

History of Indian Buddhism (ASH 3931 / REL 3938)

Syllabus, Fall 2008

Tuesday period 4 (10:40-11:30), Flint 119

Thursday period 5 (10:40-12:35), Turlington 2350

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Description: This intermediate-level course surveys historical and cultural contexts for the establishment and expansion of Buddhist institutions, religious practices, and ideological movements which originated in South Asia and flourished for almost 2500 years. This class will investigate a wide range of devotional practices for venerating Śākyamuni Buddha, various interpretations of his teachings (*dharma*), and patterns in the growth of the Buddhist community (*saṅgha*) since the 5th century BCE. Relationships with other Indian religious traditions, the roles of economic and political patronage, and the importance of changing social environments and material conditions are emphasized in order to provide a broad framework for the historical development of Buddhist movements throughout and beyond the Indian subcontinent. Guided by chronology and geography, this exploration of networks for the transmission of Buddhism within South Asia (including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka) extends to overland links with Central Asia (particularly the Tarim Basin of western China and the Tibetan Plateau) and maritime connections to Southeast Asia. The survey concludes with an examination of contemporary South Asian Buddhism, including challenges to its continued survival and trends towards reform and revival.

Goals: This class (cross-listed in Religion and History) is intended to stimulate engagement with sources and methods for the academic study of Buddhism and South Asian history. In addition to the textbooks (see below) and selected articles (available on Library Course Reserves), students will develop skills for interpreting original Buddhist texts and inscriptions (in translation), images, and archeological materials. Prior exposure to South Asian religions, history or languages will be helpful, but is not expected or required.

Textbooks (available from Goerings Bookstore, 1717 NW 1st Ave. and UF Bookstore in Reitz Union):

[BR] *Buddhist Religions: A Historical Introduction*, 5th ed. Richard Robinson, Willard Johnson, Thanissaro Bhikkhu (Geoffrey DeGraff). Thomson/Wadsworth, Belmont, CA: 2005.

- [BT] *Buddhist Thought: A Complete Introduction to the Indian Tradition*. Paul Williams with Anthony Tribe. Routledge, London / New York: 2000 [available as an e-book through the UF Library catalog].
- [IEB] *Indian Esoteric Buddhism*, Ronald Davidson. Columbia University Press, New York: 2002 [available as an e-book through the UF Library catalog].
- [DIV] *Divine Stories, Divyāvadāna* part 1, translated by Andy Rotman. Wisdom Publications, Fitchburg, MA: 2008.
- [BODH] *Bodhicaryāvatāra* of Śāntideva, translated by Kate Crosby and Andrew Skilton. Oxford University Press, Oxford: 1995.

Additional materials on Library Course Reserves are listed at the end of the syllabus.

Assignments and Evaluation:

1) Class Discussion and Participation (20 points):

Read textbook assignments and articles thoroughly before each meeting in order to be prepared for discussions. Optional readings are not required, but are available as supplements.

2) Mid-term exam Thursday, October 9: Identifications and short essays (20 points)

A review sheet with a list of possible identifications and a range of essay questions will be distributed one week in advance.

3) Final Take-home Essay Exam due Thursday, December 18 (20 points)

Final essay questions will be distributed during the last class meeting. Answers are to be based on the materials covered during the entire semester.

2) Group Presentation and Research Paper (40 points):

The most significant component of the evaluation is participation in a group presentation and submission of individual research papers on related topics. Presentations by groups of about 5 students each will focus on a significant place (such as Mathurā, Ajaṅṭā, Taxila, Bāmīyān, Khotan, Borobodur, Tabo, Bodh Gaya, or Sarnath). Presenters must collaborate to explain the importance of these locations in Buddhist literature, inscriptions, archeology, and art based on original sources, with each participant responsible for a separate field of evidence or a different historical period. Rather than compiling and regurgitating information, it is necessary to relate religious ideas and practices of devotional worship to economic and political contexts in order to stimulate discussion. By the end of the first month of class, presentations will be scheduled during class meetings on Thursdays in the second part of the semester (10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4). Initial outlines, bibliographies, and rough drafts of individual research papers should be submitted on the day of the group presentation. Final research papers between 12-15 double-spaced typed pages in length are due by the last class meeting (December 9).

Grading scale: 92-100 = A, 87-91 = B+, 82-86 = B, 77-81 = C+, 70-77 = C, 65-69 = D+, 60-64 = D, less than 60 = F.

Attendance policy: it is imperative to attend class. Only two absences are allowed (beyond excused absences for medical emergencies). Each additional absence will result in a deduction of 5 points.

