Undergraduate Course offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies in 2020-21

ELECTIVE COURSE
(OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

BSTC2024 History of Chinese Buddhism (6 Credit) (Semester 1)

Lecturer: Dr. Mingyuan Gao
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Office: 4.12, 4/F Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus
Schedule: 16:30-18:20 (Every Thursday)
Venue: CYPP2

Course Description
This course introduces the history, institutions, teachings and ritual practices of Chinese Buddhism from its introduction into China to the early 20th century. The focus of the course will be how Buddhism as a foreign religion interacted with the Chinese culture, economics and politics, and finally integrated into the Chinese culture.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will acquire basic knowledge of the origin, development, philosophy, and historic figures of Chinese Buddhism, and will be able to connect Chinese Buddhism with Chinese history and World history. This course will lay a foundation for students to further study Buddhism and Chinese culture.

Teaching and Learning Method
Lectures and class discussions.

Lecture Schedule (tentative):
Lecture 1. Introduction of Buddhism in the Later Han Dynasty and the Three Kingdoms Period
Lecture 2. The Acceptance of Buddhism in the Wei and Jin Dynasties in North China
Lecture 3. The Acceptance of Buddhism in Wei and Jin Dynasties in South China
Lecture 4. The Development of Buddhism in the Northern and Southern Dynasties
Lecture 5. Chinese Buddhism in the Sui and Tang Dynasty: Historical Backgrounds
Lecture 6. The Tiantai School and The Faxiang School
Lecture 7. The Huayan School and the Discipline School
Lecture 8. The Development of Chan Buddhism
Lecture 9. The Development of Pure Land Buddhism and Chinese Tantric Buddhism
Lecture 11. Chinese Buddhism in the Ming and Qing Dynasties
Lecture 12. The Revival of Chinese Buddhism in the Republic of China and 
           Pseudo-Buddhist Cults in Modern China

Course Assessment
Class Participation (10%)
1500-word short essay (40%, topics assigned)
2500-word long essay (50%)

Choices of the short essay topic
1. Discuss the strategy of the transmission and spread of Buddhism in China in the 
   first phase of Chinese Buddhism
2. Discuss the difference between the Buddhist way of thinking and that of the 
   Chinese in the Wei and Jin Dynasties
3. Discuss why the Mahāyāna Buddhism prevailed in China
4. Discuss why Buddhism survived in China after the destructions of foreign 
   religions from 5th to 10th century.

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

Disability
Any student who has a documented disability and may require special arrangements 
(seating, testing, later submission, etc.) should consult the instructor in person at the 
beginning of the course so that provisions can be made.
Textbooks


Recommended Readings


**Online Sources:**


*(Last updated: July 21, 2020)*