

Syllabus
Survey of Buddhism
REL3340

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Erin Weston

Phone: 305-348-1329

Office: DM 322B

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2-3 pm and by appointment

E-mail: Please use Blackboard Messages

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- 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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

POLICIES

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.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "What's Required" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our Technical Requirements webpage for additional information.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

Please visit our ADA Compliance webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

Please visit Blackboard's Commitment Accessibility webpage for more information.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's Disability Resource Center.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

TEXTBOOKS

Buddhism

Kevin Trainor

Oxford University Press, 2004

ISBN-10: 0195173988

ISBN-13: 9780195173987

Book Info. You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

What the Buddha Taught

Walpola Rahula

Grove Press, 1974

ISBN-10: 0802130313

ISBN-13: 9780802130310

Book Info. You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

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 in the appropriate discussion forum
- Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
- 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

COURSE DETAIL

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via Messages

Messages is a private and secure text-based communication system which occurs within a course among its Course members. Users must log on to Blackboard to send, receive, or read messages. The Messages tool is located on the Course Menu, on the left side of the course webpage. It is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

Visit our Writing Resources webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

DISCUSSION FORUMS

There will be five discussion topics. The topics will be posted on "Discussion Topics" folder in the Course Content. Students must post well thought-out comments based on the required work throughout the semester. Participation is required and represents 20% of your final grade. Both the quantity and the quality of your posts will contribute to your grade. All students are required to participate in all the five topics (at least 200 words). Discussions must be posted during the period they are assigned and are due by noon on the Monday after the end of the lesson.

Once you have composed your original posting, take some time to carefully review other postings within your discussion group. Pick two that are most interesting to you and provide meaningful, detailed, and constructive feedback.

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.

ADOBE CONNECT PRO MEETING

Adobe Connect is an online meeting room where you can interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, sharing files, chatting, broadcasting live audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities. We will be utilizing this tool to conduct live discussion meetings and office hours.

Requirements for using Adobe Connect:

Disable any window pop-up blocker.

Adobe Flash Player is required to successfully run your Adobe Connect meeting. You can test your computer to make sure your computer and network connections are

properly configured to provide you with the best possible Adobe Connect meeting experience.

Use of a combination headset and microphone with USB connection is recommended to ensure quality sound and reduce technical difficulties.

Reference Adobe Connect (Tutorials & Help) to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting rooms and recordings.

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 Thursday 12:00am till Sunday 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 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.

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 50 multiple choice questions, and each question will be worth 2 points. Exams will be available for two days from 12:00am to 11:59pm. Once you open an exam, you will have 60 minutes to complete and submit it.

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.

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be one essay assigned throughout the semester, which is aimed at assisting in comprehension and retention of the ideas. This essay will be at least 1500 words long (6 pages double-spaced) and will be worth 20% of your grade. This is a formal academic essay and students must cite their sources. MLA is the preferred citation style in Religious Studies. There will be three possible types of papers: historical analysis, contemporary applied analysis, or cultural anthropology/participant observation. After completion of the paper, students will do a virtual presentation for the class.

Submission: Students must submit their essays to Turnitin.com via Blackboard's Assignment Dropbox.

Late Papers: Late papers will only be accepted for the first 3 days after the due date and will be dropped one letter grade per day. Students are responsible for reading their blackboard messages and all announcements posted by the instructor. The instructor also reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus by means of announcements or messages with ample time allowed for students to respond and adjust appropriately.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, or attempting to pass off another's work as your own, falls into three different categories:

A written work that is entirely stolen from another source;

- Using quotations from another source without properly citing them; and
- Paraphrasing from another source without proper citations.

Students are expected to understand the definition of plagiarism. See the University Code of Academic Integrity at

<http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm> if you need further clarification. Offenders will receive a grade of F for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course.

****Students may not submit work from a previous semester or from another class for this assignment or any other assignment in this course. It will be flagged for plagiarism by Turnitin.**

Extra Credit: No Extra Credit work will be accepted in this course.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the completion of writing assignments, discussions, quizzes, and exams, a key requirement for successful completion of this course will be an open mind. Students are expected to exhibit respect to all religious traditions and peoples at all times. Thus, disrespectful or derisive commentary will not be tolerated in this course. Religion is, after all, a very personal and sensitive subject for many.

On the other hand, class participants can expect academic freedom to express their views. Although religion can be personal, this is an academic course taken for college credit and thus students are expected to examine the topics rigorously. Religion shall not be exempt from the scrutiny placed on any and all academic subjects.

GRADING

• Course Requirements			• Weight		
• Midterm Exam			• 20%		
• Final Exam			• 20%		
• Quizzes			• 20%		
• Essay			• 20%		
• Discussion/Student Biography Participation			• 20%		
• Total			• 100%		
• Letter	• Range	• Letter	• Range	• Letter	• Range
• A	• Above 93	• B-	• 80 - 82	• D+	• 67 - 69
• A-	• 90 - 92	• C+	• 77 - 79	• D	• 63 - 66
• B+	• 87 - 89	• C	• 73 - 76	• D-	• 60 - 62
• B	• 83 - 86	• C-	• 70 - 72	• F	• < 59

COURSE CALENDAR

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

***The professor retains the right to make changes to the schedule and assignments until the beginning of the class. Please make sure to print an updated version at the beginning of the semester.

