

BSTC1004 Introduction to Buddhism (6 Credits)
ELECTIVE COURSE (OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

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Office Hours	15:00-16:00pm, Wednesday, or by appointment
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Schedule	Tuesday 13:30 - 15:20
Class Venue	MWT2

Course Description

As one of the major world religions, Buddhism originated in India but has since become an important cultural heritage shared by most, if not all, Asian societies up to the 11th century CE. Its influence can be seen in most Asian countries, as well as in Europe and North America, where elements of Buddhism have become popular in the public sphere and in professional sectors such as psychotherapy, neuroscience and education. This introductory course provides an overview of Buddhist intellectual and social history spanning over 2500 years, covering several geographical regions and aspects of the Buddhist religion. Topics include historical traditions, scriptures, fundamental doctrines, basic ethical ideas, practices and customs.

Objectives:

1. To give a general introduction to historical and geographical dimensions of Buddhism.
2. To introduce cultures of the three living Buddhist traditions.
3. To introduce the general features of Buddhist literature
4. To outline the fundamental teachings of Buddhist traditions.

Learning outcomes:

1. Gain a solid understanding of the differences between the most important traditions of Buddhist practice and thought.
2. Recognise the foundational doctrines of Buddhism and related contemplative practices.
3. Make sense of important Buddhist activities in contemporary settings
4. Gain an appreciation of Buddhist institutions and the most important genres of canonic Buddhist literature.

Required Reading:

1. Anālayo, 'A Note on the Term Theravāda', *Buddhist Studies Review* 30/2, 2013, 215–235.
2. Barber, A. W. 1990. 'The Unifying of Rdzogs Pa Chen Po and Ch'an', *Chung-Hwa Buddhist Journal*, 3, pp. 301-318.
3. Cousin, Lance, 2013. 'The early development of Buddhist literature and language in India', *Journal of Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies*, 5, pp. 89-135.
4. Halkias, G. T. 2015. 'The Self-immolation of Kalanos and other Luminous Encounters Among Greeks and Indian Buddhists in the Hellenistic World.' *Journal of Oxford Centre of Buddhist Studies*, 8, 163–186.
5. Heirman, Ann and Bumbacher, Stephan Peter. 2007. *The Spread of Buddhism*, Leiden: Brill. (Downloadable through our library)
6. Kudara, Kogi. 2002. 'A Rough Sketch of Central Asian Buddhism', *Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies* 3.4: 93–107.
7. Lopez Jr., Donald S. 'The Scientific Buddha: Past, Present, Future - Building a Better Buddha', at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cA2oRwnn7E8>

8. Prebish, Charles S. and Keown, Damien. 2006. *Buddhism—The Ebook*, Third Edition (an electronic copy will be found in the Moodle).
9. Stoneman, Richard (2019). "The Indian Philosophers and the Greeks". *The Greek Experience of India: From Alexander to the Indo-Greeks*. Oxford and Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 289–331.

Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Content	Remarks
Week 1		Introduction to the course; The Social and Religious Background to the Rise of Buddhism Read: Prebish, <i>The eBook</i> , pp. 14-24. Anālayo, 'A Note on the Term Theravāda'	
Week 2		The Life of the Buddha; The Buddhist Communities: Sangha and its rules Read: Prebish, <i>The eBook</i> , pp. 26-75. Lopez Jr., Donald S. 'The Scientific Buddha'	
Week 3		Buddhist Texts of Early Indian Buddhism Read: Prebish, <i>The eBook</i> , pp. 386-392; Lance Cousin, 'The early development of Buddhist literature and language in India',	
Week 4		Buddhist early teachings I Read: Prebish, <i>The eBook</i> , pp.26-42; 77-97.	
		(Reading Week)	
Week 5		Buddhist early teachings II Read: Prebish, <i>The eBook</i> , pp.178-193.	
Week 6		Mahāyāna and Vajrayana Read: Prebish, <i>The eBook</i> , pp. 120-144,150-174.	
Week 7		Buddhism in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asian countries Read: Prebish, <i>The eBook</i> , pp. 209-224.	
Week 8		Buddhism in Central Asia Read: Heirman, <i>The Spread of Buddhism</i> , pp.1-129. Kudara, 'A Rough Sketch of Central Asian Buddhism.'	
Week 9		Chinese Buddhism Read: Prebish, <i>The eBook</i> , pp. 233-244;	
Week 10		Tibetan Buddhism Read: Prebish, <i>The eBook</i> , pp. 264-281. Barber, A. W. 1990. 'The Unifying of Rdzogs Pa Chen Po and Ch'an'	

