

Florida International University
Department of Religious Studies
REL 3343 - TR 9:30-10:45
Department of Philosophy
PHH 3810 – TR 9:30-10:45
Fall, 2014 – PC 443
Dr. Nathan Katz - katzn@fiu.edu - 305-348-3909
Office: DM 305A Hours: TR, 8-9 and by appointment

BUDDHISM IN INDIA / PHILOSOPHY OF BUDDHISM

Textbook

Walpola Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught* (any edition)

Articles (on Blackboard)

Patrick A. Franke, "Vipassana" (EB)

Charles Prebish, "Councils: Buddhist" (ER)

Ashoka's Dharma (inscriptions)

Robert A. F. Thurman, "The Politics of Enlightenment"

B. L. Smith, "The Ideal Social Order as Portrayed in the Chronicles of Ceylon"

Paul Williams, "The Bodhisattva Path" (ER)

Frederick J. Streng, "Suyam And Sunyata" (ER)

The Sutra on the Essence of Transcendent Knowledge

Chögyam Trungpa, "Shunyata"

Excerpt from *Lotus Sutra*

F. Reynolds & C. Hallisey, "Buddha" (ER)

Hattori Masaaki, "Yogacara" (ER)

R. Davidson & C. Orzech, "Tantra" (EB)

Video

"The Buddha" - <http://whiv.alexanderstreet.com/View/913045>

"Footprint of the Buddha" -

Date	Topic	Reading assignment
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8/26	Introduction	Rahula 1-15
8/28	The context of Buddhism	
9/2	The context of Buddhism	
9/4	Life of the Buddha	view "The Buddha"
9/9	Dukkha	Rahula 16-28 +51-66;
9/11	Samudaya	Rahula 29-34.
9/16	Nirodha	Rahula 35-44.
9/18	Magga	Rahula 45-75
9/23	Meditation	Franke
9.25	EXTRA CREDIT class on meditation	
9/30	Men's & Women's Enlightenment	
10/2	TEST I	---
10/7	Councils and schisms	Prebish
10/9	<i>No class</i>	
10/14	Rulership and missions	Ashoka; Thurman
10/16	Video: "Footprint of the Buddha"	
10/21	Buddhism in Sri Lanka	Rahula, 76-89; Smith
10/23	Buddhism & politics	
10/28	TEST 2	---
10/30	Rise of the Mahayana	
11/4	The Bodhisattva	Williams, "Bodhisattva Path" (ER)
11/6	Emptiness	Streng, "Sunyam & Sunyata" (ER)
11/11	<i>No class – Veterans' Day</i>	
11/13	Emptiness in the Sutras	<i>Sutra of Transcendent</i>
11/18	The Buddha in the Mahayana	<i>Lotus Sutra</i> ; Reynolds & Hallisey (ER)
11/20	The Path of Consciousness	Hattori
11/25	Tantric Buddhism	Davidson & Orzech
11/27	<i>No class: Thanksgiving</i>	
12/2	Decline of Buddhism in India	
12/4	Buddhism in the West	
12/9	TEST 3, 10-11 a.m.	

Course requirements

1. There are three tests and each is weighted at 33% of the course grade. The tests will be in class on 10/2, 10/28 and during exam week on 12/9 @ 10-11 a.m.. You may earn as many as 99 points for these tests.
2. One extra credit possibility is for you to visit a local Buddhist temple of Dharma center. Your job is to figure out which school of Buddhism, which country, which lineage, etc., of this temple, as well as its history. You may have to make more than one visit, as you must do reading, interview the leader(s) of the temple as well as some of the members. 5-7 pages, 10 points possible

3. Another extra credit possibility is for you to attend programs and lectures from Religious Studies, Spirituality, Asian Studies, Jewish Studies, etc. I will let you know by e-mail which lectures could work. Within 48 hours of the event, you must post a 2 page write-up: What was the lecture/program about, and what did you think about it? 2 points per lecture is possible, and there will be between 5 and 10 lectures this semester. You could earn 10-20 points.

YOUR GRADE WILL BE THE TOTAL OF THE 3 TEST SCORES PLUS ANY EXTRA CREDIT WORK YOU DO. THIS MEANS ANY STUDENT WHO DOES THE WORK CAN EARN A GOOD GRADE.

Grades will be posted on Turnitin, course number 8419259, password dharma18. Extra credit reports must be posted on Turnitin.

Excused absences:

The instructor will make every effort to accommodate students who must miss class due to religious observances. However, students must communicate such conflicts to the instructor within the first two weeks of class.

Late work:

Late work will not be accepted except in cases of extreme and documented crises. Similarly, make-up tests are possible only by prior arrangement. Please note that I am *very* strict about these points.

First day of class policy:

Students are **STRONGLY** urged not to miss the first day or first week of class. If you cannot be in class, then do not take this class.

Note:

All cell phones must be silenced during class. Arriving late or departing early are rude behaviors that will not be tolerated.