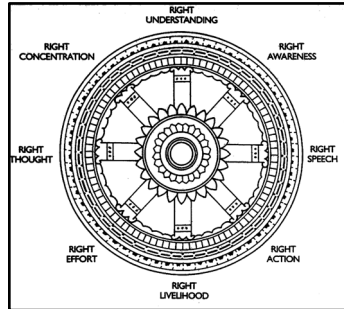


Buddhism

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 106, Fall 2024

Professor Todd T. Lewis

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:30-6PM & 8:30-9:15PM; Wednesday 3:45-5:15PM; 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, Buddhism in the Himalayas, and study abroad programs in Sri Lanka or Bhutan.

Course Design and Guidelines:

For Fall 2024, 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 focused on major texts. 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 date of each designated class and analyzed carefully. There are also recommended readings for some classes.

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

Grading:

1. Map Assignment.....	5
2. Mid-Term Examination I.....	25
3. Buddhist Art Encounter Paper.....	20
4. 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.

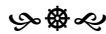
Kate Crosby & A. Skilton, trans. *The Bodhicaryāvatāra*. NY: Oxford Univ. Press, 1995.

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

Todd Lewis, *Popular Mahayana Texts from Nepal*. State Univ. of New York Press, 2000.

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

8/28: PLENARY 1. Course Overview; Origins: Context in Ancient India; Birth and Youth; Renunciation and Enlightenment

Required Reading:

Epic of the Buddha, Part I, Chapters 1-3

8/30: Friday DISCUSSION 1. Studying Religions of 'Others'

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

9/4: PLENARY 2. Preaching and Major Incidents

Required Reading:

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

Epic of the Buddha, Part I, Chapters 8-17

"The Buddha's Daily Habits" [CCR]



9/6: Friday DISCUSSION. Topic: "Close Reading":

Exegesis reading Buddhist texts

Required Reading:

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

Sigolavāda Sutta [CCR]

9/11: PLENARY 3. Last Years and Parinirvāṇa; The Sangha

Required Reading:

Epic of the Buddha, Part I, Chapters 18-19

“*Mahā-Parinirvāṇa Sutta*”

9/13: 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]

9/18: PLENARY 4. Early Dharma: “Basic Buddhism”

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 58-79

Recommended Readings:

Alice Collett, “Bhadda Kundalakesa: The Ex-Jain”; C. Kabilsingh, “Buddhist Texts from a Feminist Perspective” [CCR]

9/20: Friday DISCUSSION 4. TOPIC: The *Dhammapada*

Required Reading:

T. Byrom, *The Dhammapada*

Topic 3:

Buddhist India: Historical Narrative



9/25: 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

9/27: DISCUSSION 5. Topic: Pali Texts

“Saints Poetry” and Hungry Ghosts” [CCR]; “*The Udana*” [CCR]



10/2: PLENARY 6. Traditions of Practice: Rituals, *Stūpas*; Morality, Merit-Making, and Karma

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 80-89; 106-119; 186-195

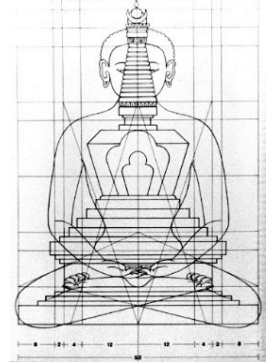
T. Lewis, “A History of Buddhist Ritualism” [CCR]; “The *Stūpa*” [CCR]

10/4: DISCUSSION 6. Topic: Popular Narratives

Required Reading:

“Hare Jātaka”; “Golden Deer Jātaka” [CCR]; *Monkey King Jātaka*

“*Sṛṅgabheri Avadāna*” in *Popular Buddhist Texts from Nepal...* Chapter 2.



10/9: PLENARY 7. Later Buddhist India (200CE-1200CE); Buddhist Meditation Traditions

Required Reading:

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 6-9; 46-55; 90-131; 132-149; 176-195

“Moment to Moment Mindfulness” [CCR]

TBD: An Experience of Vipassanā Meditation

With Susan O’Brien, Insight Meditation Society

10/11: No Discussion Session

October 12-20th Fall Break

Monday, 10/21, 8-10 PM: ZOOM Review Session

10/23: PLENARY 8: In-Class Midterm Exam

10/25: Friday DISCUSSION 8: The *Lotus Sūtra*

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



Topic 4:

Mahāyāna Buddhism Buddhism’s Diaspora to East Asia

10/30 PLENARY 9. “Cosmic Buddhahood”; Bodhisattvas: Human & Celestial; *Shūnyatā* & Two-Truths Doctrine

Required Reading:

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

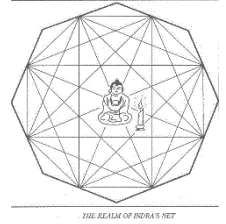
“*Nāgārjuna’s Mūla-Madhyamaka-Karika*” [CCR]

Recommended Readings:

Joseph Walser, “*Nāgārjuna: The Great Philosopher*” [CCR]

11/1: Friday DISCUSSION 9: Interpreting and the *Heart Sūtra*

Required Reading: “*The Heart Sūtra*” [CCR]



11/6: PLENARY 10. Yogācāra School; Buddha Nature Doctrine; Mahāyāna Ritual: 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]



11/8: Friday DISCUSSION 10. Topic: The Way of the Mahāyāna Bodhisattva

Required Reading:

Crosby and Skilton, *The Bodhicaryāvatāra* (all text; skim chapter intros)



11/13. PLENARY 11. Context: East Asia: Daoism and Confucianism; Major Schools: Tendai & Nichiren; Pure Land; Chan/Zen

Required Reading:

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

11/15: DISCUSSION 11, 9-10 PM. Six Syllable Visualization Meditation

Required Reading:

“Visualization Meditation Guidelines” [CCR]

Topic 5:

Vajrayāna Buddhism in Nepal and Tibet

11/20: 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.

Ronald Davidson, “Buddhism in Tibet” [CCR]

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

Required Viewing:

Documentary Video: “On the Road with the Red God”



11/22: Friday DISCUSSION 12. Topic: Popular Text of Avalokiteshvara/ VIA ZOOM

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

**12/4: 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” [CCR],

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

12/6: LAST Friday DISCUSSION 13. The Future of Buddhism

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

J.R. Carter, “There are Buddhists Living in Sri Lanka Today” [CCR]

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

READING PERIOD: *Plenary Zoom Review Session*

Exam Period: Comprehensive Final

