



Instructor: Dr. Ronald Green

Office: AOC2 332

Office hours in AOC2 332: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:50-12:05

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Class website: ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/mandala.html

Final Exam: Thursday, December 12th, 1:30 in our regular classroom

This course provides an introduction to the diverse Buddhist traditions of the world through a study of theories, practices, images, and social settings. It begins with an examination of stories of the life of Buddha and the religious-political situation in India at the time his ideas began to flourish. It also follows the development of later Buddhism in India and its manifestations as Theravada traditions of Southeast Asia. It also examines Buddhism's development of a Mahāyāna and Tantric traditions in Tibet and East Asia.

Course Objectives:

Students will come to understand

- numerous ways of thinking about and depicting deities, types of architectural spaces, meditation practices and the wide range of ritual actions that have come to be called Buddhism;
- how the influence of Buddhism grew to such an extent that vast amounts of financial and human resources were expended on the creation and establishment of impressive works of art, elaborate temples and intricate writings;
- some of the ways Buddhists are engaged in social issues of today's world.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will to be able to

- characterize each of the three divisions of the Buddhist canon
- describe the continuity and developments of Theravāda, Mahāyāna and Tantric Buddhism
- describe the differences in the philosophical, soteriological, and meditative claims of six Mahāyāna traditions:

○ Mādhyamaka	○ Pure Land
○ Yogācāra	○ Nichiren
○ Tiantai / Tendai	○ Zen
- formulate views on the applicability of the ideas and practices of Buddhist claims to modern conditions
- hypothesize the direction of Buddhism based on modern state politics, science and the Bodhisattva Ideal of socially engaged Buddhists including that of the Dalai Lama, Thich Nhat Hanh, and Aung San Suu Kyi.

Required Texts (available on Moodle):

1. Thich Nhat Hanh (Author). *The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching: Transforming Suffering into Peace, Joy, and Liberation*, Random House / Broadway Books, 1999. ISBN: 978-0767903691

2. Dalai Lama (Author), Jeffrey Hopkins (Editor, Translator). *How to Practice: The Way to a Meaningful Life*, Atria Books, 2003. ISBN: 978-0743453363
3. Other required readings are available online as listed in the calendar below.

Online Information:

A number of readings, vocabulary sheets, and other information can be found on **Moodle**. I will also post grades on Moodle. Make sure your email address is current with the university.

Required Assignments and Grading

1. There will be **two tests**. Each test is worth 25% of your final grade for the term. On the two tests, you will be asked to provide short-essay answers to twenty questions. Some questions will be on the readings, others on the lectures.

2. There will be a **final exam** worth 25% of your entire grade for the term. It will test general cumulative knowledge from the course but will focus on the last five weeks of classes. The final exam will consist of twenty short-essay questions. *The Final Exam will be given on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 1:30 p.m. in our regular classroom.*

3. There is a **term paper** due by the beginning of class on the last day of classes (1:30 p.m., Dec. 5). It must be on an out-of-class event, talk or research topic. It is worth 25% of your grade. This academic-style essay should be seven-ten pages in length (more is acceptable, less is not), double-spaced in 12-point type, in a font such as Times New Roman or Courier New. Chicago or MLA styles are acceptable. The CCU Writing Center can help if needed. Suggestions about this assignment will be made during class throughout the term. The essay is **due at or before the beginning of the last class for the term**, but will be accepted anytime after the middle of the term. **If you finish a draft of your paper by November 7 and if you want, I can read it and offer suggestions** for improvement and a possible better grade. You may then correct your essay and return it in to me on or before the last day of classes.

**Alternative:* Any student wishing to give a graded oral presentation to the class in place of the written essay should see me by midterm to discuss the possibility. It may involve a self-made film project or other original art creation. Such a presentation would have to be substantial in offering the class further information on a topic closely related to what we are covering.

<i>Summary of grading:</i>	Test 1	=	25%
	Test 2	=	25%
	Term Paper	=	25%
	Final Exam	=	25%

Based on this, students will earn a letter grade for the term according to the following system:

A = 91 - 100%	C = 71 - 77%
B+ = 88 - 90%	D+ = 68-70%
B = 81 - 87%	D = 61 - 67%
C+ = 78 - 80%	F = below 61%

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism Statement

Violations of the Student Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. Any such violations will be dealt with in strict accordance to Coastal Carolina University guidelines. The student will be responsible for familiarizing himself/herself with this policy, which is located in the CCU Student Handbook under the Code of Student Conduct Section.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the semester. If at any point a student misses over 25% of class meetings he/she will receive an F as their final grade. This includes both excused and unexcused absences from class. If there are any questions about the attendance policy please review the Student's Handbook.

