Course Description:
An introductory survey of the Buddhist tradition, emphasizing its origin and development in India as well as its historical evolution in Asia. Beginning with the legend of the Buddha and the formation of the monastic community, the course surveys doctrinal developments including the Theravāda, Mahāyāna, and Vajrayāna paths. For Spring 2019, the course has been redesigned to have a weekly plenary lecture on Tuesdays, and then small discussion sections on the days following.

Course Design and Guidelines:
This course is planned as introductory and exploratory, conducted in a manner integrating lectures with weekly discussions. It emphasizes readings in the sacred scriptures, historical analysis, and anthropological studies of the living tradition.

All students are expected to participate actively in the coursework, share in the discussion, ask questions to help make unclear topics understood, and to make use of the office hours. Participation is part of the course grade. Note: lectures will supplement the required readings, not replace them.

Reading assignments must be completed before the designated class and analyzed carefully. There are also recommended readings for some classes.

The map of Asia and the paper must be in on time to receive full credit. Separate guidelines for each will be distributed.

Grading:
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<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Map Assignment</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Examination I</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buddhist Art Encounter Paper</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>Discussion Participation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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In addition, a menu of “Creative Tasks” will be made available to earn extra course credit.
Required Textbooks: (All ordered from the Holy Cross bookstore.)
Course Moodle Readings /MCR/ [some new readings may be added during the term]

Bring copies of the texts to class according to the syllabus; if you have a question on that
day’s readings, there will be a chance to ask it at the start of each class.

Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

Topic 1:
Foundations

1/22: PLENARY 1. First Class: Syllabi Distributed and Course Overview
What do we mean by “Religious Tradition?”
Exorcising Ethnocentrisms: Orientalism and the Study of Buddhism
Origins: Context in Ancient India

Required Reading:
John Dunne, “Passing Over” [MCR]
T. Lewis, “Introduction” to Buddhists: Understanding Buddhism… [MCR]

DISCUSSION 1 TOPIC: Studying Religions of “Others” ; Comparative Religion
Required Reading:
Donald Lopez, “The Scientific Buddha” [MCR]

Topic 2:
The Three Refuges in Early Buddhism:
Buddha, Sangha, Dharma

1/29: PLENARY 2. Birth and Youth Renunciation and Enlightenment;
Forty Years Preaching and Parinirvana

Required Reading:
Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 10-21; 22-45
Sugata Saurabha, Part I, Chapters 1-7; 8-12

DISCUSSION 2. Topic: “Close Reading”; Doing Exegesis reading Dharma
Required Reading:
“The Buddha’s Daily Habits”; “Maha Parinirvāna Sutta”; Sigalavada Sutta” [MCR]
2/5: PLENARY 3. Forty Years Preaching and Parinirvana; The Sangha
Required Reading:
Sugata Saurabha, Part I, Chapters 13-19

DISCUSSION 3.  Topic: Buddhist Monastic Discipline; Monastic Life
Required Reading:
“Vinaya texts” and “Pali Canon: Rituals and Chants” [MCR]

MAP ASSIGNMENT DUE

Required Reading:
Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 58-79
“Saints Poetry and Hungry Ghosts” [MCR]

Recommended Readings:
“The Udana” [MCR]
Alice Collett, “Bhadda Kundalakesa: The Ex-Jain” [MCR]
C. Kabilsingh, “Buddhist Texts from a Feminist Perspective” [MCR]

DISCUSSION 4.  TOPIC: Texts and Dharma: The Dhammapada
Required Reading:
T. Byrom, The Dhammapada

2/13: PLENARY 5. Formative History, (500bce-100ce)
Ashoka; Institutional Development in Early Communities; Stūpas; Merit making and Karma

Required Reading:
Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 6-9; 46-55; 90-105; 106-131; 176-195
“The Stupa” [MCR]

DISCUSSION 5.  Topic: Popular Narratives
Required Reading:
“Hare Jataka”; “Golden Deer Jataka” [MCR]
“Shringabheri Avadana” in Lewis, Popular Buddhist Texts from Nepal..., Chapter 2.

