Religion 323: Buddhism
Fall 2013
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:10-2:30
Hardenbergh Hall, B3

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Office Hours: Wed 2-3pm & by appointment
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Course Description

This course examines the diverse cultural and social histories of Buddhism across premodern and modern Asia. It offers a detailed introduction to Buddhist literature and practice and explores some of the ways in which Buddhism was transmitted, translated, and transformed in different South, Southeast, and East Asian contexts.

Course Requirements

i) Participation and Attendance (20%)
Please read closely and reflect on all readings assigned for the day before coming to class, and be prepared to participate actively in classroom discussion. As a general guideline: if you do not regularly contribute to classroom discussion—e.g., by raising at least one question in each class—you will not receive a grade higher than a C.

Attendance is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences will result in a 5% reduction per absence in your final grade. Excused absences require a note from Office of the Dean of Students. It is not necessary to email me about absences or “self-report” your absence via https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/. Any absence will be counted as unexcused unless accompanied by a note.
ii) Quizzes (30%)
There will be three quizzes throughout the semester. Shorter, unannounced pop quizzes over daily readings may also be given from time to time.

iii) Response assignments (20%)
Each student is required to complete and hand in three two-page response assignments. These response assignments entail
a) preparing a detailed critical response (approximately 1 page) to one or more main topics in the day’s reading;
b) formulating and articulating no less than two compelling discussion questions (approximately 1 page) about the reading or related lecture material.
There are three different response assignment groups (A, B, and C). Students will sign up for their group in class on Sept 3. For days on which your assignment is due (see below), please come to class prepared to present and discuss your response.

iv) Final Paper (30%)
Students will write a final 10-12 page essay for this course, due December 13 at 5pm. We will discuss further guidelines and strategies for this project in class.

To submit: please upload your paper as an attachment in .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf format to the “assignments” folder in Sakai whereupon it will be screened for originality by TurnItIn. Note that you should not need to visit the TurnItIn site and create an account for this purpose, although you may receive an email asking you to do so. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Please prepare this and all written assignments in 12-pt Times New Roman font and double-spaced US Letter page format.

Course Policies

i) Academic Integrity
Familiarize yourself with Rutgers policies and materials concerning academic integrity and plagiarism at the following sites:
http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu
http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources
Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. Any student found to have committed or aided the offence of plagiarism will be subject to penalties in accordance with the policies of the University.

ii) Use of electronic equipment
Please turn off all mobile phones, computers, and other electronic devices before class. Points will be deducted from your participation grade if you are found to be using any electronic device during class. If you must use a computer, tablet, or e-reader for electronic readings, please sit in the first two rows of the classroom. Recording devices are not permitted.
iii) Blogging, Twitter, Tumblr, Facebook, etc. and posting course-related content online or in public forums
You may not reproduce or transmit lecture notes, audio, video, or any course-related content online or in any other public forum. Blogging, tweeting, or posting about this class in any public forum requires the prior approval of Dr. Lammerts. Failure to obtain prior approval may constitute a violation of academic integrity as well as copyright policies.

iv) Grading System
A=100-90, B+=89-87, B=86-80, C+=79-77, C=76-70, D=69-65, F=64 and below.

v) Office hours and appointments
Please send me an email if you intend to meet with me during office hours, or if you would like to schedule an appointment to meet at another time throughout the week.

vi) Contacting me via email
Developing skill in crafting formal emails and letters is essential for effective communication in professional contexts. If you contact me via email, ensure that your email is composed properly as a formal letter. Your email should include a concise and descriptive subject, appropriate salutation (Dear Dr./Professor Lammerts), body, and closing (Best Regards, Sincerely, etc.) followed by your name. Do not use “Hi” or “Hey” (or similar) as a salutation. The body should fully explain your question or comment in clear and correct prose. I will not reply to emails that do not follow these guidelines.

Required Texts


These are available for purchase in the bookstore and on 2-hour reserve in Alexander library.

Additional readings will be available in PDF format on Sakai > Resources. Please note that further supplementary texts may be assigned during the semester or presented in-class for discussion.

Course Bibliography


**Course Outline and Readings**

**Sept 3. Introduction**

**Sept 5. Buddhas and Buddhism**
Robinson, *Buddhist Religions*, 1-42
Bodhi, trans., “Setting in Motion the Wheel of the Dhamma,” 1843-1847

**Sept. 10. Kamma and Cosmology**
Hazlewood, “A Translation of Pañcāgatidīpanī”
Masefield, *Peta Stories*, 219-221

**Sept 12. NO CLASS. Your assignment for this class is to watch the BBC documentary *The Life of Buddha* (2004). The film is available to stream via Sakai > Streaming Video. In class on Sept 17 please hand in a one-page synopsis of the film. Be prepared to present and discuss your synopsis in class.**
Jayawickrama, *The Story of Gotama Buddha*, 1-61
(Jātaka selections in class)
Group A (due Sept 17)

Sept 24-26. Phra Malai and the Buddha of the Future
(Materials on Metteyya in class)
Group B (due Sept 24)

Oct 1-3. Miracle Tales from Medieval China
Campany, *Signs from the Unseen Realm*, Tales 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 17, 34, 51, 65, 67, 70, 72, 77, 80, 81, 83, 84, 86, 126, and 127

Oct 8-10. The *Nihon ryōiki* by the Monk Kyōkai
Nakamura, *Miraculous Stories from the Japanese Buddhist Tradition*, 95-151
Group C (due Oct 8)

Oct 15. QUIZ #1

Oct 17. NO CLASS.

Oct 22. Buddhist Prophecy and History
Swearer and Sommai, *Legend of Queen Cāma*, 3-34

Oct 24.
Swearer and Sommai, *Legend of Queen Cāma*, 37-77
Group A

Oct 29.
Swearer and Sommai, *Legend of Queen Cāma*, 79-99
Group B

Oct 31.
Swearer and Sommai, *Legend of Queen Cāma*, 101-133
Group C

Nov 5. Buddhism in Contemporary Thailand
McDaniel, *Lovelorn Ghost and the Magical Monk*, 1-22
“Can Thai Buddhism be Saved from Superstition?” (*The Nation*, May 27, 2006)

Nov 7.
McDaniel, *Lovelorn Ghost and the Magical Monk*, 23-77
Group A
Nov 12.
McDaniel, *Lovelorn Ghost and the Magical Monk*, 78-120

Nov 14. QUIZ #2

Nov 19. Zen at War
Lambert Schmithausen, “Aspects of the Buddhist Attitude towards War”
Victoria, *Zen at War*, ix-xvi

Nov. 21.
Victoria, *Zen at War*, 3-54
Group B

Nov 26.
Victoria, *Zen at War*, 57-144
Group C

Nov 28. NO CLASS.

Dec 3.
Victoria, *Zen at War*, 147-191

Dec 5. Review

Dec 10. QUIZ #3

Dec 13. Final paper due via Sakai by 5 PM.