Academic Honesty guidelines at the University of Florida:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honestybrochure.htm>

Students with Disabilities should register with the office of the Dean of Students:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>

Outline of Topics and Reading Assignments [modifications will be announced]
(Readings are to be done before class meetings)

Week 1: Course introduction and sources for studying Indian Buddhism

Tuesday 8/26: Course introduction

Thursday 8/28: Sources and methods for studying South Asian Buddhism (required:

Buddhist Religions [BR], xix-xxiii [Introduction], 43-45, *Indian Esoteric Buddhism* [IEB], 7-24; optional: Gregory Schopen, *Bones, Stones, and Buddhist Monks*, 1-22)

Week 2: Establishment of Buddhism in Ancient India

Tues. 9/2: Dates and Contexts for the Historical Buddha (required: BR 1-10, BT 1-21; Neelis 1; optional: K.R. Norman, "Buddhism and its Origins," 21-39)

Thurs. 9/4: Religious Biographies of Śākyamuni Buddha (required: BR 37-42, 67-74, BT 21-40, DIV 1-30 [Introduction]; optional: Etienne Lamotte, *History of Indian Buddhism*, 1-23)

Week 3: Interpreting the Buddha's teachings (Dharma)

Tues. 9/9: Basic Doctrines (required: BR 11-21, 27-31, BT 41-74, DIV 39-70 [Kotikarṇa])

Thurs. 9/11: Intellectual History of Early Buddhist Thought (required: BT 56-81, DIV 71-117 [Pūrṇa]; optional: Lamotte, *History of Indian Buddhism*, 23-53)

Week 4: Development of the Buddhist Community (Saṅgha)

Tues. 9/16: Relationships between Monastic and Lay Communities (required: BR 32-37, Neelis 2, DIV 135-142 [*Brāhmaṇadārikā*] and 161-175 [*Nagarāvalambikā*])

Thurs. 9/18: Monastic Institutions (required: BR 45-58, DIV 177-221 [*Supriya*], IEB 75-112; optional: Lamotte, *History of Indian Buddhism*, 53-65, Gregory Schopen, *Bones, Stones, and Buddhist Monks*, 23-55)

Week 5: Buddhist Languages, Literature and Mainstream Schools

Tues. 9/23: Oral/Written Transmission of Texts (required: BR 312-315; DIV 333-371 [*Śukapota* and *Māndhātā*], Neelis 3; optional: K.R. Norman, “Buddhism and Oral Tradition” 41-57)

Thurs. 9/25: Councils and Sectarian Debates (required: BR 62-67, BT 112-130; DIV 289-328 [*Svāgata* and *Sūkarika*]; optional: Lamotte, *History of Indian Buddhism*, 517-593)

Week 6: Growth of Buddhism; Archeology of Buddhist Devotion

Tues. 9/30: Mauryan India and the Legacy of Aśoka (required: BR 58-62, DIV 223-252, Thapar, “A translation of the edicts of Aśoka” 250-266, Neelis 4; optional: Lamotte, *History of Indian Buddhism*, 213-260, K.R. Norman, “Buddhism and Aśoka”)

Thurs. 10/2: Stūpas, Relics, and Images (required: BR 72-84, DIV 119-133 [*Maitreya*], 151-159 [*Indrabrahmaṇa*], 253-287 [*Prātihārya*], Neelis 5; optional: Lamotte, *History of Indian Buddhism*, 310-330, Schopen, *Bones, Stones, and Buddhist Monks*, 86-98) Supplement: Buddhist art websites (TBA)

Week 7: Midterm Review and Exam

Tues. 10/7: Review Session

Thurs. 10/9: In-class Midterm Exam

Week 8: Emergence of Mahāyāna

Tues. 10/14: Origins of Mahāyāna (required: BR 84-98, BT 96-111, BODH vii-lvii [Introduction]; optional: Paul Harrison, “Searching for the Origins of Mahāyāna: What are we Looking for?”)

Thurs. 10/16: Buddhism on the “Northern Road” (required: BODH 1-19, Neelis 6)

GROUP PRESENTATION 1: Mathurā, Rajgir, Śrāvastī

Week 9: Mahāyāna Texts, Philosophies, and Practices

Tues. 10/21: Mahāyāna Literature (required: BR 103-116, BT 167-191, BODH 20-29)

Thurs. 10/23: Mahāyāna Philosophies (required: BR 116-123, BT 131-166, BODH 30-44)

GROUP PRESENTATION 2: Ajantā, Kānheri, Amarāvastī

Week 10: Buddhist Centers in the Northwestern Borderlands

Tues. 10/28: Gandhāran Buddhism (required: BODH 45-62, Richard Salomon, *Ancient Buddhist Scrolls from Gandhāra*, 3-13, 165-182, Neelis, “India, Northwest” in *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*)

Thurs. 10/30: Capillary Networks for Long-Distance Transmission (required: BODH 63-74, Neelis, “La Vieille Route Reconsidered”)

