Course Description

This course surveys the historical development of Buddhism in India, its spread across Asia and into the West, and investigates key Buddhist literature, rituals, teachings, and practices. It introduces students to the early Buddhist traditions in India, to Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia, Vajrayana Buddhism in Tibet, and Mahayana Buddhism in China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. Finally, it locates Buddhism in the West.

We will begin with the life and times of the historical Buddha, his basic teachings, and the central monastic and lay communities. We will then study the development of Buddhist philosophy and the contexts from which these concepts arose. Throughout this course we will explore the theories, practices, and teachings of ethics, meditation, and wisdom, with attention to the historical, political, and social contexts that influence how Buddhism is lived and practiced today.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Throughout this course, students will:

1. Gain religious literacy. Students will learn key persons, places, and histories of the Buddhist traditions studied. Learning of this will come throughout readings, films, class discussions, and quizzes.

2. Articulate worldviews, teachings, and practices that define the world religions studied. Reading and video assignments will pointedly show proof of this learning.

3. Evidence ability to critically think about the Buddhist traditions examined. In-class discussions will help students develop this ability, and the final exam will communicate a student’s understanding of how religious meanings in Buddhism are embodied today.

Required Texts

Prebish, Charles. Introducing Buddhism;
Plus others as assigned on the course schedule
Course Format

**In Class:** The format of this course is lecture and discussion based, and will require students to be engaged. Lectures will be given to introduce new topics, but ample amount of time is given to class discussion and small groups. Each class will begin with a discussion of the readings, attending to student questions and observations. Many classes will also begin with group work, and students will meet with classmates to discuss readings, topics studied, and questions asked.

**Outside Class:** Other than completing the assigned readings and discussion questions, students are required to study for quizzes and the course exam, and complete quizzes online, as indicated on the course schedule. In their preparations for in-class discussions, students are encouraged to connect outside-the-classroom Buddhist representations with inside-the-classroom readings and discussions. Uses of media, art, music, and photography are especially encouraged, and students should bring into class any and all representations they find.

**Grading Scale**
A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+= 87-90; B= 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+= 77–79; C = 73–76; C- = 70–72
D+= 67–69; D = 63–66; D-=60-62

Course Requirements

**Attendance and Participation:** 10%
In addition to physically being in class, students are expected to participate. This includes coming to each class session having completed the readings and ready to discuss them.

It is your responsibility to notify me before you miss class for a university-scheduled event, and it is your responsibility to find out from another student what was missed. Each student is allowed two excused absences, and for every unexcused absence following this, the student’s attendance score will reduce by one letter grade (ex. from an A to an A-, etc.).

Attendance will be taken during each class session, at the discretion of the instructor.

**Reading and Video Comprehension Assignments (10): 20%**
In order to fully understand the Buddhist traditions studied in this course, reading is essential. You are expected and required to read all assigned material and complete the reading assignments posted online. Each assignment is graded for completion and accuracy, and should be turned in via Canvas by the beginning of the class session. To receive full credit, you must thoroughly answer the discussion questions and explain why you answered the question that way – based on what evidence from the reading and your comprehension of the material. A grading rubric is posted on canvas. Late assignments will not be accepted.
Quizzes (5): 25%
There will be five online, timed quizzes (one per section) that students will be required to complete on the date, and during the time allotted (as indicated on the course schedule). Quizzes will test a student’s religious literacy of the Buddhist traditions examined - key persons, events, historical development, teachings and ideas, and will be in the format of matching, multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank identifications. For each quiz, students will have 20-25 minutes (depending on the quiz) to complete it. There will be a study guide posted on canvas. Quizzes will be made available online (following the schedule posted below), and must be completed by midnight Sunday following that class.

Course Exam: 35%
Toward the end of the semester, there will be a comprehensive exam consisting of fill in the blank, short answer and essay questions. While quizzes test your religious literacy for the varieties of Buddhist traditions, the course exam will test your ability to comprehend and interpret Buddhism(s), from a variety of perspectives (textual, theoretical, philosophical, visual, and historical). The class session prior to finals week will consist of a review for this exam. Bring an 8x10 Blue Book and a pen to the exam.

End of the Term Essay: 10%
To conclude the term, each student will submit an interpretive essay regarding the ways in which Buddhism has entered into the United States. This essay will be due Monday March 14th at noon, and the week prior will include lectures and discussions to prepare students to complete this final reflection paper. More information will be given on this paper by the third week of the course, and will be available on CANVAS.

