

Buddhist Traditions

Ivan Strenski Religious Studies 106  
University of California, Riverside Autumn 1995  
Office: Library South 1139, X5986 Hours: Tu3.30-4.430 Th1-2

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Conze, *Buddhist Texts through the Ages*  
Harvey, *An Introduction to Buddhism*  
LaFleur, *Buddhism, A Cultural Perspective*  
Warren, *Buddhism in Translation*  
A course reader is required and is available at the P&R office

note:

(X) = handouts, photocopied materials, or course reader  
# = sections in Warren, Conze; these are not page numbers.

3 Oct The Flavor of the Buddhadharma  
LaFleur, ch 4.

5 Oct Early India: Gods, Sacrifice and World Renouncers  
Conze, #2; LaFleur, ch 1, 2; Warren, #64, 72, 83, 93, 95, 100  
FILM: "In the Footsteps of the Buddha"

10 Oct God and the Buddha  
LaFleur, 96-104; Jayatilleke, ch 4: "The Buddhist Attitude to Revelation" and ch 8: "The Buddhist Attitude to God" (X)

12 Oct Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, Arahants  
Conze, #7-9, 13-22, 100-20; Harvey, ch 1; LaFleur, 10-20; Warren, ch I and #89, 92, 99, 102

17 Oct Evil and Suffering  
Harvey, ch 3; Warren, #33-34; Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus" (X); Dostoevsky, "Rebellion" from *The Brothers Karamazov* (X); Jayatilleke, ch 16: "The Buddhist Conception of Evil" (X)

19 Oct What Is a Person?  
Harvey, ch 2; Warren, #15-17, 20-25; Havens, "Dynamics of Confession" (X)

24 Oct Essential Buddhism: Karma and Rebirth  
Conze, #24-7, 39-71; LaFleur, 77-89; Warren, #27, 36, ch III, #70-1, 73-79, 98; Jayatilleke, ch 9: "The Buddhist Doctrine of Karma" (X)

26 Oct Essential Buddhism: Nibbana and Emptiness  
Conze, #14-19, 36-38, 79-99; Warren, #70-1, 73-79, 98; Jayatilleke, ch 11: "Nirvana"

31 Oct What Buddhists Do: Meditation  
Conze, #29-35; Harvey, 244-57; LaFleur, 84-9 on Buddhaghosa, Warren, #57-62; "Mahâsattipatâna Suttanta" (X)



- 2 Nov What Buddhists Do: Gift  
Conze, #1,4; Harvey, ch 8; Warren, #86,101; Yalman, "Food Offerings in Ceylon"(X);
- 7 Nov Emperor Ashoka: Politics and the Order of Monks  
Conze,#1-5; Harvey, 73-7, ch 10; LaFleur, ch 7 and 104-12; Warren, #80-87, 93, 96-97, 99; Ashoka, "Inscriptions on Rocks"(Part I) "Minor Rock Edicts" & "Rock Edicts" (X)
- 9 Nov The Mahayana and the New Buddha  
Conze, #72-3, 121, 124-33, 146, 170-77; Harvey ch 6; LaFleur, 25-8, 96-104; Harvey: ch 8, pp. 258-67.
- 11 Nov Buddhist LA, Its Smells, Sounds, Sites and Tastes:  
Sat Field Trip  
LACMA, Theravada and Mahayana sites, lunch in a Buddhist vegetarian restaurant.  
2 page field report/essay required is due on 16 Nov. Discuss the following proposition by making specific reference to details of the field trip of 11 November: "Since Buddhism is a religion of inwardness, universality and spirituality, field trips are strictly speaking irrelevant to an understanding of Buddhism." Due 14 November in class
- 14 Nov Basic Mahayana: Bodhisattvas Pure Land, Emptiness  
Conze, # 122-3, 134, 169; Harvey, ch 5, LaFleur, 81-4, 88-95.  
Field report/essay is due in class.
- 16 Nov Buddhism in East Asia: China  
Harvey: 148-58; Conze: #195-214; LaFleur: 21-8, 39-44.
- 21 Nov Buddhism in East Asia: Japan  
Harvey: 161-9; LaFleur ; Film: "The Disappearing Buddha"
- 23 Nov Thanksgiving Holiday
- 28 Nov Zen  
Kapleau, "The Private Encounter with the Master" (X) LaFleur, 112-21; Harvey 270-9.
- 30 Nov Three Challenges to Modern Buddhism:  
#1. Can or Should Buddhism Adapt to Modern Science?  
LaFleur, ch 3; Harvey, ch 12, 13.
- 5 Dec #2. Can or Should Buddhism Adapt to the Politics of Nation-States?  
selections from Tambiah's Buddhism Betrayed  
8 pages papers are due today
- 7 Dec #3. Can or Should Buddhism Adapt to Market Society?  
Jayasena, "Some Thoughts on Buddhism and Development"
- 14 Dec Final Examination, 3-6pm

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. regular attendance
  - a. in class and
  - b. on field trip (11 Nov) (10%)
2. a short 2 pp. essay relating to our field trip will be required (10%)
3. two (2) short (20 min) announced tests will be given during the term. (20%)
4. an 8 pp paper on a topic of your choice relating directly to an aspect, school or kind of Buddhism will be due on 5 Dec in class. (30%)
5. a final exam will be given on 14 December 3-6pm. (30%)


## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. get on-line; I am available for consultation by e-mail at [eui9ias@mvs.oac.ucla.edu](mailto:eui9ias@mvs.oac.ucla.edu)
2. make use of my office hours: Tu 3.30-4.30, Th 1-2, phone x5986, South Library 1139.
3. stay current with the reading; attend all our classes; ask questions when you don't feel you understand.

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Other syllabi of the Department of Religious Studies at UC Riverside are available at their [web page](#).

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