Recommended Readings
Gregory Schopen, “Liberation Is Only for Those Already Free: Reflections on Debts to Slavery and Enslavement to Debt in an Early Indian Buddhist Monasticism”
_____  “The Buddhist ‘Monastery’ and the Indian Garden” [MCR]

Topic 3:
Buddhist India: Historical Narrative
2/20: PLENARY 6. Tradition of Practice: Rituals and Meditation  
Later Buddhist India (200CE-1200CE)

Required Reading:
*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 80-89; 106-119; 186-195  
“Moment to Moment Mindfulness” *MCR*;  
T. Lewis, “A History of Buddhist Ritualism” *MCR*

DISCUSSION 6. Topic: Meditation in Canonical Texts and in Practice  
Required Reading:  
“Four Objects of Mindfulness” and “Nouns”

*Date TBA: Vipassanā Session led by Susan O’Brien, Insight Meditation Society*

All Discussion Sections: Mid-Term Exam


Topic 4:  
**Mahāyāna Buddhism**  
Buddhism’s Diaspora to East Asia

3/12: PLENARY 8. Schism w/Indic Schools; “Cosmic Buddhahood”;  
Bodhisattvas: Human & Celestial  
Elite Mahāyāna Philosophies: Shunyatā and Two-Truths Doctrine

Required Reading:  
*Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide*, 132-149; 196-211  
“The Lotus Sūtra, Chapt 1-4” *MCR*

Recommended Readings:  
Joseph Walser, “Nagārjuna: The Great Philosopher” *MCR*

DISCUSSION 8. Topic: Elite Philosophy, a Popular Mahayana Story  
Required Reading:  
“The Heart Sūtra” *MCR*  
3/19: PLENARY 9. Yogācāra School; Buddha Nature Doctrine;
Required Reading:
“Excerpts, Prajñāpāramitā Sūtra in 8000 Verses”, “Nāgārjuna’s Mūla-Madhyamaka-Karika”
“Praise of Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara” [MCR], “Visualization Meditation Guidelines” [MCR]

DISCUSSION 9. Topic: Visualization Meditation
Required Reading:
Crosby and Skilton, The Bodhicaryāvatāra (all of translation; skim chapter commentaries)

Schools of East Asian Buddhism: Tendai and Nichiren;
Pure Land Buddhism; Chan/Zen
Required Reading:
Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 144-161; 162-173; 202-203; 219-221
“Nichiren” [MCR]
“Pure Land Buddhism Readings” and “Genjo Koan Text” [MCR]

DISCUSSION: [4/17-21] No Class, Easter Break

Topic 5: Vajrayāna Buddhism in Nepal and Tibet

4/2: PLENARY 11. Tantric Doctrines and Soteriology;
Himalayan Traditions in Practice
Required Reading:
Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 96-7, 162-173; 208-201
Todd Lewis, Popular Mahayana Texts from Nepal, Chapters 1, 6, 7.
“Sahaja-Yoginicinta Tantra” [MCR]

DISCUSSION 11. Topic: Tantric Texts and Practices
Required Reading:
“Chandamaharoshana Tantra (Ch 1,2)” [MCR]

Required Reading:
Todd Lewis, Popular Mahayana Texts from Nepal, Chapters 1, 6, 7.
Ronald Davidson, “Buddhism in Tibet” [MCR]

DISCUSSION 12. Topic: Reading Tibetan Buddhist Lives
Required Reading:
Geoff Childs, “Hunger, Hard Work, and Uncertainty: Tashi Dondrup...”[MCR]
David Cooper, “Who is Uncle Donpa” [MCR]
Topic 6:
Buddhism in the 21st Century

4/16: PLENARY 13. Traumas of Modernity: Colonialism & Westernization; Formative Developments in Sri Lanka

Required Reading:
Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide, 212-231
Lewis, “Buddhism Under Colonialism” [MCR]
J. Carter, "There are Buddhists Living in Sri Lanka Today" [MCR]

DISCUSSION 13. Topic: Buddhist Nationalism
Required Reading:
“Corporal Monk: Venerable Sudinna’s Journey...Army to Buddhist Sangha” [MCR]


Required Reading:
Donald Swearer, “Thailand” [MCR]

DISCUSSION 14. Topic: The Thai Sangha today
Required Reading:
Nick Wilgus, Mindfulness and Murder

4/30: PLENARY 15. Buddhism and the West; “Engaged Buddhism”

Required Reading:
S. Sivaraksha, “Buddhism in a World of Change” [MCR]

DISCUSSION 15. Topic: The Future of Buddhism
Required Reading:
Gary Snyder, “Buddhism and the Possibilities of Planetary Culture” [MCR]

READING PERIOD: Review Session

Exam Period: Comprehensive Final