Undergraduate Course offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies in 2021-22

ELECTIVE COURSE
(OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

BSTC2024 The Buddhist Conquest of China (6 Credit) (Semester 1)

Lecturer: Dr. Mingyuan Gao
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Office: 4.12, 4/F Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus
Schedule: Friday 15:30 -- 17:20
Venue: CPD3.29

Course Description
Buddhism was introduced to China from India over 2,000 years ago and it has successfully integrated itself into Chinese culture and society marking the development of Chinese civilization. In this course, we will examine how this foreign religion’s conquest of China played out from a historical perspective and how it interacted with Chinese society, culture, and other religions. The aim of this course is to examine the trials and tribulations of Buddhism establishing itself in China and how it became an integral part of 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. Overview: Chinese Buddhism—an Indian Religion or Chinese Culture?
Lecture 2. Introduction of Buddhism in the Later Han Dynasty and the Three Kingdoms Period
Lecture 3. Buddhism in the Western Jin Dynasty and the Period of Sixteen Kingdoms in North China
Lecture 4. Buddhism in the Eastern Jin Dynasty
Lecture 5. Buddhism in the Southern and Northern Dynasties (History)
Lecture 6. Buddhism in the Southern and Northern Dynasties (Thoughts)
Lecture 7. Buddhism in the Sui Dynasty and the Tiantai School
Lecture 8. Buddhism in the Early Tang Dynasty (1), Faxiang School and Vinaya School
Lecture 10. Buddhism in the Tang and Song Dynasties, Pure Land School and Chan School
Lecture 11. Buddhism in the Song Dynasty
Lecture 12. Chinese Buddhism after Yuan Dynasty

Course Assessment

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<th>Class Participation</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>Attend lectures, and actively participate in class discussion</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Word limit: For the essays (excluding bibliography) that exceed the specified maximum length by 10% or under the minimum word count without the approval of the course instructor, the mark will be deducted by 5 percentage points. The penalized mark will not be deducted below the pass mark. For the essays whose mark is below the pass mark, no mark deduction will be made. Timelines: For the essays submitted later than the deadline without approval of the course instructor, the mark will be deducted by 2 percentage points per day. The penalized mark will not be deducted below the pass mark.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final essay (2000-2500 words)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Submission deadline: the 2nd Sunday after the last class.</td>
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Faculty Grade Expectations: [http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf](http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf)

Choices of the mid-term essay topic

1. Discuss the conflicts between the Buddhist practices and Confucian norms in the Late Han dynasty.
2. Discuss the difference between the Buddhist way of thinking and the traditional Chinese ideology in the Wei and Jin period.
3. Discuss why the Mahāyāna Buddhism came to prevail in China.
4. Do you agree with the opinion that Buddhism conquered China? Discuss why.
**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:**


23. Film: Buddhism in China. 1972. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlksQYTkFU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlksQYTkFU)