

<p style="text-align: center;"> AST/REL 260 <i>Buddhism</i> Spring Term 2008 MW 9-10:20 a.m. Presser 402 </p>	<p> बुद्ध धम्म सङ्घ </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Dr. Jeffrey L. Richey Berea College x 3186 richeyj@berea.edu Draper 204-C </p>
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Be a light unto yourself. Work out your own liberation with diligence.

– attributed to Shakyamuni Buddha (ca. 550-450 BCE)

If there is any religion that could cope with modern scientific needs it would be Buddhism.

– Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Neutral is what Buddhism is!

-- ‘Japhy Ryder’ (Gary Snyder) in Jack Kerouac’s *The Dharma Bums* (1958)

Buddhism will replace Marxism as the Church's biggest foe by 2000.

-- Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI), speaking in 1999

As long as there is suffering, there will be those for whom the Buddha’s message signifies liberation. And as long as Buddhism exists, there will be multiple views and versions of it. This course entails study of the history and diversity of Buddhist traditions, from the time of the Buddha in 5th-century BCE India to contemporary Buddhist communities in Asia and the West.

Prerequisite: GSTR 100 or 110

Fulfills: International (Non-Western) and Religion Perspectives



COURSE MATERIALS

It is your responsibility to have copies of assigned materials with you in class.

1. Donald S. Lopez, Jr., ed., *Buddhism in Practice* (Princeton University Press, 1995) [BIP]
2. Donald S. Lopez, Jr., ed., *Buddhist Scriptures*, 2nd ed. (Penguin Classics, 2004) [BS]
3. Kevin Trainor, gen. ed., *Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide* (Oxford University Press, 2001) [BIG]
4. Kate Wheeler, ed., *Nixon Under the Bodhi Tree and Other Works of Buddhist Fiction* (Wisdom Publications, 2004) [NUBT]
5. Online resources (specified in course calendar)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Prepared participation in all class sessions.** The instructor reserves the right to reduce the final grade of any student who misses class. Excuses for absences should be sought in advance, but may not necessarily be granted.
2. **Submission of 12 reading responses** (= 25% of final grade). By 8 a.m. on each Wednesday indicated in the course calendar (pp. 3-7), email comments and questions (not summaries) related to that week's material to the instructor. Responses should consist of no fewer than 250 words of error-free English prose. Responses will be graded pass/fail and cannot be made up.
3. **Submission of 2 essays** (= 50% of final grade). You must write one essay on either topic 1 or topic 2 (due before midterm) and one essay on either topic 3 or topic 4 (due after midterm). Topic descriptions are found in the course calendar (see 2/29 or 3/14 and 4/17 or 5/2). Each essay should be submitted as an attached Microsoft Word document e-mailed to the instructor. *If you earn a B+ or better on the first essay, you will not be required to write a second essay; your grade on the first essay will be averaged twice to generate 50% of your final grade.*
4. **Completion of 1 final examination** (= 25% of final grade). The final examination is oral in format and will be given from 10-11:50 a.m. on 5/20 in Draper 204-C (the instructor's office).

COURSE CALENDAR

I. THE THREE TREASURES

W 2/6

Read:

- Todd T. Lewis, “Ancient India: Belief and Society” (*BIG* 12-21)
- Kevin Trainor, “The Career of Siddhartha” (*BIG* 22-45)

Lecture: “The Buddha in Context” (in class)

M 2/11

Read:

- “A Life of the Buddha” (*BS* 116-128)

W 2/13

READING RESPONSE #1 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- “Gotamī’s Story” (*BIP* 113-138)

M 2/18

Read:

- Todd T. Lewis, “The Human Condition” and “The `Four Noble Truths”” (*BIG* 58-79)

Video (in class):

- *Footprint of the Buddha* (Hutchins Library reserve DVD 200 L849 2001 disc 2)

W 2/20

READING RESPONSE #2 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- “The Ascetic Ideal” (*BS* 262-268)

M 2/25

Read:

- “The Advice to Layman Tundila” (*BIP* 302-313)

W 2/27

READING RESPONSE #3 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- Diana Winston, “Mi Mi May” (*NUBT* 167-173)

F 2/29

ESSAYS ON TOPIC #1 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

- In a double-spaced, 12-point-font essay of 5-7 pages, compare and contrast models of Buddhist practice drawn from representations of the Buddha, expectations of monastics, and descriptions of lay life. What do these various models suggest that practicing Buddhism entails? *Cite all works quoted or paraphrased using a consistent documentation style (e.g., APA, Chicago, MLA) both in your essay text and in an accompanying bibliography. Your sources must include at least 2 texts assigned in the course as well as 2 print or electronic sources available through Hutchins Library.*

II. FOUNDATIONS OF BUDDHIST PRACTICE

M 3/3

Read:

- Todd T. Lewis, "Meditation" (*BIG* 74-75)
- Mark L. Blum, "Mental Cultivation" (*BIG* 80-83)
- "The Direct Path to Enlightenment" (*BS* 343-349)

W 3/5

READING RESPONSE #4 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- "The Way to Meditation" (*BIP* 207-215)

M 3/10

Read:

- Easton Waller, "The War Against the Lawns" (*NUBT* 197-214)

Bring (on sheet of paper):

- At least 1 question that you have about Buddhism thus far in the course

W 3/12

READING RESPONSE #5 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Open session: Q & A

