

**REL 3340**  
**Survey of Buddhism**  
**Spring 2014**

Instructor: Erin Weston  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a general introduction to Buddhism historically and philosophically. Students will explore the main tenets, symbols, and practices of Buddhism from its time of origin until today. The course will examine the central themes of the main schools of Buddhism developed in India, Tibet, China, Japan, and Korea, and how these diverse forms of Buddhism have spread throughout the world. The themes will be evaluated from religious, historical, and philosophical points of view. Additionally, this course will emphasize the interrelatedness of key Buddhist beliefs, practices, and symbols as they interact with other global forces in new locales.

**OBJECTIVES & STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will be able to:

- Identify the core principles of Buddhism.
- Describe the basic Buddhist worldview.
- Summarize the historical development of Buddhism.
- Explain regional and national variations in Buddhist philosophy and practice.
- Differentiate between the various Buddhist schools of thought.
- Analyze Buddhist symbols in rituals, art, architecture, and other aspects of culture.

**GLOBAL LEARNING COURSE OUTCOMES**

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of key Buddhist beliefs, practices, and symbols as expressed in multiple historical and regional contexts.
- Students will be able to analyze a contemporary issue via the analytical perspectives of diverse forms of Buddhism.
- Students will demonstrate an ability to engage critically with diverse forms of Buddhism in local, regional, national and international contexts.

This is a Global Learning Discipline-Specific course that counts towards your Global Learning graduation requirement.

## **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

For information about prerequisites, click here.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

***Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide.*** Ed Kevin Trainor. Oxford University Press New York: NY 2004.

ISBN-10: 0195173988

ISBN-13: 978-0195173987

***What the Buddha Taught.*** Walpola Rahula. Grove Press, New York, 1974.

ISBN-10: 0802130313

ISBN-13: 978-0802130310

## **EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE**

This is an online course, meaning that most of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- Review the how to get started information located in the course content
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
- Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
- Interact online with instructor/s and peers
- Review and follow the course calendar

## **COURSE COMMUNICATION**

Communication in this course will take place via messages.

The message feature is a private, internal Blackboard only communication system. Users must log on to the blackboard system to send/receive/read messages. There are no notifications in Blackboard to inform users when a new message has been received; therefore, it is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

This is the best method to communicate with your instructor privately.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **ADOBE CONNECT PRO MEETING & DISCUSSION FORUM**

There will be five discussion topics. The topics will be posted on "Discussion Topics" folder in the Course Content. Students must post well thought-out comments based on the required work throughout the semester. Participation is required and represents 10% of your final grade. Both the quantity and the quality of your posts will contribute to your grade. All students are required to participate in all the three topics (at least 200 words). Discussions must be posted during the period they are assigned and are due by 11:59 pm on the Sunday which ends that particular lesson.

Once you have composed your original posting, take some time to carefully review other postings within your discussion group. Pick two that are most interesting to you and provide meaningful, detailed, and constructive feedback.

Adobe Connect is an online meeting room where you can interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens of files, chat, broadcast live audio, and take part in other interactive online activities. We will be utilizing this tool to conduct live discussion meetings and office hours.

Requirements for using Adobe Connect Pro Meeting:

1. Disable any window pop-up blocker.
2. Adobe Flash Player is required to successfully run your Adobe Connect meeting. You can test your computer to make sure your computer and network connections are properly configured to provide you with the best possible Adobe Connect meeting experience.
3. Use of a combination headset and microphone with USB connection is recommended to ensure quality sound and reduce technical difficulties.

Reference Adobe Connect (Tutorials & Help) for additional information.

## **QUIZZES**

There will be nine online quizzes covering each section. Your quiz scores will be averaged together for a final quiz score worth 20% of your final grade. All quizzes consist of 10 multiple choice questions, and each question will be worth 10 points. A quiz will be available from Thursday 12:00am till Sunday 11:59pm of the given week. Once you open a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete and submit it. You will have two attempts to take a quiz. The highest score will be counted.

**Note:** Quiz resets will not be granted for technical issues. You will receive two attempts to complete each quiz, if you are logged offline or you have technical failure while attempting the quiz, then you still have

the second attempt to complete the quiz. Resetting quizzes after they have passed will require a serious and verifiable reason (death in the family, hospitalization, serious accident, etc.).