Course Policies

Punctuality: Please arrive on time and plan to remain for the entire class. If you arrive late (more than 10 minutes), this will count as an absence.

Courtesy and Technology in Class: Please turn off, silence, and stow away all cell phones before class begins. Use of laptop computers should be limited to accessing course readings as well as taking notes. Should you abuse this access, this will result in an absence.

English as a second language: If English is not the language most frequently spoken language in your family, you may need to work to devise methods for increasing your reading and writing skills in English. If you think this might be the case, come see me ASAP.

Students with Disabilities: Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Statement on Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is one of the basic principles of a university community. Oregon State University encourages and expects the highest standards of academic honesty from all students. Refer to the Code of Student Conduct for examples and definitions of academic dishonesty along with possible sanctions. http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses-0
Week ONE: Pre-Buddhist Indian Worldview; Doctrine of Karma, and Buddhist Views of Cosmology

Tuesday Jan 5  
Course Introductions  
Pre-Buddhist Indian Worldview– Key terms and phrases; the human condition; ideas of time;  

Prior to Class:  
Read: Chapter 1  
Insight Meditation Group (listen to audio)  

Due: Assignment #1

Week TWO: The Buddha: The man who “Woke Up”

Tuesday Jan 12  
The Buddha Shakyamuni  

Prior to Class:  
Read: Chapter 2  
Review: Key Terms: Quiz one  

Due: Assignment #2  
By Sunday Midnight: QUIZ 1 ONLINE

Week THREE: The Sangha and Early Buddhist History

Tuesday Jan 19  
Early Buddhism: The Sangha  

Prior to Class:  
Read: Chapter 4  
Review: Key Terms: Quiz two  

Due: Assignment #3  
By Sunday Midnight: QUIZ 2 ONLINE

Week FOUR: Buddhist Meditation

Tuesday Jan 26  
Mahayana and Theravada Compared  

Prior to Class:  
Read: Chapter 6  
Review: Key Terms: Quiz three  

Due: Assignment #4
Week FIVE: Buddhist Meditation

Tuesday Feb 2
Southeast Asian Buddhism

Prior to Class:
Read: Chapter 8
Review: Key Terms: Quiz 4

Thursday Feb 4
Buddhism in China - Chan/Zen Meditative Traditions

Prior to Class:
Watch: Amongst White Clouds
Review: Key Terms: Quiz 4

Due: Assignment #5
By Sunday Midnight: QUIZ 3 ONLINE

Week SIX: Developments of Buddhism in India and the Rise of Mahayana

Tuesday Feb 9
Pure Land and Chan in China

Prior to Class:
Read: Urban Dharma
Pure Land Buddhism - Amitabha
The Legacy of Chan
Review: Key Terms: Quiz 4

Thursday Feb 11
Buddhism in Japan - Sectarian Divisions

Prior to Class:
Read: Chapter 9
Review: Key Terms: Quiz 4

Due: Assignment #6
By Sunday Midnight: QUIZ 4 ONLINE

Week SEVEN: Buddhism in China and Japan

Tuesday Feb 16
No Class

Thursday Feb 18
Buddhism in Tibet

Prior to Class:
Read: Chapter 10
Review: Key Terms: Quiz 5

Due: Assignment #7
By Sunday Midnight: QUIZ 5 ONLINE

Week EIGHT: Buddhism in East Asia and Tibet

Tuesday Feb 23
Lama Tradition of Tibetan Buddhism

Prior to Class:
Watch: Unmistaken Child Part I

Thursday Feb 25
Buddhism in the West

Prior to Class:
Read: Chapter 11

Due: Assignment #8
Week NINE: Buddhism Beyond Asia

Tuesday March 1
Review for Course Exam

Thursday March 3
EXAM

WEEK TEN: Engaged and Modern Buddhism

Tuesday March 8
Buddhist Ethics

Thursday March 10
Globalized Buddhism: Immigrants, Mindfulness, an
Buddhism in the U.S.

Prior to Class:
Read: Engaged Buddhism
Engaged Buddhism II

Prior to Class:
Review: Final Essay Requirements

Watch: Thich Nhat Hanh

Due: Assignment #9-10

Week ELEVEN: Modern Buddhism and the Practice of Mindfulness

Monday March 14
By NOON Buddhism in the US Essay Due