F 3/14

ESSAYS ON TOPIC #2 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

- In a double-spaced, 12-point-font essay of 5-7 pages, present a Buddhist interpretation or analysis of a well-known Western work of art (e.g., film, novel, painting, poem). If you offer an interpretation, what meaning would a Buddhist find in the work? If you offer an analysis, how would a Buddhist critique the work? *Cite all works quoted or paraphrased using a consistent documentation style (e.g., APA, Chicago, MLA) both in your essay text and in an accompanying bibliography. Your sources must include at least 2 texts assigned in the course as well as 2 print or electronic sources available through Hutchins Library.*

III. THE WORLD OF THE MAHĀYĀNA

M 3/17

Read:

- Mark L. Blum, “Mahayana Buddhism” (*BIG* 132-143)

Lecture: “The Rise of the Mahāyāna” (in class)

W 3/19

READING RESPONSE #6 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- “Wisdom and Compassion” (*BS* 350-360)

M 3/24

Read:

- “The *Tathāgatagarbha Sūtra*” (*BIP* 92-106)

Guest facilitator: Dr. David Gardiner (Colorado College)

Dr. Gardiner also will speak about “ Mandalas in Tibetan Buddhism ” at 6:30 p.m. in Baird Lounge (Alumni Building) on this date.

W 3/26

READING RESPONSE #7 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Exercise (to be completed before class):

- Explain “emptiness” to someone not enrolled in the course. Report in class on your success or lack thereof.

3/29-4/6: SPRING VACATION – NO CLASS SESSIONS

M 4/7

Sand mandala construction begins in Baird Lounge, Alumni Building (through F 4/11)

Read:

- “The Bodhisattva Vow” (*BS* 388-393)
- Francesca Hampton, “Greyhound Bodhisattva” (*NUBT* 175-196)

W 4/9

READING RESPONSE #8 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- Todd T. Lewis, “Tantra” (*BIG* 162-173)

Guest facilitators: Monks of Drepung Loseling Monastery

R 4/10

***Convo: “The Mystical Arts of Tibet” (Monks of Drepung Loseling Monastery)
Phelps-Stokes Chapel, 8 p.m.***

IV. MAHĀYĀNA IN EAST ASIA: ZEN

M 4/14

Read:

- Mark L. Blum, “Chan and Zen – The Way of Meditation” (*BIG* 150-161)

Video (in class):

- *The Principles and Practice of Zen* (Hutchins Library reserve Video 294.392 P957 1988)

W 4/16

READING RESPONSE #9 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- “A Zen Master Interprets the *Dharma*” (*BS* 531-539)

F 4/18

ESSAYS ON TOPIC #3 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

- In a double-spaced, 12-point-font essay of 5-7 pages, apply a Buddhist perspective to a significant contemporary global issue (e.g., climate change, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the Iraq war). What moral guidance can Buddhism offer to those who wrestle with this issue? *Cite all works quoted or paraphrased using a consistent documentation style (e.g., APA, Chicago, MLA) both in your essay text and in an accompanying bibliography. Your sources must include at least 2 texts assigned in the course as well as 2 print or electronic sources available through Hutchins Library.*

M 4/21

Read:

- “Awakening Stories of Zen Buddhist Women” (*BIP* 513-524)

W 4/23

READING RESPONSE #10 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- Gerald Reilly, “Nixon Under the Bodhi Tree” (*NUBT* 5-15)

V. MAHĀYĀNA IN EAST ASIA: PURE LAND

M 4/28

Read:

- Mark L. Blum, “Pure Lands” (*BIG* 144-147)
- Michael Willis, “Depicting the Pure Land” (*BIG* 148-149)
- Mark L. Blum, “Pure Land *Sutras*” (*BIG* 202-203)

Video (in class):

- *To the Land of Bliss* (Hutchins Library reserve DVD 294.3 T627 2002)

W 4/30

READING RESPONSE #11 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- “Rebirth in the Land of Bliss” (BS 60-68)

M 5/5

Read:

- “Death-Bed Testimonials of the Pure Land Faithful” (BIP 592-602)

W 5/7

READING RESPONSE #12 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- “The Gift of Faith” (BS 522-530)

F 5/9

ESSAYS ON TOPIC #4 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

- In a double-spaced, 12-point-font essay of 5-7 pages, compare and contrast the Zen and Pure Land traditions. Are their visions of Buddhism competitive with one another, complementary to one another, or both? *Cite all works quoted or paraphrased using a consistent documentation style (e.g., APA, Chicago, MLA) both in your essay text and in an accompanying bibliography. Your sources must include at least 2 texts assigned in the course as well as 2 print or electronic sources available through Hutchins Library.*

VI. BUDDHISM YESTERDAY AND TODAY

M 5/12 *****MEETS IN TRAYLOR 211*****

Guest lecture: “The Art of Buddhism” (Dr. Eileen McKiernan-González, Dept. of Art)

W 5/14

Read:

- Charles Johnson, “Dharma for a Dangerous Time”
(http://www.shambhalasun.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2967&Itemid=0)

Review for final examination (in class)

Course evaluations (in class)

T 5/20

10-11:50 A.M.: FINAL EXAMINATION @ DRAPER 204-C

*To study the Buddha way is to study the self. To study the self is to forget the self.
To forget the self is to be enlightened by the ten thousand things.*

Dōgen 道元 (1200-1253 CE)