GROUP PRESENTATION 3: Bāmīyān, Taxila, Gilgit

Week 11: Buddhism Moves beyond South Asia

- Tues. 11/4: Indian Buddhist Connections with Central Asian “Silk Routes” (required: BODH 75-104, Neelis, “Silk Road” in *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*)
Supplementary websites (TBA)
- Thurs. 11/6: Buddhist Pathways to East Asia (required: BR 172-185, BODH 105-132)

GROUP PRESENTATION 4: Khotan, Kucha, Dunhuang

Week 12: Southeast Asian Buddhism

- Tues. 11/11: **Class cancelled (Veterans Day)**
- Thurs. 11/13: Medieval Sri Lanka and Modern Southeast Asia (required: BR 143-171, BODH 133-143; optional: Richard Gombrich, *Theravāda Buddhism: A social history from ancient Benares to Modern Colombo*, 137-195)

GROUP PRESENTATION 5: Anuradhapura, Borobudur, Angkor Wat

Week 13: Esoteric Buddhism in South Asian and Tibetan History

- Tues. 11/18: Esoteric Buddhist Origins in Medieval Indian Contexts (BR 124-137, BT 192-244, IEB 25-74)
- Thurs. 11/20: Vajrayāna Traditions (IEB 113-168, BR 268-291)

GROUP PRESENTATION 6: Nālandā, Alchi, Tabo

Week 14: Esoteric Buddhism, cont.

- Tues. 11/25: Mahāsiddhas and Newar Buddhism in Nepal (IEB 169-235, BR 139-141; optional: Todd Lewis, *Popular Buddhist Texts from Nepal*, 49-108)
- Thurs. 11/27: **Thanksgiving holiday**

Week 15: Decline and Revival of Indian Buddhism

- Tues. 12/2: Theories for the Decline of Buddhism in India (BR 138-9, IEB 236-292)
- Thurs. 12/4: Buddhist Reform and Revival Movements (BR 141-2, IEB 293-339)

GROUP PRESENTATION 7: Bodh Gaya, Kapilavastu/Lumbinī, Sarnath

Week 16: Course Conclusion

- Tues. 12/9: Final class (distribution of final essay exam questions, course evaluation)
- RESEARCH PAPERS DUE**

Submit final take-home essays by Thursday, December 18

ARES course reserves materials :

E-books:

- Robert Buswell, ed. *Encyclopedia of Buddhism* (Macmillan, New York: 2005)
- Ronald Davidson, *Indian Esoteric Buddhism: A Social History of the Tantric Movement* (Columbia University Press, New York: 2002).
- Todd Lewis, *Popular Buddhist Texts from Nepal: Narratives and Rituals of Newar Buddhism* (SUNY, Albany: 2000).
- Gregory Schopen, *Bones, Stones, and Buddhist Monks: Collected Papers on the Archaeology, Epigraphy, and Texts of Monastic Buddhism in India* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1997).
- Paul Williams with Anthony Tribe, *Buddhist Thought: A Complete Introduction to the Indian Tradition*. (Routledge, London and New York: 2000).

Books available for checkout from Course Reserves [Library West Circulation]

- Richard Gombrich, *Theravada Buddhism: A Social history from ancient Benares to modern Colombo* (Routledge, London: 1988 [BQ7185 .G66 1988]). (24 hours)
- Etienne Lamotte, *History of Indian Buddhism from the Origins to the Śaka Era*. Translated by Sara Webb-Boin. (Louvain-la-Neuve: Université catholique de Louvain, Institut Orientaliste, 1988 [BQ286 .L3613 1988] (24 hours)
- Hajime Nakamura, *Indian Buddhism: A Survey with Bibliographical Notes* (Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi: 1987 [BQ336 .N35x 1987]) (24 hours)
- Kenneth Roy Norman, *A Philological Approach to Buddhism* (The Buddhist Forum 5. London: School of Oriental and African Studies, 1997). (24 hours)
- Richard Salomon, *Ancient Buddhist Scrolls from Gandhāra: The British Library Kharoṣṭhī Fragments* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1999). [BQ244.G35 S25 1999] (2 hours)
- A.K. Warder, *Indian Buddhism* (Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi: 1980 [BQ286 .W36 1980]). (24 hours)

Articles on Reserve (can be downloaded from the Course Reserves):

- Paul Harrison, "Searching for the origins of the Mahāyāna: What are we looking for?" *Eastern Buddhist* 28.1 (1995) pp. 48-69.
- Jason Neelis, Drafts of work in progress
- Romila Thapar, "A Translation of the Edicts of Aśoka" Appendix V in *Aśoka and the Decline of the Mauryas* (Revised edition, Oxford University Press, Delhi: 1997) pp. 250-266.