This also applies to the Midterm and Final Exams. The correct answers for quizzes will **not** be released to students. Students will be able to see their submitted answers only. Students should refer to their course materials for the correct answers, in order to study for the midterm and final exams.

## **EXAMS**

There will be two exams based on the readings and materials covered throughout the course. Each exam will be worth 25% of your final grade. All exams consist of 50 multiple choice questions, and each question will be worth 2 points. Exams will be available for two days from 12:00am to 11:59pm. Once you open an exam, you will have 60 minutes to complete and submit it.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements.

## **ESSAY ASSIGNMENT**

There will be one essay assigned throughout the semester which is aimed at assisting in comprehension and retention of the ideas. This essay will be between 1000 to 2000 words long (4 pages double-spaced) and will be worth 20% of your grade. This is a formal academic essay and students must cite their sources. MLA is the preferred citation style in Religious Studies.

Submission: Students must submit their essays to Turnitin.com via Blackboard's Assignment Dropbox.

## **Late Papers**

Late papers will only be accepted for the first 3 days after the due date and will be dropped one letter grade per day. Students are responsible for reading their blackboard messages and all announcements posted by the instructor. The instructor also reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus by means of announcements or messages with ample time allowed for students to respond and adjust appropriately.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, or attempting to pass off another's work as your own, falls into three different categories:

1. A written work that is entirely stolen from another source;
2. Using quotations from another source without properly citing them; and
3. Paraphrasing from another source without proper citations.

Students are expected to understand the definition of plagiarism. See the University Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm> if you need further clarification. Offenders will receive a grade of F for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course.

**\*\*Students may not submit work from a previous semester or from another class for this assignment or any other assignment in this course. It will be flagged for plagiarism by Turnitin. Extra Credit** No Extra Credit work will be accepted in this course.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to the completion of writing assignments, discussions, quizzes, and exams, a key requirement for successful completion of this course will be an open mind. Students are expected to exhibit respect to all religious traditions and peoples at all times. Thus, disrespectful or derisive commentary will not be tolerated in this course. Religion is, after all, a very personal and sensitive subject for many.

On the other hand, class participants can expect academic freedom to express their views. Although religion can be personal, this is an academic course taken for college credit and thus students are expected to examine the topics rigorously. Religion shall not be exempt from the scrutiny placed on any and all academic subjects.

**GRADING**

<b>Course Requirements</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Quiz Average (10 Quizzes)	20%
Essay	20%
Discussion/ Student Biography Participation	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Range</b>
A	Above 93	B-	80 - 82	D+	67 - 69
A-	90 - 92	C+	77 - 79	D	63 - 66
B+	87 - 89	C	73 - 76	D-	60 - 62
B	83 - 86	C-	70 - 72	F	< 59

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**POLICIES**

Please review the policies page as it contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU and additional information on the standards for acceptable netiquette important for online courses.

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS**

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "What's Required" page to find out more information on this subject. For detailed information about the technical requirements, please click here.

### **ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION**

For detailed information about the specific limitations with the technologies used in this course, please click here.

For more information about Blackboard's Accessibility Commitment, click here.

For additional assistance please contact our Disability Resource Center.

**Note to students with disabilities: FIU welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for modifications or reasonable accommodations in this course, contact Disability Resource Center.**

### **COURSE CALENDAR**

Lesson	Tasks
<p><b>January 6, 2014 – January 13, 2014</b></p> <p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p><b>Course Introduction</b></p> <p>Review and fully familiarize yourself with the course and site. Print and read the course syllabus and course calendar.</p> <p><b>Obtain texts and read ahead for Part 1</b></p> <p><b>Student Introduction due Monday, January 13, 2014 by 12:00 Noon</b></p>
<p><b>Part 1</b></p>	<p><u><b>Origins</b></u></p> <p>PowerPoint: Origins of Buddhism</p> <p>Read: Chapter 1 – Ancient India Chapter 2 – The Career of Siddhartha</p>

<p><b>January 13, 2014</b> – <b>January 20, 2014</b></p>	<p>Chapter 3 – A New Community</p> <p>Videos: Life of the Buddha (15 mins)</p> <p>Crash Course: Indus Valley Civilization (12 mins) *Optional <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7ndRwqJYDM&amp;feature=share&amp;list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7ndRwqJYDM&amp;feature=share&amp;list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9</a></p> <p>Crash Course: Buddha &amp; Ashoka (12mins) * Optional <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Nn5uqE3C9w&amp;feature=share&amp;list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Nn5uqE3C9w&amp;feature=share&amp;list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9</a></p> <p>Timeline of India: <a href="http://www.kamat.com/kalranga/timeline/timeline.htm">http://www.kamat.com/kalranga/timeline/timeline.htm</a></p> <p>Quiz 1 – Origins of Buddhism</p>
<p><b>Part 2</b></p> <p><b>January 20, 2014</b> – <b>February 3, 2014</b></p>	<p><b><u>Principles &amp; Practice</u></b></p> <p>PowerPoint: The Four Noble Truths</p> <p>Read: Chapter 1 – The Human Condition Chapter 2 – The “Four Noble Truths” Rahula Chapter 1 – The Buddhist Attitude of Mind Chapter 2 – The First Noble Truth Chapter 3 – The Second Noble Truth Chapter 4 – The Third Noble Truth Chapter 6 – The Doctrine of No Soul Enlightenment Stories</p> <p>Video: Buddhism Principles (15 mins)</p> <p>Video: The Life of the Buddha (50 mins) <a href="http://youtu.be/kEe8hI6G0GY">http://youtu.be/kEe8hI6G0GY</a></p> <p>Discussion 1</p> <p>Quiz 2 - Beliefs</p>
<p><b>February 3, 2014</b> –</p>	<p>PowerPoint: The Eightfold Path</p> <p>Read: Chapter 3 – The Path of the Buddha</p>

<p><b>February 10, 2014</b></p>	<p>Chapter 4 – Mental Cultivation  Rahula - Chapter 5 – The Fourth Noble Truth  Chapter 7 – Meditation or Mental Culture</p> <p>Video: Virtual Tour of Borobudur Temple in Java, Indonesia  <a href="http://youtu.be/ldHd8Z5ZV-c">http://youtu.be/ldHd8Z5ZV-c</a></p> <p>Quiz 3 – The Eightfold Path</p>
<p><b>February 10, 2014</b>  –  <b>February 17, 2014</b></p>	<p>PowerPoint: The Buddhist Community</p> <p>Read: Chapter 5 – The Buddhist Community  Chapter 6 – Buddhism in Practice  Rahula - Chapter 8 – What the Buddha Taught and the World Today</p> <p>Video: Virtual Tour of Kanheri Caves in Mumbai, India  <a href="http://youtu.be/E6ewEoSc6vY">http://youtu.be/E6ewEoSc6vY</a></p> <p>Pilgrims at Boudhanath: <a href="http://youtu.be/2jMd7sng6Hs">http://youtu.be/2jMd7sng6Hs</a></p> <p>Quiz 4 – Community</p>
<p><b>February 17, 2014</b>  –  <b>February 24, 2014</b></p>	<p>PowerPoint: Introduction to Theravada Buddhism</p> <p>Read: Chapter 7 – Theravada Buddhism</p> <p>Quiz 5 – Theravada</p>
<p><b>February 24, 2014</b>  –  <b>March 3, 2014</b></p>	<p>PowerPoint: Introduction to Mahayana Buddhism</p> <p>Read: Chapter 8 – Mahayana Buddhism</p> <p>Videos: Crash Course: Silk Road (12 mins)  <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfe-eNq-Qyg&amp;feature=share&amp;list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfe-eNq-Qyg&amp;feature=share&amp;list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9</a></p> <p>Assignment: Venn Diagram or Infographic – Compare and Contrast Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism</p> <p>Quiz 6 – Mahayana</p>
<p><b>March 3, 2014</b>  –  <b>March 10, 2014</b></p>	<p><b>Midterm Exam</b></p>



