

Religion 323: Buddhism  
Spring 2013  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:10-2:30 PM  
Bishop House 211

Dr. D. Christian Lammerts  
Office: Loree 130  
Office Hours: Wed 2-3pm & by appointment  
Email: DCL96@rci.rutgers.edu

**Course Description:**

This course examines the diverse cultural, social, and intellectual histories of Buddhism across premodern and modern Asia. It offers a detailed introduction to Buddhist thought, literature, and ritual and explores the ways in which Buddhism was transmitted, translated, and transformed in different South, Southeast, and East Asian contexts. Thematic emphases include Buddhist texts and practices concerning—

- °power and political theology
- °monasticism and asceticism
- °cosmology, spirits, and the supernatural
- °historical narrative and historiography
- °magic and divination
- °law and ethics
- °&c.

**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 and repeated unexcused absences will result in a considerable reduction in your final grade.

II) Quizzes (20%)

There will be two scheduled quizzes throughout the semester. Shorter, unannounced pop quizzes over daily readings may also be given from time to time. Note that there will be no makeups for quizzes except in emergency circumstances excused by a note from the Office of the Dean of Students.

III) Response papers (30%)

Each student will be responsible for writing four two-page response papers throughout the semester. These papers should articulate key themes of the assigned readings and, importantly, raise at least two detailed questions for classroom discussion that respond either to the readings or lectures. On Jan 22 you will sign up for groups A, B, or C, and your paper will be due on those days indicated below. Note that there will be no makeups for response papers except in emergency circumstances excused by a note from the Office of the Dean of Students.

IV) Final Paper (due 5pm May 10) 30%

Students will write a final essay of 2300-2500 words in length that provides an original analysis of at least one of our primary texts in light of one or more other readings presented in the course. Sources/readings not listed on the syllabus may be used in consultation with Dr. Lammerts. Your essay should not amount to a mere description or summary of your selected text(s). Rather, it should offer an original argument about Buddhism that you explore and defend through close reading and textual and historical analysis. **It is strongly recommended that you discuss your topic with Dr. Lammerts at least three weeks before the due-date.** We will go over 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. If you must use a computer, tablet, or e-reader, for reading 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.

Incompletes, i.e., “T” grades, will not be given under normal circumstances.

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.

**Texts required for purchase:**

Swearer, Donald S., and Sommai Premchit, *The Legend of Queen Cāma: Bodhiraṃsi's Cāmadevīvaṃsa*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1998.

Śāntideva, *The Bodhicaryāvatāra*. New York: Oxford, 1996.

N.A. Jayawickrama, *The Story of Gotama Buddha (Jātaka Nidānakathā)*. Bristol: Pali Text Society, 2011.

**Course bibliography:**

Bodhi, Bhikkhu, trans. *The Connected Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Saṃyutta Nikāya*. Boston: Wisdom, 2000.

Robert Ford Campany, *Signs from the Unseen Realm: Buddhist Miracle Tales in Early Medieval China*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2012.

Chandler, David. “Normative Poems (*Chhap*) and Pre-Colonial Cambodian Society.” *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 15, 2 (Sep., 1984): 271-279.

Collins, Steven. “The Discourse on What is Primary (*Aggañña-Sutta*).” *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 21: 4 (1993): 301-393.

Collins, Steven. *Nirvana and other Buddhist felicities*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Hanks, L.M. "Merit and Power in the Thai Social Order." *American Anthropologist* 64, 6 (Dec., 1962): 1247-1261.

Hallisey, Charles. "Ethical Particularism in Thervāda Buddhism." *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 3 (1996): 32-43.

Harvey, Peter. *An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, History and Practices*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Hazlewood, Ann Appleby, trans. "A Translation of Pañcagatidīpanī." *Journal of the Pali Text Society*, XI (1987): 133-159.

Keown, D. *Buddhist Ethics: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Kitagawa, Joseph M., and Mark D. Cummings, eds. *Buddhism and Asian History*. New York: Macmillan, 1989.

McDaniel, Justin Thomas. *The Lovelorn Ghost and the Magical Monk: Practicing Buddhism in Modern Thailand*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2011.

Mendelson, E. Michael. "A Messianic Association in Upper Burma." *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London* 24.3 (1961): 560-580.

Minayeff, J. trans., "Anāgatavaṃsa." In *Buddhism in Translations*, ed. H. C. Warren. New York, 1896, pp. 481-486.

Nikam, N.A., and Richard McKeon. *The Edicts of Asoka*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1959.

Norman, K.R., trans. *The Rhinoceros Horn and Other Early Buddhist Poems (Sutta-nipāta)*. Lancaster: Pali Text Society, 2007.

Poceski, Mario. *Introducing Chinese Religions*. London: Routledge, 2009.

