

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 104 INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

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Course Description

This course is intended to be a general survey of the historical development, basic doctrine, and practice of Hīnayāna and Mahāyāna Buddhism.

Required Texts

Damien Keown and Charles Prebish, Buddhism-The eBook (eBook)
Charles Prebish, Buddhism-The American Experience (eBook)

How to Buy the eBooks

The eBooks may be purchased in one of two ways. You may go to the Journal of Buddhist Ethics Online Books website at www.jbeonlinebooks.org and order the books online by paying with a credit card. If you choose this option, the eBooks will be downloaded to your computer directly from the website. If you prefer, you may print out an order form from the website and mail it, with your check or money order, to the address indicated. You will then receive a CD-ROM with the eBooks on it by return mail.

Course Requirements

There will be two examinations and a final examination (total: 3 exams). The first two exams will be objective in nature. The final examination will be essay in format and comprehensive in nature. Exam number 1 will be given at the end of week 6. Exam number 2 will be given at the end of week 13. Make-up examinations will be granted only for medical problems or family emergencies, and must be properly documented. Medical excuses offered at the conclusion of the course are **NOT** retroactive. If you have an ongoing medical or psychological problem, you must notify the professor as soon as the problem is identified. Notification of non-attendance for an examination must be filed prior to, or no later than one hour after, the examination. Excuses such as oversleeping or failed alarm clocks are **NOT** considered valid excuses for missing an examination. Non-excused absences for examinations will yield a non-negotiable grade of "F" for that item.

The final examination date and location for this course may be found on eLion. It is essential that you do not make end of the semester travel plans until you have checked the final examination date, as the final examination date will be strictly enforced for all students.

Course Attendance

It is the policy of the University that class attendance by students be encouraged. Each student should attend every class for which the student is scheduled and should be held responsible for all work covered in the courses taken. A student whose irregular attendance causes him or her, in the judgment of the instructor, to become deficient scholastically, may run the risk of receiving a failing grade or receiving a lower grade than the student might have secured had the student been regular in attendance. As a result, unannounced attendance will be taken at least five times during the semester. Each unexcused absence will result in a five-point deduction from the student's total score for the semester. Absences on days on which attendance was taken will only be accepted upon the presentation of a valid, documented excuse.

Grading

Overall course grades will be determined by your total performance on all graded course activities. Grades in Religious Studies 104 **will not** be curved in any fashion, nor will there be any **extra credit** opportunities. The grading scale employed will be as follows:

A	93-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-92	C	70-76
B+	87-89	D	60-69
B	83-86	F	59 and below
B-	80-82		

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Any breaches of academic integrity in Religious Studies 104 will be dealt with as prescribed in Section 49-20 the University Faculty Senate Policies For Students (see: <http://www.psu.edu/ufs/policies>).

Disability Access

The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its

programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by university policy or by state or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible.

Cell Phones

All cell phones must be turned off during the class period. Any cell phone that rings during the class session will result in a 5-point penalty for its owner.

Course Outline

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Week 1 <u>The Indian Background</u> Introduction to the Course Hinduism	Buddhism-The eBook, 14-24
Week 2 <u>Buddhist Beginnings</u> Life of the Buddha Early History of the Sangha	Buddhism-The eBook, 26-75,
Week 3 <u>Buddhist Unity</u> 4 Doctrines of the Early Buddhists	Buddhism-The eBook, 76-101
Week 5 <u>Buddhist Sectarianism</u> History of the Hīnayāna Sects Doctrinal Differentiation	Buddhism-The eBook, 120-140
Week 6 <u>Buddhist Community</u> Buddhist Monastic Life Buddhist Monastic Literature Buddhist Ethics	Buddhism-The eBook, 102-119, 333-357
Week 7 <u>The Rise of Mahāyāna</u> Historical & Literary Development Doctrines Common to all Mahāyānists	Buddhism-The eBook, 140-149

Week 8 <u>The Flowering of Mahāyāna</u> Mahāyāna Texts and Schools	Buddhism-The eBook, 150-17
Week 9 <u>Buddhist Meditation</u> 10 Theories and Techniques Hīnayāna vs. Mahāyāna Approach	Buddhism-The eBook, 178-208
Week 11 <u>Buddhism in Southeast Asia and Tibet</u> Historical & Literary Development Doctrinal Issues	Buddhism-The eBook, 209-231, 264-285
Week 12 <u>China, Korea, and Japan</u> Historical & Literary Development Doctrinal Issues	Buddhism-The eBook, 233-263
Week 13 <u>Buddhism and the West</u> 14 American Buddhism Social Engagement	Buddhism-The eBook, 286-306, 307-332 Buddhism-The American Experience, all
Week 15 <u>Conclusions</u> A Retrospective Look	Buddhism-The eBook, 358-375

Films

Footprint of the Buddha
Lotus in the Fire
Zen Center
Land of the Disappearing Buddha
Now I Know You