<p><b>March 10, 2014</b> – <b>March 16, 2014</b></p>	<p><b>Spring Break</b></p>
<p><b>March 17, 2014</b> – <b>March 24, 2014</b></p>	<p>PowerPoint: Introduction to Zen Buddhism</p> <p>Read: Chapter 9 – Chan and Zen – The Way of Meditation Legends in Ch’an: The Northern/Southern Schools Split, Hui-neng and the Platform Sutra <a href="http://www.thezensite.com/ZenEssays/HistoricalZen/Legends_in_China.pdf">http://www.thezensite.com/ZenEssays/HistoricalZen/Legends_in_China.pdf</a></p> <p>Video: A Day in the Life of a Zen Monk (5 mins) <a href="http://youtu.be/6pIIQ_-ZxEA">http://youtu.be/6pIIQ_-ZxEA</a></p> <p>Zen Exercise &amp; Discussion:</p> <p>Quiz 7 – Chan and Zen</p>
<p><b>March 24, 2014</b> – <b>March 31, 2014</b></p>	<p>PowerPoint: Introduction to Tantric Buddhism</p> <p>Read: Chapter 10 – Tantra Yidams: <a href="http://www.himalayanart.org/pages/Visual_Dharma/yidams.html">http://www.himalayanart.org/pages/Visual_Dharma/yidams.html</a></p> <p>The Lightning Path of Buddhism: The Power of Yidams: <a href="http://www.buddhaweekly.com/the-lightning-path-of-buddhism-the-power-of-yidams/">http://www.buddhaweekly.com/the-lightning-path-of-buddhism-the-power-of-yidams/</a></p> <p>Video: Decoding the Past: Tibetan Book of the Dead (44 mins) <a href="http://youtu.be/Ermcc6iDgQA">http://youtu.be/Ermcc6iDgQA</a></p> <p>Paper &amp; Presentation Due:</p> <p>Quiz 8 – Tantra</p>
<p><b>Part 3</b></p>	<p><b><u>Holy Writings</u></b></p>

<p>March 31, 2014 - April 7, 2014</p>	<p>PowerPoint: The Buddhist Scriptures</p> <p>Read: Chapter 1 – Assembling the Dharma Chapter 2 – The Three Baskets Chapter 3 – Mahayana Scriptures</p> <p>Video: Tripitaka and the First Buddhist Council (6 mins) <a href="http://youtu.be/9E2XvQP_InE">http://youtu.be/9E2XvQP_InE</a></p> <p>Scriptural Analysis Exercise &amp; Discussion:</p> <p>Quiz 9 – Buddhist Scriptures</p>
<p><b>Part 4</b></p> <p><b>April 7, 2014</b> - <b>April 21, 2014</b></p>	<p><b><u>Buddhism Today</u></b></p> <p>PowerPoint: Buddhism Today</p> <p>Read: Chapter 1 – The Expanding Community Chapter 2 – Society and the Sangha</p> <p>Video: Russian Tibet Amazing Journey: Only Buddhist state in Europe. (26 mins) <a href="http://youtu.be/wmcm1qVqkbI">http://youtu.be/wmcm1qVqkbI</a> Burma Mantra of Rage Religious Tension Between Muslims and Buddhists: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nsy2LD03C8Y">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nsy2LD03C8Y</a></p> <p>Case Study Assignment &amp; Discussion</p> <p>Quiz 10 – Buddhism Today</p>
<p><b>Final Exam</b></p> <p><b>April 21, 2014</b> - <b>April 26, 2014</b></p>	<p><b>Final Exam: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 – Thursday, April 24, 2014 by 11:59 pm</b></p>

## BUDDHISM DISCUSSION TOPICS

Initial posts will be due by Mondays at noon and comments will be due by Wednesday at midnight.

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### Biography & Introduction

#### Discussion # 1 – Beliefs & Practices

According to the First Noble Truth, *Dukkha*, life is full of various forms of suffering. Do you agree with Buddhism's assertion that life is suffering? Additionally, explain whether or not you agree that *tanha* is one of the main causes of suffering. Your post should explore these concepts using examples from your own life.

#### Discussion # 2 – Venn Diagram or Infographic

Create a Venn Diagram, an Infographic, or some type of visual aid to compare and contrast Theravada Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism. Students will share their illustrations to help collaborate with their classmates and to prepare for the midterm exam.

#### Discussion # 3 – Zen Exercise

The Zen tradition highlights being fully present in the moment, as well as connecting with nature and transcending dualism. In that spirit, this assignment is an "experiential" assignment, meaning that you need to DO SOMETHING ZEN, and then share your experience with your classmates.

##### Step 1: Choose something to do and do it for 15-20 minutes.

Practice putting all of your focus and attention on what you are doing. Become one with what you are doing. Really connect your body, your breath, your mind, and all your attention to whatever you are doing.

