

# Buddhism

REL3340: Summer A

"It is proper for you, Kalamas, to doubt, to be uncertain; uncertainty has arisen in you about what is doubtful. Come, Kalamas. Do not go upon what has been acquired by repeated hearing; nor upon tradition; nor upon rumor; nor upon what is in a scripture; nor upon surmise; nor upon an axiom; nor upon specious reasoning; nor upon a bias towards a notion that has been pondered over; nor upon another's seeming ability; nor upon the consideration, 'The monk is our teacher.' Kalamas, when you yourselves know: 'These things are bad; these things are blamable; these things are censured by the wise; undertaken and observed, these things lead to harm and ill,' abandon them."

(The Buddha, Kalama Sutta)

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<b>Course Name</b>	Buddhism
<b>Course ID &amp; Section</b>	REL 3340-AW59
<b>Credit Hours</b>	3
<b>Semester/Year</b>	Summer A 2014
<b>Location</b>	Virtual Pure

### **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to Buddhist thought, practices, cultures and history. Beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> BCE India, we will trace the development of Buddhism through South-East Asia, East Asia, Tibet and its recent flourishing in North America examining a diversity of Buddhist traditions such as Theravada, Mahayana, and American Buddhism. Focusing on a variety of Buddhist ideas and practices within their particular socio-historic context we will explore how Buddhism has interacted with local cultures and discover the new forms of Buddhism that have arisen from this interaction.

Catalogue Description: Teachings of Buddhism and their contemporary applications.

PR: HUM 2230 or REL 2300 or C.I.

### **Course Objectives**

- The primary aim of this course is to facilitate a solid grasp of Buddhist thought and practices aided by a familiarity with the socio-historic context in which they developed.
- To be able to identify commonalities and differences between three major forms of Buddhism: Theravada, Mahayana and Western Buddhism
- To understand how Buddhism has interacted with, shaped and been shaped by the different cultures and religions it has come into contact with during its historic development.

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### **Required Text**

Charles Prebish and Damien Keown, *Introducing Buddhism 2nd Edition*

Supplemental Texts

- I will provide a number of additional texts, most as email links, which must be read.

### **Course Requirements**

There are three main categories of graded assignments: (i) Exam Review Term Posts (ii) Module exams and (iii) Powerpoint Site

## Presentation

*Exam Review Posts:* There are six exam review/discussion posts and these will be due at the end of each week (so two for the two-week units and one for the one week units). They are designed as exam review sessions so it is essential that you complete them. They will be worth a total of 10% of your final grade.

*Module Exams:* There will be an exam (20%) at the end of each of the four modules. These are worth 20% each and a total of 80% of your final grade.

*Powerpoint Site Visit Presentation:* Instead of a final paper, you will be required to complete a powerpoint of a visit to a local Buddhist center. This project can be done in groups of up to 4 or alone as you prefer. It will involve four aspects: academic research, a description of your site visit and a reflection on the difference between the textual analysis and lived experience of a religion. Specific instructions and an example are provided above module one (10%)

*Ungraded Assignments:* At the end of each class, you will find a list of review terms from that day. These will make-up your review posts at the end of each unit so I highly recommend you do them daily instead of waiting until the end of the unit. These will not be graded.

### **Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit**

The exams will be timed and available only over a two day period (see under exam rubric for specific dates) If you foresee an issue or if an emergency occurs, you must provide documentation or no accommodation will be made.

There will be one extra credit assignment available on Vajrayana Buddhism (1%). Please see the course introduction on day one for information about this.

### **Evaluation and Grading**

Letter Grade	Points
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A	94 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	70 – 76 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

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### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance will be determined through exam/discussion posts. See specific instructions under assignment posts.

### **Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the [Office of Student Conduct](#) for further action. See the [UCF Golden Rule](#) for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also

adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

### **Accommodation Statement**

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with [Student Disability Services](#), Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

### **Copyright**

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### **Third-Party Software and FERPA**

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-

sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.