



REL 3340

Survey of Buddhism

Section: RVC

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2026

Course Time Zone: Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates and times are according to this time zone.

Professor Information

Erin Weston

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: eweston@fiu.edu

Response Time: 48 hours

Phone: N/A

Office Hours: By Appointment

Office Location: Zoom

Website: <https://religion.fiu.edu/people/faculty/weston.erin.html>

Department or Academic Unit: Department of Religious Studies

Course Awards





Quality Matters

This certification mark recognizes that this course met Quality Matters review standards.



Affordability Counts

This course has been awarded the Affordability Counts Medallion. The Affordability Counts initiative at FIU seeks to make learning more affordable by reducing the cost of course materials to \$60 or less. Find out more by visiting the Affordability Counts website at lowcost.fiu.edu.

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

This course is a general introduction to Buddhism historically and philosophically.

Students will explore the main tenets, symbols, and practices of Buddhism from its time of origin until today. The course will examine the central themes of the main schools of Buddhism developed in India, Tibet, China, Japan, and Korea. The themes will be evaluated from religious, historical, and philosophical points of view.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Identify the core principles of Buddhism
- Describe the basic Buddhist worldview
- Summarize the historical development of Buddhism
- Explain regional and national variations in Buddhist philosophy and practice
- Differentiate between the various Buddhist schools of thought
- Analyze Buddhist symbols in rituals, art, architecture, and other aspects of culture

Textbook and Course Materials

Buddhism: An Illustrated Guide

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Kevin Trainor

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Publication Date: 2003

Copyright Date: 2003

ISBN 10: 0195173988

ISBN 13: 9780195173987

Chapters/Pages: Complete text

What the Buddha Taught (Required; on Perusall)

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Walpola Rāhula

Publisher: Pearson; Grove Press

Publication Date: 1973

Copyright Date: 1973

ISBN 10: 0802130313

ISBN 13: 9780802130310

Chapters/Pages: Complete text (Perusall)

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for \$22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the [Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop](#).

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- Review the how to get started information located in the course content
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self introduction video in the appropriate blog
- Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with

Canvas.

- Interact online with instructor/s and peers
- Review and follow the course calendar

The instructor will:

- Log in to the course at least 5 times per week
- Respond to discussion boards, blogs and journal postings within 3 days or sooner
- Respond to [emails/messages] within 3 days or sooner
- Grade assignments within 2 weeks or sooner of the assignment deadline

Assignments & Assessments

Discussion Forums

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Discussion Forum Expectations:

- Provide clear guidance on the expectations and requirements
- Available dates (unlimited or for a specific time)
- Criteria for evaluating the originality and quality of students' comments and grade credit expected
(Rubric is highly encouraged)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades.

Assignments

- Provide clear guidance on the expectations and requirements
- Provide due dates and late assignment policies
- Define if it is an individual or group assignment (groups: Let the students know how the groups will be formed)
- Specify and describe how to submit assignments
- State the criteria for evaluation (Rubric or list of criteria)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades

Quizzes

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the Practice Quiz from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet.

- List all assessments (i.e. graded or practice)
- Provide the dates and times when assessments will become available (i.e. From Monday 10:00 am – Tuesday 11:59 pm)
- Provide assessment duration (i.e. 30 minutes, 1 hour)
- Provide details for results
- When will students be able to see the results (i.e. Immediately after the exam, after the availability period has ended, or not at all)
- What will they be able to see the results (i.e. Total score only, all of the questions and answers, etc.)
- The expected turn-around time for feedback or grades

Quizzes

There will be ten online quizzes covering each section. Your quiz scores will be averaged together for a final quiz score worth 20% of your final grade. All quizzes

consist of 10 questions (multiple choice, true/false and fill in the blank questions), and each question will be worth 10 points. A quiz will be available from Monday 12:00am till Monday 11:59pm of the given week. Once you open a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete and submit it. You will have two attempts to take a quiz. The highest score will be counted.

Note: Quiz resets will not be granted for technical issues. You will receive two attempts to complete each quiz, if you are logged offline or you have a technical failure while attempting the quiz, then you still have the second attempt to complete the quiz. Resetting quizzes after they have passed will require a serious and verifiable reason (death in the family, hospitalization, serious accident, etc.)

The correct answers for quizzes will not be released to students. Students will be able to see their submitted answers only. Students should refer to their course materials for the correct answers, in order to study for the midterm and final exams.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance, please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

Exams

There will be two exams based on the readings and materials covered throughout the course. Each exam will be worth 20% of your final grade. All exams consist of multiple choice, T/F, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions and each question will be worth 2 points. Exams must be taken during the availability period, unless you have made arrangements with the professor before the availability period ends. Once you open an exam, you will have 60 minutes to complete and submit it. You will have one attempt on exams.

Note: Resetting exams after they have passed will require a serious and verifiable reason (death in the family, hospitalization, serious accident, etc.)

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

Survey of Buddhism Library Guide

This Survey of Buddhism Library Guide is especially tailored with resources meant to benefit this course. There are links to important Buddhist journals, websites, and videos. There are pages designed for each of the main content sections covered throughout the semester. There are also important library resources that will help you to do research for your assignments and make sure that you are properly citing your sources. Please refer to this page often.

Grading

Course Grading Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Quizzes	10	100	1000	15%
Exams	2	100	200	30%
Perusall Annotation	8	10	80	8%
Total	29	N/A	1540	100%

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Discussion / Participation	6	10	60	20%
Research Paper	1	100	100	15%
Presentations	1	100	100	12%
Total	29	N/A	1540	100%

Letter	Range %	Letter	Range %	Letter	Range %
A	95 or above	B	83-86	C	70-76
A-	90-94	B-	80-82	D	60-69
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	F	59 or less

Readings, Materials, and Open Educational Resources (OER)

Textbook and Course Materials

- **Buddhism**
- Kevin Trainor
- Oxford University Press, USA, Dec-2003
- ISBN-10: 0195173988
- ISBN-13: 9780195173987

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#) .

- **What the Buddha Taught (Required; on Perusall)**
- Walpola Rāhula

- Pearson; Grove Press, Dec-1973
- ISBN-10: 0802130313
- ISBN-13: 9780802130310

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#) .

Additional Course Materials

Additional readings and videos will be provided on Canvas and accessible through the lesson overview pages.

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within 24 hours.

Schedule of Topics

1. Introduction
2. Origins of Buddhism
3. The Four Noble Truths
4. Principles & Practice
5. The Eightfold Path
6. The Buddhist Community
7. Introduction to Theravada Buddhism
8. Introduction to Mahayana Buddhism
9. Introduction to Zen Buddhism
10. Introduction to Tantra Buddhism

11. Holy Writings

12. Buddhism Today

Policies & Resources

Please review the [FIU's Policies webpage](#). The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses. For additional information, please visit [FIU's Policy and Procedure Library](#).

As a member of the FIU community, you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the [FIU Student Conduct and Honor Code](#).

Proctored Exams

This course utilizes Honorlock for the Midterm and Final Exams.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights** (OCR) is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the OCR team through report.fiu.edu.