 Buddhism Syllabus

**WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS**

8/26 Introduction

**The Buddha and his Community**

8/28 The Life of the Buddha

9/2 The Buddha and the formation of his community

Readings: \*Conze, Buddha’s Previous Lives”, pp.1-7; de Bary, chap 1 (Historical Setting) pp. 3-9, chap. 2, pp.  55-72

**The Buddha’s Teachings**

9/ 4 Karma and Rebirth

9/9 Four Noble Truths and the doctrine of no-soul

Readings: de Bary, pp chap 1 pp. 9-54

9/11 Meditation

Readings \*Shaw, Buddhist Meditation (read chapters 1, 2, 5 and 10) “Introduction”, “Meditation” ,“The Four Foundations of Mindfulness” and “The Four Divine Abidings” )

**Theravada Buddhism in South East Asia**

9/16 Theravada Buddhism in SE Asia

9/18 Nuns and monks in Thailand

Readings: Brown (all of it) and \*Mitchell, “The Way of the Elders”.

**Mahayana Buddhism in India**

9/23 Rise of Mahayana Buddhism

9/25: Bodhisattvas and Celestial Buddhas

Readings: de Bary, chap 3 (through faith in emptiness) pp 73-98; \*Mitchell, “The Great Vehicle” and \*Shantideva, “Guide to Bodhisattva’s Way.”

9/30 The Philosophical teachings of the Mahayana Schools: Middle Way (Madhyamaka)

Readings: \*Strong, “Philosophical Formulations”, parts 1 and 2

10/2 First exam (in class)-- covers everything up through Sept 30th  No discussion sections this week.

**Vajrayana Buddhism**

10/7 Vajrayana Buddhism in India

10/ 9 the introduction of Buddhism into Tibet and Bhutan

Readings: de Bary, pp. 118-122, Kapstein, pp. 1-28, and \*Conze, "Quietist Controversy".

10/14 Fall break

10/ 16 The second spread of Buddhism in Tibet, Bhutan

Readings: Kapstein, chaps 2-4, pp. 12-61 \*Lawless, “Milarepa

10/21 The Dalai Lamas in Tibet and Mongolia

10/23 Philosophical disputes

Readings: Kapstein,chaps.5-8 pp. 62-116 and \*Dalai Lama, “Deity Yoga”

**Tibetan Buddhism in the US**

10/28 Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche on essential Buddhist teachings

10/30 Tibetan Buddhist practice in the west: adaptation and changes

Readings: D K Rinpoche, What Makes You Not a Buddhist (all of it); and \*Willis, "A Baptist-Buddhist."

**Mahayana Buddhism in China, Korea, and Japan**

11/4 Pure Land Buddhism in China and Korea.

11/6 Pure Land and Nichiren Buddhism in Japan

Readings: de Bary, chaps. 5, 7, 11, pp. 125-138,197-207; 314-354

11/11 Chan

11/13  Zen

Readings: de Bary, pp. 207-240; de Bary, pp. 355-373

11/18 Short Paper due by 11:59 pm in your TA’s email box

**Pure Land and Zen Buddhism in the West**

11/18 Immigrant Communities in the US

11/20 Western Zen

Readings: Readings: Morinaga, (all of it); \*Selections from Kerouac's Dharma Bums;\*Unno, "Other-Power."

11/24-26 Thanksgiving break

**Socially Engaged Buddhism**

12/4 Reinterpreting the Precepts

12/ 6 New venues for meditation and practice: prisons, hospices, and hospitals

readings : \*Gross, “When the Iron Bird Flies, \*Thich Nhat Hanh, "Diet for a Mindful Society” , \*F. Maull, “Letting Go of Depression;" and \*R. Purser and D. Loy, "Beyond McMindfulness."

12/8 in class final exam 9am-12pm