Week 11		Buddhism in Korea, Japan [zen; pure land], Vietnam Read: Prebish, <i>The eBook</i> , pp. 245-260.	
Week 12		Buddhism in the West Prebish, <i>The eBook</i> , pp. 286-305. Heirman, <i>The Spread of Buddhism</i> , pp. 131-166. Stoneman, Richard (2019)	

Assessment: 100% coursework consisting of the following:

Activities	Ratio	Submission deadline / Quiz date
Attendance and Discussion	10%	
Quiz	30%	
Short Essay (300-500 words)	25%	
Long Essay (1800-2100 words)	35%	

Further Notes

- There is one **quiz** with 15 multiple choice questions. You only select the answer you think is correct out of the four options provided (eg.: What is a bhikkhu? A, a religious mendicant; B, a priest; C, a nun; D, a deity). You need to use either your laptop or your hand phone, which is accessible to Moodle as the Quiz is done online via the Moodle course page during a given period of time. **Please DON'T miss it, as no make-up test will be arranged.**
- The **Short Essay** (300-500 words) requires you to provide a criticism or defense of **ONE** piece of Buddhist doctrines. Alternatively, you can choose to submit five questions on a Buddhist scripture (see the Long Essay).
- The **Long Essay** (1800-2100) is a brief study of a Buddhist scripture selected from DN, MN, SN, AN, and KN, which can be found at <https://www.accesstoinsight.org/> (under 'TIPITAKA'). Make sure to include all necessary bibliographic information about the selected scripture. To write this paper, you must consult at least five different **academic** publications.
- Use any citation style you are familiar with, but be consistent and **provide page numbers**. Your essays must be **double-spaced** with a font size of 12, and should be submitted through 'turnitin' on the Moodle by the deadlines. The acceptable maximum similarity rate is **10%**, excluding footnotes/endnotes and reference list/bibliography.
- The grading principles are as follows: B-range grades are for basically good writing, including, clear structure and reasonable argumentation; generally correct understanding of Buddhist teachings (weighing 75% of the grade); readability in language (10%), acceptable technical matters (15%) (e.g. a title page, reference, and other conventions). The A-range grades are for writing that is excellent in all the above aspects.
- There will be penalty for late submissions: 1) submission within the first 7 days after the deadline will result in a deduction of one sub-grade (e.g. A ⇒ A-); 2) after the 8th day following the deadline, the deduction will be a full grade (e.g. A⇒B); 3) any submission made two weeks after the deadline will only receive a passing grade. Late submission should be sent to my email inbox.
- No plagiarism. For details, please refer to <https://tl.hku.hk/plagiarism/>
- Faculty Grade Expectations: http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf

Further Reading/watching

1. Anningson, Ryan 2017. 'Theories of the Self, Race, and Essentialization in Buddhism in the United States during the "Yellow Peril," 1899-1957'. PhD Dissertation. Wilfrid Laurier University.
2. Batchelor, Stephen. 2017. *After Buddhism: Rethinking the Dharma for a Secular Age*. Yale University Press.
3. Bechert, Heinz & Richard Gombrich. 1989. *The World of Buddhism*, Thames & Hudson, London.
4. Behrendt, Kurt & Brancaccio, Pia. 2006. *Gandharan Buddhism: Archaeology, Art, and Texts*, UBC Press.
5. Berkwitz, Stephen C. 2010. *South Asian Buddhism: A Survey*. London & New York: Routledge.
6. Bhante H. Gunaratana. 2011. *Mindfulness in Plain English: 20th Anniversary Edition*. Boston: Wisdom Publications.
7. Bluck, Robert. 2006. *British Buddhism: Teachings, Practice and Development*. London: Routledge.
8. Bodhi, Bhikkhu. 2005. *In the Buddha's Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pali Canon* (The Teachings of the Buddha), Wisdom Publications,
9. Brook, Timothy. 1994. *Praying for Power: Buddhism and the Formation of Gentry Society in Late Ming China*. Cambridge, MA: Council on East Asian Studies, Harvard University and Harvard-Yenching Institute.
10. Buswell, Robert E. ed. 1990. *Chinese Buddhist Apocrypha*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
11. Carrithers, Michael, 1983, *The Forest Monks of Sri Lanka: An Anthropological and Historical Study*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
12. Ch'en, Kenneth. 1973. *The Chinese Transformation of Buddhism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
13. Cho Eunsu. 2005. "Wöñch'ük's Place in the East Asian Buddhist Tradition." In Robert Buswell Jr., ed. *Currents and Countercurrents: Korean Influences on the East Asian Buddhist Traditions*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, pp. 173–216.
14. Como, Michael. 2008. *Shōtoku: Ethnicity, Ritual, and Violence in the Japanese Buddhist Tradition*. New York: Oxford University Press.
15. Corless, Roger J. 1989. *The Vision of Buddhism*, Paragon House, St. Paul.
16. Covell, Stephen G. 2005. *Japanese Temple Buddhism: Worldliness in a Religion of Renunciation*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
17. Deal, William E. & Ruppert, Brian. 2015. *A Cultural History of Japanese Buddhism*, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
18. Dunnell, Ruth W. 1996. *The Great State of White and High: Buddhism and State Foundation in Eleventh-Century Xia*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
19. Elverskog, Johan. 1997. *Uygur Buddhist Literature*. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols.
20. Eppsteiner, Fred. *Path of compassion: writing on socially engaged Buddhism*. Berkeley, California: Parallax Press, 1988.
21. Foltz, R. 1999. *Religions of the Silk Road: Overland Trade and Cultural Exchange from Antiquity to the Fifteenth Century*, New York : St Martins Press .
22. Frye, RN. 1996. *The Heritage of Central Asia from Antiquity to the Turkish Expansion*, Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers.
23. Gernet, Jacques. 1995. *Buddhism in Chinese History: an Economic History from the 5th to the 10th Centuries*. Translated by Franciscus Verellen. New York: Columbia University Press.
24. Gethin, Rupert. 1998. *The Foundations of Buddhism*, Oxford University Press.
25. Gombrich, Richard F. 2006. *Theravada Buddhism: A Social History from Ancient Benares to Modern Colombo*. 2nd edition. London and New York: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
26. Lopez, Donald (ed.), 1995. *Buddhism in Practice*. NJ: Princeton University Press.
27. Harvey, Peter. 1990. *An Introduction to Buddhism: teachings, history, and practices*. New York : Cambridge University Press.
28. Herschok, Peter D. 2004. *Chan Buddhism*. University of Hawaii Press.

