

**RELS 8 Course Outline as of Fall 2021****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: RELS 8                      Title: BUDDHISM  
 Full Title: Buddhism  
 Last Reviewed: 3/8/2021

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**

This course is a historical introduction to the origins of Buddhism, the principal doctrines and teachings of the Buddha, and major themes in the development of Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana lineages through South and Southeast Asia, China, Tibet, Korea, and Japan.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:****Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent or appropriate placement based on AB705 mandates

**Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: This course is a historical introduction to the origins of Buddhism, the principal doctrines and teachings of the Buddha, and major themes in the development of Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana lineages through South and Southeast Asia, China, Tibet, Korea, and Japan. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent or appropriate placement based on

AB705 mandates

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	E	Humanities	Fall 2016	
	H	Global Perspective and Environmental Literacy		
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	C2	Humanities	Fall 2016	
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	3B	Humanities	Fall 2016	
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	<b>Effective:</b>	Fall 2016	<b>Inactive:</b>
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	<b>Effective:</b>	Fall 2016	<b>Inactive:</b>

### **CID:**

### **Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Major Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Critique and contextualize historical approaches to the study of Buddhism.
2. Explain the historical Buddha's major teachings.
3. Explain distinctions in the beliefs and practices of Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana Buddhism within their respective socio-historical contexts.
4. Name major themes and sectarian associations of various sutras and other literature in Buddhist traditions.

### **Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Articulate key events in the life of the historical Buddha.
2. Express several tenets of early Buddhist philosophy as taught in the Pali Suttas.
3. Articulate several differences between Theravada & Mahayana doctrine.
4. Delineate some of the major teachings in the Mahayana sutras.
5. Explain unique features of Vajrayana Buddhism, especially its expression in Tibetan Buddhism.
6. Describe several difficulties associated with labeling Buddhism as a religion.
7. Explain aspects of Chan/Zen doctrine in contrast to other Mahayana lineages.

### **Topics and Scope:**

#### I. Historical Buddha

- A. Life of Siddhartha Gautama

- B. India at the time of the Buddha
- II. Early Buddhist Teachings
  - A. Four Noble Truths, eight--fold path
  - B. Anatman doctrine, karma and samsara, Pañcaskandha doctrine
  - C. Buddhist view of mind and emotions; centrality of meditation
- III. Early Buddhist Texts
  - A. Dhammapada
  - B. Pali Canon/Tripitaka
    - 1. Sutta Pitaka: Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta, Anatta-lakkhana Sutta, Adittapariyaya Sutta, Kalama Sutta
    - 2. Vinaya Pitaka
    - 3. Abhidhamma Pitaka: commentaries of Buddhaghosa and Vasubandhu
    - 4. Jataka tales
- IV. Spread of Theravada Buddhist traditions; Ashoka
- V. New Developments in Mahayana doctrine
  - A. Wisdom and compassion, Bodhisattva vow
  - B. Six paramitas
  - C. Yogacara vs. Madhyamika
  - D. Asanga and Vasubandhu; Nagarjuna
- VI. Spread of Mahayana Buddhism in China
  - A. T'ien Tai
  - B. Pureland
  - C. Chan traditions: Northern vs. Southern Schools, 6th patriarch Hui Neng
- VII. Mahayana Sutras
  - A. Avatamsaka (Flower Garland) Sutra
  - B. Lankavatara Sutra
  - C. Lotus Sutra
  - D. Diamond Sutra, Prajnaparamita (Heart) Sutra, Platform Sutra
  - E. Vimalakirti Sutra
- VIII. Vajrayana Buddhism in China & Tibet
- IX. Influence of Tantric practices in Vajrayana Buddhism
- X. Tibetan Buddhism
  - A. Gelugpa, Karma Kagyupa, Nyingmapa, Sakyapa lineages
  - B. Influence of Tibet's native Bön tradition on Tibetan Buddhism
- XI. Son Buddhism of Korea
- XII. Major Schools of Japanese Buddhism
  - A. Tendai, Saicho
  - B. Shingon, Kobodaishi
  - C. Shinshu, Honen; JodoShinshu, Shinran
  - D. Nichiren, SokaGakkai
  - E. Rinzai and Soto Zen; Eisai and Dogen Zenji
- XIII. Theravada-Mahayana Syncretism in Sri Lanka
- XIV. Socially-engaged Buddhism: Thich Nhat Hanh, the Order of Interbeing in Vietnam
- XV. Spread of Buddhism in Europe and the U.S.

### **Assignment:**

1. Weekly readings from various textual materials (approximately 30-50 pages per week).
2. Quizzes, including 5-12 reading quizzes (multiple choice, true/false, short answer, completion, essay)
3. In-class discussion and group work covering assigned readings and lecture topics
4. Final examination and 1-3 midterm examination(s) ( multiple choice, short answer, and essay

questions)

5. One to two research paper(s) of 3-6 pages in length

Other assignments may include:

1. Visits to local meditation centers, temples, and/or museums, followed by a written report
2. Summary-response reports on films recommended by instructor
3. Research project on a specific category of Buddhist doctrine or practice, a text situated with a particular socio-historical context, a historical event or series of events with significance to the shaping of a particular Buddhist tradition
4. Brief critical analysis response papers on Buddhism concepts, ideas, and/or approaches to studying Buddhism

### Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Papers

Writing  
25 - 35%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving  
0 - 0%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Quizzes, midterm exam(s), final exam

Exams  
40 - 65%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Class participation, in class activities, and/or written reports on field trips and/or films

Other Category  
10 - 25%

### Representative Textbooks and Materials:

A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life. Santideva. Snow Lion. 1997 (classic)

Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience. 3rd ed. Mitchell, Donald and Jacoby, Sarah. Oxford University Press. 2013 (classic)

Buddhism: the Illustrated Guide. Trainor, Kevin, ed. Oxford University Press. 2004 (classic)

Dhammapada (online)

Mahayana Sutras listed in 'Topics & Scope' (online)

Nagarjuna's Letter to a Friend, w/commentary. Rinpoche, Kangyur. Snow Lion. 2005 (classic)

Pali Canon: Suttas listed in 'Topics & Scope', Vinaya, and Abhidhamma commentaries (online)  
Tibetan Book of Living and Dying. Rinpoche, Sogyal. Harper San Francisco. 2012 (classic)  
What the Buddha Taught. Walpola, Rahula. Grove Press. 1974 (classic)  
Buddhism in Practice. Lopez, Donald. Princeton University Press. 2007 (classic)  
Shingon Refractions: Myoe and the Mantra of Light. Unno, Mark. Wisdom Publications. 1997 (classic)  
Early Buddhist Teachings. Karunadasa, Y. Wisdom Publications. 2018  
Indian Esoteric Buddhism: A Social History of the Tantric Movement. Davidson, Ronald. Columbia University Press. 2002 (classic)  
The Mystique of Transmission: On An Early Chan History and its Contexts. Adamek, Wendi L. Columbia University Press. 2007 (classic)  
Nagarjuna in Context: Mahayana Buddhism and Early Indian Culture. Walser, Joseph. Columbia University Press. 2005 (classic)  
BUDDHAPADA Following the Buddha's Footprints. de Guerny, Jacques. Orchid Press. 2013 (classic)  
Tibetan Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction. Kapstein, Matthew. Oxford University Press. 2013 (classic)  
The Gateless Gate: The Classic Book of Zen Koans. Koun, Yamada. Wisdom Publications. 2004 (classic)