

Buddhism

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 206, FALL 2009

Professor Todd T. Lewis

Religious Studies Department, SMITH 425

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:15-1; and by appointment

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 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 and Willard Johnson, *The Buddhist Religions: A Historical Introduction* (5th 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.

Arnold Kotler, ed. *Engaged Buddhist Reader* Berkeley: Parallax Press, 1999

Course Packet [on ERES]

All the books above 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

INTRODUCTION

1. 9/3: First Class: Syllabi Distributed and Course Overview

What do we mean by “Religious Tradition?”

Exorcising Ethnocentrism: Orientalism and the Study of Buddhism

Topic 1:

ΧΟΝΤΕΞΤ, ΛΙΦΕ, ΤΕΑΧΗΝΓΣ ΟΦ ΣΗΑΚΨΑΜΥΝΙ ΒΥΔΔΗΑ

2. 9/8: Approaches to the Study of Buddhism; The Life of the Buddha:

Context in early North 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

3. 9/10: Buddha as Refuge and Paradigm; Early Dharma: “Basic Buddhism”

Required Reading:

The Buddhist Religions, 20-42; 67-72
The Experience of Buddhism, 97-138
Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 58-79

4. 9/15: The Sangha

Required Reading:

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

5. 9/17: The Dhammapada: ❁❁ Discussion

Required Reading:

T. Byrom, *The Dhammapada*

Topic 2:

ΗΙΣΤΟΡΙΧΑΑ ΑΝΔ ΓΕΟΓΡΑΠΗΙΧ ΟςΕΡςΙΕΩ

6. 9/22: The Three Refuges in Early Buddhist India (500 BCE-200 CE)

Required Reading:

The Buddhist Religions, 53-67; 75-84 *The Experience of Buddhism*, 91-96; 228-233
Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 6-9

❁ ❁ Map ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED ❁ ❁

7. 9/24: 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 ανδ ΠΡΑΧΤΙΧΕΣ

8. 9/29: Karma, Merit-Making; Popular Narratives and Ethics

Required Reading:

The Experience of Buddhism, 24-36; 123-128; 222-237
Todd T. Lewis, *Popular Buddhist Texts from Nepal*, Preface; Chapters 3,7
C. Kabilsingh “Buddhist Texts from a Feminist Perspective” [ERE-s]
Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 107-119

9. 10/1: Vipashyanā/Vipassanā 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]

10. TBA, Evening : Vipashyanā/Vipassanā: an Experiment in Mindfulness

11. 10/8: Buddhism in Society: Stūpas, 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]

Note: 10/13: Columbus Day break, *no class*

12. 10/15: Topics in Early Buddhism; Review of Texts 

13. 10/20: IN-CLASS Mid-Term Examination

Topic 4:

ΜΑΗΨΙΝΑ ΒΥΔΔΗΙΣΜ: ΙΝΔΙΑΝ ΟΡΙΓΙΝΣ

**14. 10/22: Schism among Indian Schools; Popular Mahāyāna Philosophies:
Cosmic Buddhahood, the Lotus Sutra, 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

15. 10/27: Elite Mahāyāna Philosophies I: Shunyatā and Two-Truths Doctrine;

Required Reading:

The Buddhist Religion, 103-128; 99-116

The Experience of Buddhism, 151-174

16. 10/29: Elite Mahāyāna Philosophies II: Buddha Nature Theory; Yogācāra School; Visualization Meditation

Required Reading:

The Buddhist Religion, 111-113; 190-196;
The Experience of Buddhism, 178-187; “Mahāyāna Meditation” [ERE-s]

17. 11/3: Human Bodhisattva Ideal: The *Bodhicaryāvatāra* ❄️❄️ Discussion

Required Reading:

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

Topic 5:

ΜΑΗΛΨΛΝΑ ΒΥΔΔΗΙΣΜ ιν τηε ΗΙΜΑΛΛΑΨΑΣ ανδ ΕΑΣΤ ΑΣΙΑ

18. 11/5: 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

19. 11/10: 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

20. 11/12: Modern Japanese Buddhism: Zen; Soka Gakkai

Film "JAPAN: Land of the Disappearing Buddha"

Required Reading:

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

21. 11/17: 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

22. 11/19: Vajrayāna Buddhism in an Indic Society: Nepal

Required Reading:

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

23. 11/24: Vajrayāna Buddhism in Tibetan Society

Required Reading:

The Buddhist Religions, 268-291

The Experience of Buddhism, 256-289

Topic 6:

ΒΥΔΔΗΙΣΜ ΙΝ ΤΗΕ ΜΟΔΕΡΝ ΑΝΔ ΠΟΣΤΧΟΛΟΝΙΑΛ ΕΡΑΣ

24. 12/1: Trauma of Modernity: Colonialism & Westernization → Reform & Revival

Required Reading:

The Buddhist Religions, 141-142; 215-218; 238-239;

The Experience of Buddhism, 253-255;

Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 212-235

25. 12/3: Sri Lankan, Thai, and Burmese Buddhism: 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]

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

26. 12/8: Buddhism in America; The Future of Buddhism

Required Reading:

The Buddhist Religion, 292-311

Arnold Kotler, ed. *Engaged Buddhist Reader* Berkeley: Parallax Press, 1999

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

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

READING PERIOD: Review Session

EXAM PERIOD: Comprehensive Final