29. Hope, Jane and Borin Van Loon. 2005. *Introducing Buddha*, Icon Books UK.
30. Hubbard, Jamie. 2001. *Absolute Delusion, Perfect Buddhahood: The Rise and Fall of a Chinese Heresy*. Nanzan library of Asian religion and culture. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
31. Kalupahana, David J. 1992. *A History of Buddhist Philosophy*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
32. Kapstein, Matthew. 2000. *The Tibetan Assimilation of Buddhism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
33. Keown, Damien. 1996. *A Very Short Introduction to Buddhism*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
34. Kieschnick, John. 1997. *The Eminent Monk: Buddhist Ideals in Medieval Chinese Hagiography*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
35. Korean Buddhist Research Institute (Chae, Taeg-su), ed., 1993. *The History and Culture of Buddhism in Korea*. Seoul: Dongguk University Press.
36. *Life of the Buddha*, documentary at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z27O-Lh-s8I>
37. Lopez Jr., Donald S. 2009. *The Story of Buddhism: A Concise Guide to Its History & Teachings*. Harper One.
38. Lopez, Donald. *Buddhist Scriptures*, London: Penguins, 2004.
39. Madsen, Richard. 2007. *Democracy's Dharma: Religious Renaissance and Political Development in Taiwan*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
40. McBride, Richard D. II. 2008. *Domesticating the Dharma: Buddhist Cults and the Hwaom Synthesis in Silla Korea*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
41. McNair, Amy. 2007. *Donors of Longmen: Faith, Politics, and Patronage in Medieval Chinese Buddhist Sculpture*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
42. Miggetuwate, Guananda & De Silva, David (1955), *The Great Debate: Buddhism and Christianity Face to Face*, Colombo: P. K. W. Siriwardhana.
43. Mitchell, Scott A. 2016. *Buddhism in America: Global Religion, Local Contexts*. Bloomsbury Academic.
44. Mollier, Christine. 2008. *Buddhism and Taoism Face to Face: Scripture, Ritual, and Iconographic Exchange in Medieval China*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
45. Morgan, Kenneth W. 1997, *The Path of the Buddha: Buddhism Interpreted by Buddhists*. Motilal Banarsidass.
46. Moriyasu, Takao. "Toruko bukyō no genriyū to ko-toruko-go batten no shutsugen" [The origin of Turkic Buddhism and the emergence of Buddhist texts in ancient Turkic language]. *Shigaku zasshi* 98/4 (1989): 453–87.
47. Neelis, Jason E. 2011. *Early Buddhist Transmission and Trade Networks: Mobility and Exchange within and beyond the Northwestern Borderlands of South Asia*. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill.
48. Niebauer, Chris. 2019. *No Self, No Problem: How Neuropsychology Is Catching Up to Buddhism*, Hierophant Publishing.
49. Nguyễn Tài Thư (2008), *History of Buddhism in Vietnam (Cultural heritage and contemporary change: South East Asia vol. 5)*, Council for Research in Values and Philosophy.
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51. Pittman, Don Alvin. 2001. *Toward a Modern Chinese Buddhism: Taixu's Reforms*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
52. Poceski, Mario. 2007. *Ordinary Mind as the Way: The Hongzhou School and the Growth of Chan Buddhism*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.
53. Powers, John. 2007. *Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism*, Revised Edition edition, Snow Lion.
54. Prebish, Charles S; Baumann, Martin, eds. 2002. *Westward Dharma: Buddhism Beyond Asia*, Berkeley: University of California Press.
55. Puri, Baij N. 1987. *Buddhism in Central Asia*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
56. Queen, Christopher S. 2000. *Engaged Buddhism in the West*. Boston, MA: Wisdom Publications.
57. Rahula, W. *What the Buddha Taught*. London: the Gordon Fraser Gallery Ltd, 1978.
58. Ricard, Matthieu. 2004. *The Quantum and the Lotus: A Journey to the Frontiers Where Science and Buddhism Meet*. Broadway Books.
59. Robinson, R., Johnson. 1997. W. *The Buddhist Religions, A historical introduction*. New York: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