Robinson, Richard H., Willard L. Johnson, Thanissaro Bhikkhu. *Buddhist Religions: A Historical Introduction*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Belmont: Wadsworth, 2005.

Sarkisyanz, M. "Messianic Folk-Buddhism as Ideology of Peasant Revolts in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Burma." *Review of Religious Research* 10.1 (1968): 32-38.

Scott, Rachelle M. *Nirvana for Sale? Buddhism, Wealth, and the Dhammakāya Temple in Contemporary Thailand*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2009.

Sen, Tansen. "The Travel Records of Chinese Pilgrims Faxian, Zuanzang, and Yijing." *Education about Asia* 11, 3 (Winter 2006): 24-33

Spiro, Melford. *Buddhism and Society: A Great Tradition and its Burmese Vicissitudes*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982.

Williams, Paul, with Anthony Tribe and Alexander Wynne. *Buddhist Thought: A Complete Introduction to the Indian Tradition*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Routledge, 2012

### **Course outline and reading assignments**

All readings, except for the texts required for purchase, are, or will shortly be, available via Sakai under resources > readings. It is recommended that you bring print copies of the day's readings with you to class in either electronic or hard copy.

#### **Jan 22-24. Introduction and historico-geographical orientation**

Robinson, *Buddhist Religions* 1-42

Bodhi, "Setting in Motion the Wheel of the Dhamma," 1843-1847

Collins, "Discourse on What is Primary (*Aggaññasutta*)," 338-348

#### **Jan 29. Merit, cosmology, and society**

Harvey, 32-46

Spiro, *Buddhism and Society*, 3-14

Hanks, "Merit and Power"

#### **Jan 31. Group A**

Hazlewood, 133-159

#### **Feb 5. Texts, monks, lay devotion, and kings**

Robinson, *Buddhist Religions*, 43-74

Collins, *Cakkavattisīhanādasutta*

#### **Feb 7. Group B**

Nikam and McKeon, *Edicts*, I (23-24), II (25-28), IV (31-34), VI.A.2 (47-48), VI.A.3 (49-50), VI.B.2 (55-59), VI.B.4 (61-64)

Norman, 7-10

#### **Feb 12. "Ethics" and narrative**

Keown, 3-20  
Hallisey, 32-43  
Chandler, "Normative Poems," 271-279

Feb 14. Group C  
Jenner, "A Minor Khmer Ethical Text," 111-140

Feb 19 **Lives of the Buddha(s)**  
The story of Gotama Buddha, 1-60

Feb 21. Group A  
The story of Gotama Buddha 63-101

Feb 26.  
The story of Gotama Buddha, 103-127

Feb 28. Group B  
Minayeff, trans. "Anāgatavaṃsa," 1-6  
M. Sarkisyanz, "Messianic Folk-Buddhism as Ideology of Peasant Revolts in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Burma." *Review of Religious Research* 10.1 (1968): 32-38.  
E. Michael Mendelson, "A Messianic Association in Upper Burma." *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London* 24.3 (1961): 560-580.

Mar 5. **Quiz 1**

Mar 7. **Mahāyāna and mantranaya**  
Bodhicaryāvatāra, vi-xxvi, 3-44  
Recommended: Williams, Tribe, and Wynne, 71-82, 98-123

Mar 12. Group C  
Bodh. 44-74.

Mar 14. Group A  
Bodh. 75-143  
Recommended: Williams, Tribe, and Wynne, 143-185

Mar 19-21. **SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS**

Mar 26. **Ghosts and miracles in medieval China**  
Poceski, 112-137  
Sen, "The Travel Records of Chinese Pilgrims Faxian, Zuanzang, and Yijing"  
Campamy, *Signs from the Unseen Realm*. selections, TBA

March 28. Group B

Company, *Signs from the Unseen Realm*. selections, TBA

April 2. **Buddhist prophecy and history**

Legend of Queen Cāma, xxi-xxix, 3-34

Recommended: Kitagawa and Cummings, 107-129

April 4. Group C

Legend of Queen Cāma, 37-83

April 9.

Legend of Queen Cāma, 85-133

April 11. **Quiz 2**

April 16. **NO CLASS**

April 18. **Buddhism in contemporary Thailand**

Scott, Nirvana for Sale, 47-87

Buddhadāsa Bhikkhu, *Handbook for Mankind*, pp. 47, 51-52

“Can Thai Buddhism be Saved from Superstition” *The Nation* May 27 2006

“Monks Lose Relevance as Thailand Grows Richer” *New York Times* Dec 18 2012

April 23. Group A

B: McDaniel 1-22

April 25. Group B

C: McDaniel 23-77

April 30. Group C

D: McDaniel 78-120

May 2.

Film: Nang Nak

May 10. **Final Papers Due via Sakai at 5:00PM.**