Possible examples include:

- Walk in nature
- Wash the dishes
- Draw a circle
- Stay in one yoga position, focusing on your breath and physical alignment.
- Do some martial arts movements
- Zazen – sitting meditation

##### Step 2: Write and post about your experience.

What did you experience? Could you focus all of yourself? For how long? Was your mind restless? Or were you calm? Describe what you experienced both mentally and physically. What did you learn? How did you feel afterward?

**Discussion # 4 – Student Presentations**

Students will present their various presentations and classmates will provide feedback. (When critiquing your classmates' work, please remember to try to focus your comments and critiques on the ideas and do not personalize them.)

**Discussion # 5 – Scriptural Analysis \*\*\***(Scriptures will be provided)

Choose a passage from *The Dhammapada* and analyze what you think it means. Is this teaching still applicable today? Give an example from your life of how these teachings from the Buddha are, or are not, useful in today's world.

**Discussion # 6 – Case Study**

Choose a controversial contemporary issue, such as, euthanasia, abortion, gun control, etc. and look at it from at least three different forms of Buddhism. Compare and contrast how these different Buddhist groups would respond to the given topic. After arguing each different perspective, draw a conclusion as to which perspective you agree with the most and why.

DO NOT COPY

## Buddhism Paper Topics

There will be one essay assigned throughout the semester, which is aimed at assisting in the comprehension and synthesis of the concepts presented throughout the course. This assignment is specifically related to your Global Learning engagement outcome that you will demonstrate an ability to engage critically with diverse forms of Buddhism in local, regional, national and international contexts.

This essay will be at least 1500 words long (6 pages double-spaced) and will be worth 20% of your grade. This is a formal academic essay and students must cite their sources. MLA is the preferred citation style in Religious Studies. There will three possible paper options: historical analysis, contemporary applied analysis, or cultural anthropology/participant observation. After completion of the paper, students will do a virtual presentation for the class.

**Submission:** Students must submit their essays to Turnitin.com via Blackboard's Assignment Dropbox.

**Late Papers:** Late papers will only be accepted for the first 3 days after the due date and will be dropped one letter grade per day. Students are responsible for reading their blackboard messages and all announcements posted by the instructor. The instructor also reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus by means of announcements or messages with ample time allowed for students to respond and adjust appropriately.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, or attempting to pass off another's work as your own, falls into three different categories:

- A written work that is entirely stolen from another source;
- Using quotations from another source without properly citing them; and
- Paraphrasing from another source without proper citations.

Students are expected to understand the definition of plagiarism. See the University Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm> if you need further clarification. Offenders will receive a grade of F for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course.

If you have questions regarding how to cite or what to cite, ask me BEFORE you submit your essay. If you turn in your paper and you "accidentally" plagiarize parts of your essay, you will fail the assignment and possibly the course. Better

safe than sorry! To reiterate, ask me before the due date if you are unsure about how to cite your sources.

**\*\*Students may not submit work from a previous semester or from another class for this assignment or any other assignment in this course. It will be flagged for plagiarism by Turnitin.**

**Choose one of the following options for your paper.**

**Option 1 - Historical Analysis:**

In this option, you will choose one Buddhist sect or denomination, or a New Religion heavily based in Buddhism, and write a historical analysis tracing the group's development. This analysis should clearly illustrate the theological and philosophical changes that occurred due to split. Students must clearly address the relationship between the new group, the parent group, and the local society out of which it developed. In other words, what factors, both external and internal, caused the need for the development of the new form of Buddhism, and what is distinct about their teachings.

**Option 2 - Contemporary Applied Analysis:**

In this option, you will choose a specific Buddhist tradition and apply it to a contemporary moral or philosophical issue. For example, a paper may explore the response of Theravada Buddhism to prostitution in Thailand. Another example may be to explore abortion through the lens of Japanese Mahayana Buddhism.

**Option 3 - Cultural Anthropology / Participant Observation:**

In this option, students will choose a local Buddhist temple or similar religious site and will visit the site to observe their typical rituals and practices. Your paper will include background information about the particular group, as well as description and analysis from your experience.

Class presentations may take a variety of forms, including: videos posted on to YouTube, or a PowerPoint, or a live Adobe Skype session. I am open to other possibilities, but you must obtain permission from me before proceeding. Students are expected to review their classmates' presentations.