Undergraduate Course offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies

ELECTIVE COURSE
(OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)
(Tentative Course Outline)
BSTC2021 Buddhist Ethics (6 Credits) (Semester 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Dr. Pu Chengzhong</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Rm 4.03, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Hours</td>
<td>To be confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pcz100@hku.hk">pcz100@hku.hk</a> (Abusive and improper language will be reported.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule</td>
<td>Thursday -1:30pm-3:20pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Mode</td>
<td>Online</td>
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Course Description: Being regarded as the most ethical world religion, Buddhism assigns morality a crucial place in the pursuit of its final spiritual goal. This course introduces the student to basic Buddhist moral teachings and their interpretation in relation to some social issues. It begins with a brief sketch of the Buddhist doctrines which can be easily identify as ethical teaching, and continues with discussions of a few important social issues in the viewpoint of Buddhist morality and values.

Course Objectives:
To highlight the fundamental ethical teachings of Buddhism;
To discuss social ethical issues by applying the highlighted Buddhist moral doctrines;
To recognize the relevancy of Buddhism to contemporary society


Lecture Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction of the course: scope and limit; 'Ethics' and 'Morality' in the East and West</td>
<td>All the page numbers appeared in this schedule are referring to the Required Book.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: pp. 21-24, 37.</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Buddhist Values</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Read: pp. 20-27.</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Buddhist Moral teachings I</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: pp. 28-40</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Buddhist Moral Teachings II</td>
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**Assessment:** 100% coursework with the following breakdowns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
<th>Submission deadline / Quiz date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quiz (via the Moodle)</strong></td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Book report</strong></td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Short Assignment</strong></td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final essay</strong></td>
<td>40%</td>
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**Faculty Grade Expectations:** [http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf](http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf)

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. The University upholds the principle that plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and any student found plagiarizing is liable to disciplinary action in addition to failing the assessment concerned. Please read the following webpage on "plagiarism" for details: [http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment/plagiarism](http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment/plagiarism)

**Guidelines for writing the report and the essay**

1. The Book Report: choose a Buddhist scripture from Donald Lopez’s *Buddhist Scriptures* or Bhikkhu Bodhi’s *In the Buddha's Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pali Canon*, to write on. First, introduce the text, identify the part or point you will review (if not the whole text), then provide your view/interpretation, and finally make a conclusion.

2. For the final essay, choose one topic from the list below or use a topic of your
own, in latter case, you are expected to ask the instructor’s approval.

3. Components of the Final Essay: 1) a question as the thread of your discussion, i.e. a coherent thesis; 2) The importance of the question; 3) Explaining the topic in a bigger context; 4) Your views with supporting evidence and corroborations, using objective and balanced arguments (Required book, Lecture PPT class notes, and webpage (such as Wikipedia, etc...) cannot be used as evidence); 5) Other’s views and their shortcomings or contributions; 6) Answering your central question as a way of conclusion. If your paper has all these, you should get a B+. To get an A, your piece should have skillful arguments and general exposition, in addition to resourcefulness, obvious knowledge of the topic, showing effort in research and carefully written. General expectations of student performance at the various grades:

http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf

4. Your essay should include proper referencing and citation. Only use peer-reviewed literature (journals and academic publications) as your reference. A bibliography of at least 5 items excluding textbooks used in this class is required. For the citation format, please use Chicago Manual of Style 16th Edition (or 15th Edition). In-text citation should be ok but with page numbers. Your text must be double-spaced.

5. No plagiarism. For details, please refer to http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment/plagiarism

6. All your papers should be submitted through the ‘turn-it-in’ on the Moodle.

7. Late submission will be penalized with the following lowering of assignment grade: 1) within first 7 days after the deadline, one sub-grade will be deducted (e.g. A ⇒ A-); 2) from the 8th day after the deadline.

Suggested topics for the Final Essay:

1. Buddhist monks’ life and modern society.
2. Buddhist concept of karma and ethics.
3. Buddhist values and society.
4. Viewing Buddhist concepts of no-self with morality.
5. Buddhism and social development.
7. Buddhism and social ethical problems

Reading List for Book Report

4. Rev. Pinnawala Sangasumana.2019. ‘The Buddhist perspective on measuring wellbeing and


Recommended Reading


Online Sources:

Journal of Buddhist Ethics