• Date	• Tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction <p style="text-align: center;">Aug. 25, 2014 - Sept. 1, 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Introduction Review and fully familiarize yourself with the course and site. Print and read the course syllabus and course calendar. • Obtain texts and read ahead for Part 1 • Read: 10 Misconceptions About Buddhism • Student Introduction due Monday, September 1, 2014 by 12:00 Noon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1 <p style="text-align: center;">Sept. 1, 2014 - Sept. 15, 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Origins</u> • PowerPoint: Origins of Buddhism • Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 - Ancient India • Chapter 2 - The Career of Siddhartha • Chapter 3 - A New Community • Read: New Clues May Change Buddha's Birth Date • Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life of the Buddha (15 mins) • Crash Course: Indus Valley Civilization (12 mins) *Optional • Crash Course: Buddha & Ashoka (12mins) * Optional • Timeline of India • Quiz 1 - Origins of Buddhism - Due: Monday, September 15 by Noon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 2 <p style="text-align: center;">Sept. 15, 2014 - Sept. 29, 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Principles & Practice</u> • PowerPoint: The Four Noble Truths • Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 - The Human Condition

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2 - The “Four Noble Truths” • Rahula - Chapter 1 - The Buddhist Attitude of Mind • Rahula - Chapter 2 - The First Noble Truth • Rahula - Chapter 3 - The Second Noble Truth • Rahula - Chapter 4 - The Third Noble Truth • Rahula - Chapter 6 - The Doctrine of No Soul • Enlightenment Stories • Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhism Principles (15 mins) • Existential Bummer (3 mins) • The Life of the Buddha (50 mins) • Discussion 1 - Due: Monday, September 29 by Noon. • Quiz 2 - Beliefs - Due: Monday, September 29 by Noon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept. 29, 2014 - Oct. 6, 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint: The Eightfold Path • Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 - The Path of the Buddha • Chapter 4 - Mental Cultivation • Rahula - Chapter 5 - The Fourth Noble Truth • Rahula - Chapter 7 - Meditation or Mental Culture • 9 Mindfulness Rituals to Make Your Day Better • Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Tour of Borobudur Temple in Java, Indonesia • Quiz 3 - The Eightfold Path - Due: Monday, October 6 by Noon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct. 6, 2014 - Oct. 13, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint: The Buddhist Community • Read:

<p>2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5 - The Buddhist Community • Chapter 6 - Buddhism in Practice • Rahula - Chapter 8 - What the Buddha Taught and the World Today • Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Tour of Kanheri Caves in Mumbai, India • Pilgrims at Boudhanath • Quiz 4 - Community - Due: Monday, October 13 by Noon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct. 13, 2014 - Oct. 20, 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint: Introduction to Theravada Buddhism • Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 - Theravada Buddhism • http://www.vipassanadhura.com/howto.htm • Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temple of the Tigers (50 mins) • Quiz 5 - Theravada - Due: Monday, October 20 by Noon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct. 20, 2014 - Oct. 27, 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint: Introduction to Mahayana Buddhism • Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8 - Mahayana Buddhism • http://www.aboutdharma.org/what-is-compassion.php/ • Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crash Course: Silk Road (12 mins) • Venn Diagram or Infographic (Discussion Board Assignment) - Compare and Contrast Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism - DUE: Monday March, 3 by noon. • Quiz 6 - Mahayana - Due: Monday, October 27 by

	Noon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm Exam <p>Oct. 27, 2014 - Nov. 3, 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam - Available Friday, October 31 - Monday November 3 by Noon.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov. 3, 2014 - Nov. 10, 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint: Introduction to Zen Buddhism • Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9 - Chan and Zen - The Way of Meditation • Legends in Ch'an: The Northern/Southern Schools Split, Hui-neng and the Platform Sutra • Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Day in the Life of a Zen Monk (5 mins) • Zazen Meditation (3 mins) • Kyudo (3:30 mins) • Zen Exercise (Discussion Board Assignment): Due: Monday, March 24 by noon. • Quiz 7 - Chan and Zen - Due: Monday, November 10 by Noon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov. 10, 2014 - Nov. 17, 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint: Introduction to Tantric Buddhism • Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 - Tantra • Yidams • The Lightning Path of Buddhism: The Power of Yidams • The Medicine Buddha: The Meaning and Symbolism of the Healing Buddha

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: • Decoding the Past: Tibetan Book of the Dead (44 mins) • Paper Due: Due: Monday, November 17 by Noon. • Quiz 8 - Tantra - Due: Monday, November 17 by Noon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 3 <p>Nov. 17, 2014 - Nov. 24, 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Holy Writings</u> • PowerPoint: The Buddhist Scriptures • Read: • Chapter 1 - Assembling the Dharma • Chapter 2 - The Three Baskets • Chapter 3 - Mahayana Scriptures • Video: • Tripitaka and the First Buddhist Council (6 mins) • Scriptural Analysis Exercise (Discussion Board Assignment) Due: Monday, November 24 by Noon. • Quiz 9 - Buddhist Scriptures - Due: Monday, November 24 by Noon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 4 <p>Nov. 24, 2014 - Dec. 8, 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Buddhism Today</u> • PowerPoint: Buddhism Today • Read: • Chapter 1 - The Expanding Community • Chapter 2 - Society and the Sangha • In Japan, A Ritual of Mourning for Abortions • Liberate the Mahabodhi Temple • Fascists in Saffron Robes? The Rise of Sri Lanka's

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Buddhist Ultra-nationalists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Videos: • <u>Russian Tibet Amazing Journey: Only Buddhist state in Europe.</u> (26 mins) • <u>Burma Mantra of Rage Religious Tension Between Muslims and Buddhists</u> (15 mins) • Presentations - Due: Monday, December 8 by Noon. • Quiz 10 - Buddhism Today - Due: Monday, December 8 by Noon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam <p style="text-align: center;">Dec. 8, 2014 - Dec. 13, 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam: Monday, December 8, 2014 - Thursday, December 11, 2014 by 11:59 PM

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