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Lecture Schedule

Time: Every Thursday from 4:30pm-6:20pm
Venue: CPD LG.10

Meditation Workshop (Compulsory)

Date: Oct 28 and Nov 4, 11, 18, 2021 (tentative schedule)
Time: 7pm – 8:30pm
Venue: Convocation room (Room 218, 2/F, Main Building)

Course Description

During the past decades, mindfulness practice, a form of Buddhist meditation, has not only become popular in mainstream culture embraced by some of the world’s biggest corporates, including Google, Facebook, P&G, etc. but it has also become the building blocks of several important stress reduction psychosocial interventions such as Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT). In this course, students will have a chance to study the evolution of Buddhist meditation: from its origination to its latest manifestation as psychosocial interventions spanning more than 2000 years. Through the study of Buddhist meditation texts and experiential learning, the theories and practices of several important Buddhist meditation methods will be introduced, such as mindful-breathing, compassionate meditation, samadhi and vipassana. Students will be expected to allocate time to practice at home what they have experientially learned in class.

In order for students to gain both a theoretical and practical understanding about the different types of meditation, this class will include weekly lecture and four Meditation Workshops.

Objectives

1. To introduce the development of Buddhist meditation, from its earliest form as taught by the Buddha to its latest application in psycho-social interventions.
2. To enable students to gain exposure to the theories and practices of various forms of Buddhist meditation.
3. To help students to experientially learn how the various forms of Buddhist meditation can help a
person to understand one’s own mind.

4. By studying the different meditation methods and texts, student should be able to develop insight as to what is Buddhist meditation and be able to critically evaluate the authenticity of any meditation method.

Assessments

1. Participate in the Meditation Workshop and complete four weekly meditation logs to be submitted one week after each weekly workshop (30% of overall grade).
2. Commentary: 2500 words. Based on a text or one section of one of texts taught in class or an essay on one of the meditation methods or modern applications of Buddhist mediation taught in the class. Due on Dec. 10th, 2021 (70% of overall grade).

Submission

Meditation Logs
-Hand in hardcopy in class one week after each weekly workshop

Commentary
-Upload a soft copy through Moodle AND
-Hand in a hard copy at Venerable Hin Hung's mailbox (next to CBS conference room on the 4th Floor of the Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus)
On Cover Page:
-Name
-University Number
-Assignment title
-Word Count

Late Submission & Plagiarism

-Within first 7 days after the deadline, one sub-grade will be deducted (e.g. A→A-)
-From the 8th day after the deadline and thereafter, one grade will be deducted (e.g. A→B)

Faculty Grade Expectations: 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

Assessment Guideline

30% - accuracy of the understanding of the text/book
25% - depth of knowledge (including references)
25% - originality/personal insight
20% - quality of writing and presentation
Guidelines for the **Meditation Log**
1. Honest and factual record of your daily meditation experience
2. Brief description of your experience and reflection

Guidelines for **Commentary**
The Commentary should have:
1. An explanation of the overall background and importance of the text. If you choose only a section of a text to comment on you must also explain why you choose that particular section.
2. Divide the text into sections with appropriate heading.
3. Paraphrase and elaborate on the meaning of each paragraph of the text.
4. Conclusion

Style of scholarly writing: proper use of citations and quotations is expected. All contributions of other writers should be noted through accurate quotations (judiciously selected and sparingly used). The final submission should be carefully edited for accurate spelling and competent usage of English punctuation, syntax and grammar.

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<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Content and Discussions</th>
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<td>L1</td>
<td>How did the historic Buddha practice meditation?</td>
<td><em>Dvedhavitakka Sutta</em>: Two Sorts of Thinking <em>Nagara Sutta</em>: The City</td>
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<td>L2</td>
<td>Mindfulness practice, the most popular form of Buddhist meditation in the 21st Century</td>
<td>Social scientists have integrated mindfulness practice into group-based interventions for treating stress-related problems with success. The two most important mindfulness-based interventions, MBSR and MBCT will be introduced.</td>
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<td>L3</td>
<td>The fundamental of Buddhist meditation, and <em>the Satipatthana Sutta</em></td>
<td>Why the practice of the four foundations of mindfulness is “the only way” to purification and overcoming sorrow and suffering? Mindfulness of Breathing and body movements</td>
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<td>L4</td>
<td><em>The Satipathana Sutta</em></td>
<td>Mindfulness and Contemplation of Feeling</td>
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<td>L5</td>
<td><em>The Satipatthana Sutta</em></td>
<td>Mindfulness and Contemplation of mind and Dharma</td>
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<td>L6</td>
<td><em>Visuddhimagga, the Path of Purification</em></td>
<td>Study of the Description of Concentration – Taking a meditation subject and the Earth Kasina</td>
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<td>L7</td>
<td><em>Visuddhimagga, the Path of Purification</em></td>
<td>Study of the Description of Concentration—-, the Recollection of the Buddha and Loving Kindness meditation</td>
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Reading List

- Analayo; Satipatthana, The direct path to realization; Sri Lanka, Buddhist Publication Society, 2003.

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<th>L8 Oct 28 Meditation Workshop</th>
<th>Integrating Buddhist theories and practices into group-based interventions</th>
<th>Interventions with both the theoretical model and program content falling within the Buddhist context: Cognitively-based Compassion Training (CBCT) and Awareness Training Program (ATP)</th>
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<td>The Sixth Patriarch Platform Sutra 六祖壇經</td>
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<td>Inquiry of hua-tou, the Chinese ch’an practice</td>
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Inquiry of Inquiry of hua-tou, the Chinese ch’an practice

The teaching from Ch’an Master Empty Cloud


(Last updated on July 28, 2021)