

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

ANS 301M / R S 312C, Spring 2019, TTh 9:30–11, UTC 1.132

Instructor: Dr. Oliver Freiberger

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This course examines the history of Buddhism by tracing the development of its various schools, doctrines, and religious practices in Asia and beyond. We will explore the historical background against which it arose in India, and study traditional views of the life of the Buddha, the early teachings, and the structure of the Buddhist community of monastics and laypeople. We will examine the growth of Buddhism in India, the development of Theravāda Buddhism and its spread into South East Asia. The emergence of Mahāyāna Buddhism in India and its spread into Central Asia and East Asia will be covered as well as the development of Vajrayāna Buddhism in Tibet. We will then examine the 19th century movement of Buddhist modernism in Sri Lanka and its relations to the Western world. This will be the basis for eventually exploring the various ways Buddhism came to Europe and America and examining the new forms and ideas it developed here.

Textbooks

1. C.S. Prebish, D. Keown. *Introducing Buddhism*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2009. [OR: C.S. Prebish, D. Keown. *Buddhism – the eBook*. 4th ed. See www.jbeonlinebooks.org (or through PCL).]
2. J.S. Strong. *The Experience of Buddhism*. 3rd ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2008.

Grading

Attendance/participation: 20%

Three quizzes: 30% (10% each)

Oral presentation **or** site visit report: 20%

Final exam: 30%

Grading scale: 93–100: A. 90–92: A-. 87–89: B+. 83–86: B. 80–82: B-. 77–79: C+. 73–76: C. 70–72 C- etc.

Scholastic dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

Students with disabilities

The Faculty Council's Educational Policy Committee states, "Providing a quality educational experience for all students includes adapting the instructional environment to accommodate the educational needs of students with information about Services for Students with Disabilities through the course syllabus." At the beginning of the semester, students should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office (phone 471-6259), which will prepare an appropriate letter to the instructor to guide you. See also the SSD website at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/>

Global Cultures Flag

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Background to Buddhism

Week 3: The Buddha

Week 4: The Dharma

Week 5: The Buddhist Saṅgha

Week 6: Buddhism in India – **QUIZ 1**

Week 7: Mahāyāna

Week 8: Vajrayāna

— SPRING BREAK —

Week 9: Buddhism in South-east Asia

Week 10: Buddhism in East Asia – **QUIZ 2**

Week 11: Buddhism in Tibet

Week 12: Buddhist Modernism

Week 13: Buddhism in the Western World – **QUIZ 3**

Week 14: Socially engaged Buddhism

Week 15: Buddhist Ethics, Conclusion

Final exam: May 15, 9:00am–12:00 noon