Part One: Early Buddhism; the Three Jewels; the Three Baskets

Week One August 22

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

BASICS OF BUDDHISM AND BUDDHISMS

INDIA AROUND THE TIME OF THE BUDDHA; PRE-BUDDHIST MEDITATION

Reading: Chapter One of Thich Nhat Hanh, "Entering the Heart of the Buddha"

Week Two August 27-29

THE THREE JEWELS OF BUDDHISM (Jewel 1): TAKING REFUGE IN THE BUDDHA.

JĀTAKA TALES and LIFE OF THE BUDDHA

Reading: Chapter Two of Thich Nhat Hanh, "The First Dharma Talk"

Week Three September 3-5

FIRST SERMON: THE FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS AND THE EIGHTFOLD PATH

Reading: Chapter Three of Thich Nhat Hanh, "The Four Noble Truths"

Week Four September 10-12

THERAVĀDA BUDDHISM:

VIPASSANĀ MEDITATION, SATIPATTHANA SUTTA

Reading: *Satipathana Sutta* <http://ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/Satipathana%20Sutta.htm>

Week Five September 17-19

THERAVĀDA BUDDHISM:

FILM: DHARMA BROTHERS

Reading: Chapter Six of Thich Nhat Hanh, "Stopping, Calming, Resting, Healing"

Week Six September 24-26

THE THREE JEWELS OF BUDDHISM (Jewel 2): TAKING REFUGE IN THE DHARMA.

THE TRIPITAKA (Second Basket): THE SŪTRA PIṬAKA

Reading: Read the web page http://ggia.berkeley.edu/practice/loving_kindness_meditation and listen to the audio, which is also available on Moodle

***TEST 1** Thursday, September 26.

Part Two, Indian Developments: the Theravāda and the Mahāyāna

Week Seven October 1-3

THE VINAYA PIṬAKA (the First Basket of the TRIPITAKA); DEVELOPMENT OF THE MONASTIC REGULATIONS & THE ORDER OF NUNS (taking refuge in the SANGHA)

Reading: <http://ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/Bhikkhuni.htm>

THE ABHIDHAMMA PIṬAKA (the Third Basket of the TRIPITAKA)

THE WHEEL OF LIFE

Reading: <http://ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/Abhidhamma.pdf> &

<http://ww2.coastal.edu/rgreen/wheel.html>

Week Eight October 8-10

THERAVĀDA BUDDHISM: TRADITIONS OF SRI LANKA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA:

AŠOKA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA; SARVODAYA; MYANMAR BUDDHISM

Reading: "Buddhist Protest in Myanmar" (handout, available online)

Film: *Burma_VJ*

MAHĀYĀNA BUDDHISM IN INDIA:

NĀGĀRJUNA, MĀDHYAMAKA PHILOSOPHY and THE PRAJÑĀPĀRAMITĀ (PERFECTION OF WISDOM) SŪTRA/S

Reading: Dalai Lama "Practicing Morality", pages 25-42

Week Nine October 15-17

**INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN BUDDHIST ICONOGRAPHY
YOGĀCĀRA PHILOSOPHY**

Week Ten October 22-24

YOGĀCĀRA BODHISATTVA ETHICS

Reading: handout from the Stages of the Bodhisattva (Bodhisattva-bhūmi section of the
Yogācārabhūmi-śāstra)

REVIEW OF INDIAN BUDDHIST TRADITIONS

***TEST 2 Thursday, October 19**

Part Three: East Asian Developments and beyond

Week Eleven October 29-31

**CHINESE BUDDHISM; CHAN TRADITION, BODHIDHARMA
ZEN KOANS**

Reading: Handout from *Zen Flesh, Zen Bones*, available with audio on Moodle

Week Twelve November 5-November 7

**SOKA GAKKAI USA
BUDDHISM IN FILM**

Week Thirteen November 12-14

**TANTRIC BUDDHISM; SAICHŌ AND KŪKAI
FILM: *MARATHON MONKS OF MOUNT HIEI***

Week Fourteen November 18-20

**NON-MONASTIC BUDDHIST PRACTICE IN SHIKOKU
KOREAN BUDDHISM PRACTICES**

Thanksgiving Break

Week Fifteen December 3-5

TIBETAN BUDDHISM

Reading: Dalai Lama, "Tantra", pages 183-198

CLOSING SUMMARY

Review for Final December 5

***Term papers due by the beginning of class on December 5th**

The Final Exam will be given on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 1:30 p.m. in our regular classroom.