BSTC2046 Buddhist Chinese Language I (6 Credit) (Semester 1)

Lecturer: Dr. Mingyuan Gao
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Office: 4.12, 4/F Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus
Schedule: 13:30-15:20 (Every Tuesday)
Venue: CPD-LG.09

Course Description
This course aims to guide students to systematically acquire the ability to read Chinese Buddhist canonical texts which are translated from Indian languages. The textual sources used in the course will be mainly the Buddhist texts in Chinese translated by Xuanzang and Kumārajīva, which are most basic, standard and influential. The texts selected are those which had considerable impact on the development of Chinese Buddhism. This course will build a foundation for further studying Indian and Chinese Buddhist doctrines.
N.B. This course is designed for students who know at least 500 Chinese characters. Students whose first language is not Chinese or Japanese should check with the course instructor as to their suitability for the course before enrolling. Students may need to take a qualification test.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will gain skills to understand Buddhist terminology and morphology and to read individually some Indian Buddhist scriptures in Chinese with basic understanding of Buddhist doctrine.

Teaching and Learning Method
Lectures and class discussions.

Lecture Schedule (tentative):
Lecture 1 Phonology and Transliteration of Sanskrit Pronunciation into Chinese
Lecture 2 Basic Buddhist Terminologies and Morphology
Lecture 3 Pronouns and Possessive, Declarative Sentence, Passive Voice
Lecture 4 Negations, Past, Numeral
Lecture 5 Future, Prepositions, Extend and Scale Adverbs
Lecture 6 Active Sense, Conjunctions, Connectives, Temporal Adverbs and Adverbs of Manners
Lecture 7 Word Class Flexibility, Sentence Segmentation
Lecture 8 Selected Reading: Xuanzang’s translation of Prajñāpāramitā Literature
Lecture 9 Selected Reading: Xuanzang’s translation of the Yogācāra Texts
Lecture 10 Selected Reading: Kumārajīva’s translation of Saddharmapundarikasūtra
Lecture 11 Selected Reading: Kumārajīva’s translation of the Vimālakīrtinirdeśa
Lecture 12 Comparing Xuanzang’s and Kumārajīva’s Translations: A Study of Translation Style

Course Assessment
Class Participation (10%)
Weekly Assignments (40%, a template will be given on moodle)
Examination (50%)

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.

Recommended Reference Books


**Online Sources:**


*(Last updated: July 21, 2020)*