

# Buddhism

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 206, FALL 2010

Professor Todd T. Lewis

Religious Studies Department, SMITH 425

Office Hours: M/W 1-2 and by appointment

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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. Beginning with the legend of the Buddha and the formation of the monastic community, the course surveys doctrinal developments including the Theravâda, Mahâyâna, and Vajrayâna paths. Attention will also be devoted to meditation, ethics, lay practices, and modernization.

## 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 encouraged 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.

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 handed in on time to receive full credit. The latter should follow instructions exactly, be concise, edited for clarity. Separate guidelines for each will be distributed.

Grading:

1. Map Assignment.....	10
2. Mid-Term Examination I.....	20
3. Buddhist Art Encounter Paper.....	15
4. Poster Assignment .....	15
5. Final Examination.....	<u>40</u>

**100 points**

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

Required Textbooks:

Richard Robinson, et. al. *The Buddhist Religions: A Historical Introduction* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont: Wadsworth, 2005.

John S. Strong ed. *The Experience of Buddhism* (3rd ed.). Belmont: Wadsworth, 2007.

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.

H.M. Gunaratne, *Life Means Not to Kill*. Colombo: Karunaratne, 2008

Course ERES

All the books above except for the last have been ordered from the Holy Cross bookstore.

Bring your *Experience of Buddhism* and other texts to class, if you have a question to raise about that day's assignment.



## Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

### INTPOΔYXTOPΨ

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

#### 2. 9/3: What do we mean by “Religious Tradition?”

##### Exorcising Ethnocentrism: Orientalism and the Study of Buddhism

##### Required Reading:

John Dunne, “Passing Over” [ERES]

#### Topic 1:

ΧΟΝΤΕΞΤ, ΛΙΦΕ, ΤΕΑΧΗΙΝΓΣ ΟΦ ΣΗΑΚΨΑΜΥΝΙ ΒΥΔΔΗΑ

#### 3. 9/6: The Life of the Buddha: Context in ancient India; Narrative of his Life

##### Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 1-20;

*The Experience of Buddhism*, 1-26; 42-50

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

#### **4. 9/8: Buddha as Refuge and Paradigm**

Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 20-42; 67-72

#### **5. 9/10: Early Dharma: “Basic Buddhism”**

Required Reading:

*The Experience of Buddhism*, 97-138

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 58-79

#### **6. 9/13: The *Dhammapada*: ❁❁ Discussion**

Required Reading:

T. Byrom, *The Dhammapada*

#### **7. 9/15: The *Sangha***

Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 45-58; 72-74; *The Experience of Buddhism*, 56-90

❁ ❁ Map ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED ❁ ❁

### Topic 2:

## ΗΙΣΤΟΡΙΧΑΛ ΑΝΔ ΓΕΟΓΡΑΠΗΧ ΟςΕΡςΙΕΩ

#### **8. 9/17: The Three Refuges in Early Buddhist India (500 BCE-200 BCE)**

Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 53-67

*The Experience of Buddhism*, 91-96

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 6-9

#### **9. 9/20: The Three Refuges in Early Buddhist India (200 BCE-200 CE)**

Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 75-84

*The Experience of Buddhism*, 228-233

#### **10. 9/22: Buddhism's Asian Diaspora; Themes in the Historical Study of Buddhism**

Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions* 82-86;143-146;172-180; 219-220; 234-239-245; 268-273

*The Experience of Buddhism*, 145-146; 221-225; 256-259; 290-292; 311-318; 335-342

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 176-195

❁❁ MAP ASSIGNMENT DUE

**Topic 3:**

**ΕΑΡΛΨ ΒΥΔΔΗΙΣΜ: ΧΟΡΕ ΔΟΧΤΡΙΝΕΣ αvδ ΠΡΑΧΤΙΧΕΣ**

**11. 9/24: Karma and Merit-Making and Ethics;**

Required Reading:

*The Experience of Buddhism*, 24-36; 123-128; 222-237

C. Kabilsingh “Buddhist Texts from a Feminist Perspective” [ERE-s]

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 107-119

**12. 9/27: Popular Narratives**

Required Reading:

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

**13. 9/29: Forms of Meditation: THEORY**

Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 30-31

*The Experience of Buddhism*, 128-138; 217-237

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

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

**14. 10/1: NO CLASS**

**SPECIAL Vipashyanā/Vipassanā SESSION, TBA**

**Susan O’Brien, Insight Meditation Society**

**15. 10/4: Buddhism in Society: Stūpas, Early Rituals, and Festivals**

Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 72-74

*The Experience of Buddhism*, 48-52; 241-244

T. Lewis, “Contributions to the Study of Popular Buddhism [ERE-s]

**16. 10/6: Topics in Early Buddhism; Review of Texts** 

**17. 10/8: IN-CLASS Mid-Term Examination**

**October 11 — Oct 17: NO CLASS, Fall Vacation**



## Topic 4:

## ΜΑΗΨΛΝΑ ΒΥΔΔΗΙΣΜ: ΙΝΔΙΑΝ ΟΡΙΓΙΝΣ

**18. 10/18: Schism among Indian Schools; The *Lotus Sutra*: Cosmic Buddhahood, Celestial Bodhisattvas**Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 84-102; *The Experience of Buddhism*, 147-151; 168-169; 188-197; 287-313; *Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 132-149; 196-211

**19. 10/20: Elite Mahāyāna Philosophies I: *Shunyatā* and Two-Truths Doctrine;**Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religion*, 103-128; 99-116  
*The Experience of Buddhism*, 151-174

**20. 10/22: Elite Mahāyāna Philosophies II: Buddha Nature; Yogācāra School**Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religion*, 111-113; 190-196  
*The Experience of Buddhism*, 178-187

**21. 10/25: Visualization Meditation**Required Reading:

"Mahāyāna Meditation" [ERE-s]

**22. 10/27: Human Bodhisattva Ideal: The *Bodhicaryāvatāra* ❁❁ Discussion **Required Reading:

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

## Topic 5:

## ΜΑΗΨΛΝΑ ΒΥΔΔΗΙΣΜ ιν τηε ΗΙΜΑΛΛΑΨΑΣ ανδ ΕΑΣΤ ΑΣΙΑ

**23. 10/29: Buddhism in Later China, Korea, and Japan; Tendai and Nichiren**Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 180-215; 231-236; 240-249; 254-255  
*The Experience of Buddhism*, 290-300; 306-310; 320-325  
*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 150-161

**24. 11/1: Modern Japanese Buddhism: Zen; Soka Gakkai**

Film "JAPAN: Land of the Disappearing Buddha"

**25. 11/3: Pure Land Buddhism**

Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 196-198; 252-257; 249-260; 117-139; 271-296  
*The Experience of Buddhism*, 197-205; 301-305; 300-302

**26. 11/5: Chan and Zen**Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 260-267  
*The Experience of Buddhism*, 318-319; 326-331  
 Robert Kennedy, *Zen Spirit, Christian Spirit*

**27. 11/8: Vajrayāna Buddhism: Tantric Doctrines and Soteriologies**Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 128-137; 271-296  
*The Experience of Buddhism*, 188-220; 251-286  
*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 162-173

**28. 11/10: Vajrayāna Buddhism in an Indic Society: Nepal**Required Reading:

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

**29. 11/12: Vajrayāna Buddhism in Tibetan Society**Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 268-291  
*The Experience of Buddhism*, 256-289

**Topic 6:****ΒΥΔΔΗΙΣΜ 1ν τηε ΜΟΔΕΡΝ ανδ ΠΟΣΤΧΟΛΟΝΙΑΛ ΕΡΑΣ****30. 11/15: Trauma of Modernity: Colonialism & Westernization**Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 141-142; 215-218; 238-239;  
*The Experience of Buddhism*, 253-255;

**31. 11/17: Modernity: Reform & Revival**Required Reading:

*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 212-235

**32. 11/19: Sri Lankan History and Modern Practice**Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 146-171  
*The Experience of Buddhism*, 222-227; 233-246; 225-226  
 John Ross Carter, "There are Buddhists Living in Sri Lanka Today" [ERE-s]

**33. 11/19: Burmese Buddhism: History and Modern Practice**

Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 146-171

*The Experience of Buddhism*, 222-227; 233-246; 225-226

**11/24: NO CLASS/Thanksgiving Break**

**34. 11/29: Thai Buddhism: History and Modern Practice**

Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 146-171

*The Experience of Buddhism*, 222-227; 233-246; 225-226

“The Dynamics of Buddhist Life [Northeast Thailand]” [ERE-s]

**35. 12/1: Case Study of Sri Lanka I**

Required Reading:

H.M. Gunaratne, *Life Means Not to Kill*. Colombo: Karunaratne, 2008

**36. 12/3: Case Study in Sri Lanka II**

Required Reading:

H.M. Gunaratne, *Life Means Not to Kill*. Colombo: Karunaratne, 2008

**37. 12/6: Buddhism in America: Immigrants, Beats, Globalizations**

Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religions*, 292-311

S. Sivaraksha, “Buddhism in a World of Change” [ERE-s]

**38. 12/8: Engaged Buddhism and the Tradition’s Future**

Required Reading:

*The Buddhist Religion*, 292-311

Gary Snyder, “Buddhism and the Possibilities of Planetary Culture” [ERE-s]

S. Sivaraksha, “Buddhism in a World of Change” [ERE-s]

**39. 12/10: REVIEW SESSION**

**Comprehensive Final**

