

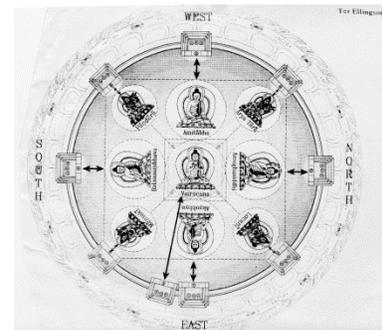
15. 3/20: Schism w/Indic Schools; *Lotus Sūtra*: “Cosmic Buddhahood”; Bodhisattvas: Human & Celestial

Required Reading:

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

“*The Lotus Sūtra*, Chaps 1-4”

“Praise of Bodhisattva *Avalokiteshvara*” [MCR]



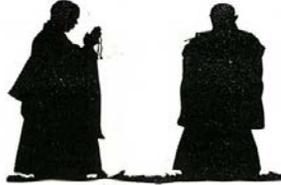
16. 3/22: Elite Mahāyāna Philosophies: Shunyatā and Two-Truths Doctrine; Buddha Nature Doctrine; Yogācāra School; The Practice of Visualization Meditation

Required Reading:

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

Recommended Readings:

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

17. 3/27: Human Bodhisattva Ideal: The *Bodhicaryāvatāra* ❄❄ Discussion Required Reading:*Crosby and Skilton, The Bodhicaryāvatāra* (all of translation; skim chapter commentaries)**3/29: No Class, Easter Break**

Topic 5:
The Schools of Mahāyāna Buddhism

18. 4/3: Buddhist Adaptations in East Asia; Tendai and NichirenRequired Reading:*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 144-149; 202-203;

“Nichiren Readings” [MCR]

Recommended Reading:Robert Kennedy, *Zen Spirit, Christian Spirit***19. 4/5: Pure Land Buddhism; Chan and Zen**Required Reading:*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 150-161; 162-173; 219-221

“Pure Land Buddhism Readings” and “Genjo Koan Text” [MCR]

20. 4/10: Vajrayāna Buddhism: Tantric Doctrines and SoteriologyRequired Reading:*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 162-173; 208-201

“Sahaja-Yoginicitā Tantra”, “Chandamaharoshana Tantra (Ch 1,2)” [MCR]

**21. 4/12: Vajrayāna Buddhism in Nepal**Required Reading:*Popular Buddhist Texts from Nepal*, Preface; Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 96-7, 170-171

Topic 6:
Buddhism in the 21st Century

22. 4/17: Traumas of Modernity: Colonialism & WesternizationRequired Reading:*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 212-231

Lewis, “Buddhism Under Colonialism” [MCR]



23. 4/19: Buddhism in Sri Lanka I: History

Required Reading:
John Holt, "Sri Lanka" [MCR]

24. 4/24: Case Study Tibet: [1]: Historical Background

Required Reading:
Ronald Davidson, "Buddhism in Tibet" [MCR]



25. 4/26: Case Study Tibet: [2]: Tibetan Buddhism in Practice

Required Reading:
Ronald Davidson, "Buddhism in Tibet" [MCR]
Geoff Childs, "Hunger, Hard Work, and Uncertainty: Tashi Dondrup..." [MCR]
David Cooper, "Who is Uncle Donpa" [MCR]



April 27th: Lecture "Tibetan Scholastic Traditions" 5-6 PM, Rehm Library
Prof. Georges Dreyfus, Williams College

25. 5/1: Buddhism in Sri Lanka II: Practices

Required Reading:
John Ross Carter, "There are Buddhists Living in Sri Lanka Today" [MCR]
"Corporal Monk: Venerable Sudinna's Journey...Army to Buddhist Sangha" [MCR]

26. 5/3: Buddhism and the West; "Engaged 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