60. Robson, James. 2009. *Power of Place: The Religious Landscape of the Southern Sacred Peak (Nanyue) in Medieval China*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center.
61. Salomon, Richard. 2018. *Buddhist Literature of Ancient Gandhara: An Introduction with Selected Translations*. Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications.
62. Schlütter, Morten. 2008. *How Zen Became Zen: The Dispute over Enlightenment and the Formation of Chan Buddhism in Song-dynasty China*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
63. Schopen, Gregory. "The Mahāyāna and the Middle Period in Indian Buddhism through a Chinese Looking Glass." *The Eastern Buddhist* n.s. 32/2 (2000): 1–25. Also published in *Figments & Fragments of Mahāyāna Buddhism in India* (pp. 3–24). Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2004.
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65. Seager, Richard Hughes. 2012. *Buddhism in America*, Revised and expanded edition (The Columbia Contemporary American Religion Series), New York: Columbia University Press.
66. Sørensen, Henrik H. & Payne, ed. 2010. *Esoteric Buddhism and the Tantras in East Asia* (Handbook of Oriental Studies) Leiden: Brill.
67. Sharf, Robert H. 2002. *Coming to Terms with Chinese Buddhism: A Reading of the Treasure Store Treatise*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
68. Siderits, Mark. 2021. *Buddhism as Philosophy: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. Hackett Publishing Company, Inc.
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71. Strong, John S. 1994. *The Experience of Buddhism: Sources and Interpretations*, Wadsworth Publishing Company, Belmont.
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81. Waterhouse, Helen. 2004. 'Buddhism in Britain: A Brief History'. In: Harris, Elizabeth J. and Kauth, Ramona eds. *Meeting Buddhists*. Leicester: Christians Aware, pp. 53–66.
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83. Welwood, John. 2002. *Toward A Psychology of Awakening: Buddhism, Psychotherapy, and the Path of Personal and Spiritual Transformation*. Shambhala Publications.
84. Williams, Paul. 2008. *Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations*. 2nd ed., London and New York: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
85. Wu, Jiang. 2008. *Enlightenment in Dispute: The Reinvention of Chan Buddhism in Seventeenth century China*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
86. Yancy, George. ed. 2019. *Buddhism and Whiteness: Critical Reflections*. Lexington Books.
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88. Yü, Chün-fang. 2001. *Kuan-yin: The Chinese Transformation of Avalokiteśvara*. New York: Columbia University Press.
89. Zürcher, Erik. 2007. *The Buddhist Conquest of China: The Spread and Adaptation of Buddhism in Early Medieval China*. (First published in 1959, then in 1972.). Leiden: E. J. Brill, Third edition.

Online Sources:

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2. *A Dictionary of Buddhism*. Damien Keown, ed. Online access through HKU Electronic Recourses.
3. *Becoming the Buddha in L A*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VU_VW7pXkB0
4. *Buddhasasana*. Some useful published articles of Buddhist Studies. Website address is: <http://www.saigon.com/~anson/ebud/ebidx.htm>
5. *Buddhist Digital Library and Museum*. Free access to scholarly resources on Buddhist Studies, some full texts in both Chinese and English are downloadable. Website address: <http://buddhism.lib.ntu.edu.tw/BDLM/>
6. **Buddhist Studies Sources in HKU's library**: <https://libguides.lib.hku.hk/c.php?g=934554>
7. *Digital Dictionary of Buddhism*. Charles Muller (Tokyo Gakuen University), ed. It is not a product of critical scholarship but can serve the purposes of general use. Type "guest" (case-sensitive, no quotes) in the "name" area, leaving the password area blank. One can have 20 free search within 24 hours. Website address: <http://www.buddhism-dict.net/ddb/>
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10. *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Lindsay Jones, Ed. 2nd edition. 15 vols. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2005. Online access through HKU Electronic Recourses.
11. *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*. Free access. Web address: <http://www.jbe.gold.ac.uk/>
12. *Mahayana Buddhist Sutras in English*. Providing access to English translation of some popular Chinese Mahayana texts. Website address: <http://www4.bayarea.net/~mtlee/>
13. Taisho Edition of the Chinese Tripitaka. Buddhist canon in classical Chinese shared by Buddhists in China, Korea, Japan and Vietnam. Address: <http://www.cbeta.org/index.htm>.
14. *The Internet Sacred Text Archive*. Provides a collection of outdated published scriptures of almost all major religions in the world. The *Sacred Books of the East Series*, which includes a selection of Buddhist texts, can be found at <http://www.sacred-texts.com/index.htm>