INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM
RS 4/ EACS 5
Fall Quarter, 2010
M-W-F: 10:00-10:50
HSSB #1174

Professor:
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Course Syllabus and Additional Information
Available at http://www.religion.ucsb.edu/classes/rs4.htm

Course Description
This course is an introduction to the wide range of the Buddhist ideas and practices that have developed within the diverse regions of South, Central, and East Asia. The course also introduces students to diverse Buddhist literary and artistic expressions and covers a wide range of Buddhist traditions: Theravāda, Mahāyāna, Vajrayāna, Chan/Zen, Pure Land Buddhism, and so on. It focuses on a variety of pertinent issues: on the historical continuities and discontinuities of Buddhism across Asia, the ways in which the pre-Buddhist ideas shaped the Buddhist tradition in the given geographical areas, and on the social and political conditions that have facilitated ideological and practical changes within various Buddhist traditions.

Course Readings
• Peter Harvey. An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, history, and practices. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
• *Course Reader*: available in the Alternative Copy Shop, 6556 Pardall Road, Isla Vista
• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2NLQGrbf5U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2NLQGrbf5U) (life of the Buddha)

**Course Requirements**

• Regular attendance to the class and to the assigned sections with Teaching Assistants
• Active participation in sections and submitting weekly assignments given by Teaching Assistants
• Students who are taking the course for a grade or pass/fail are required to take 3 in class exams and to submit a 3 page-long essay as their final. Each exam is 20% of the final grade, the final paper is 20%, and the assignments given in TA sections make an additional 20% of the final grade.

**Schedule of Exams**

• Midterm exam #1 – 18 October
• Midterm Exam #2 - 8 November
• Midterm Exam #3 - 29 November
• Final Paper – 8 December

**Schedule of Classes**

**Part I: Foundations of Buddhism**

24 September (F): Introduction to the Course

27 September (M): Social and Historical Backgrounds to Buddhism
   Guest lecture by Ami Shah
   **Reading:**
   *Course Reader*: “India Civilization Before the Buddha” and “India in the Time of the Buddha” from *Indian Buddhism*

29 September (W): The Life and Death of the Buddha: History and Legend
   **Reading:**
   *An Introduction to Buddhism*, Chapter 1: “The Buddha and His Indian Context”
   *Buddhist Scriptures*, Chapters 14-16, 23-24

1 October (F): Early Buddhist Worldview: Cosmology and the Doctrines of Karma and
Rebirth
Reading:
*Buddhist Scriptures*, Chapters: 1-4

4 October (M): The First Turning of the Wheel of Dharma: The Four Noble Truths
Reading:
*An Introduction to Buddhism*, Chapter 3: “Early Buddhist Teachings: The Four Noble Truths”
*Buddhist Scriptures*, Chapters: 9, 17-20

6 October (W): The Buddhist Doctrine of No-Self (Identitylessness)
Reading:
*Course Reader: “Non-Self: Empty Person” from Buddhism as Philosophy: An Introduction*

8 October (F): Early Stages in the Development of Buddhism in India
Reading:
*An Introduction to Buddhism*, Chapter 4: “Early Developments in Buddhism”
*Buddhist Scriptures*, Chapters: 22-24

11 October (M): Buddhist Monasticism
Reading:
*An Introduction to Buddhism*, Chapter 10: “Buddhist Practice: The Saṅgha”
*Buddhist Scriptures*, Chapters: 25-30

13 October (W): Buddhist Ethics
Reading:
*An Introduction to Buddhism*, Chapter 9: “Buddhist Practice: Ethics”
*Buddhist Scriptures*, Chapters: 35-36, 44-46, 50

15 October (F): Buddhist Meditation
Reading:
*An Introduction to Buddhism*, Chapter 11: “Buddhist Practice: Meditation and the Development of Wisdom”
*Buddhist Scriptures*, Chapters: 37-40, 49
18 October (M): Midterm exam #1

Part II: Mahāyāna and Tantra

20 October (W): Mahāyāna Buddhism
Reading:
Course Reader: “Introduction” from Mahāyāna Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations
Buddhist Scriptures, Chapters: 29-30, 37-38, 43, 51, 60

22 October (F): Madhyamaka
Reading:
An Introduction to Buddhism, Chapter 5: “Mahāyāna Philosophy”
Course Reader: “The Madhyamaka Philosophy” from Madhyamaka Schools in India
Buddhist Scriptures, Chapter: 52

25 October (M): The Mind Only School and The Buddha Nature
Reading:
Course Reader: “Yogācāra” from Mahāyāna Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations

27 October (W): Mahāyāna Cosmos and Pantheon
Reading:
An Introduction to Buddhism, Chapter 6: “Mahāyāna Holy Beings”
Buddhist Scriptures, Chapter: 3

29 October (F): Devotional Practices: Prayers, Relics, Stūpas, and Pilgrimage
Reading:
An Introduction to Buddhism, Chapter 8: “Buddhist Practice: Devotion”
Buddhist Scriptures, Chapters: 22-24

1 November (M): Tantric Buddhism and the Vajrasattva Ideal
Reading:
Course Reader: “Mantrayāna/Vajrayāna—Tantric Buddhism in India” from Buddhist
Thought: A complete Introduction to the Indian tradition
Buddhist Scriptures, Chapters 53-55

3 November (W): Esoteric Practices and the Role of a Teacher
Reading:
Course Reader: “Inspiration and the Guru” and “Overthrowing the Tyranny of Ordinary Experiences” from Introduction to Tantra: The Transformation of Desire

5 November (F): Manḍalas in Tantric Buddhism
   Reader:
   Course Reader: “Inner Mandala: The Person” and “The Other Mandala: The Tantric Method” from The Mandala: Sacred Circle in Tibetan Buddhism

8 November (M): Midterm Exam #2

Part III: Buddhism in Other Geo-Cultural Regions

10 November (W): Later Developments in South and Southeast Asia
   Guest Lecture: Nathan McGovern
   Reading:
   An Introduction to Buddhism, Chapter 7: “The Later History and Spread of Buddhism,” pp. 138-147; and Chapter 12: “The Modern History of Buddhism in Asia

12 November (F): Buddhism and Islam in Ladakh
   Guest lecture: Rohit Singh
   Reading:
   Course Reader: “Reappraisals: Later Developments in the South Asian Buddhist World” from South Asian Buddhism: A Survey

15 November (M): Buddhism in East Asia: China
   Reading:
   An Introduction to Buddhism, Chapter: 7, pp. 148-158
   Course Reader: “Buddhism in Central Asia and China” from The Buddhist Religion: A Historical Introduction
   Buddhist Scriptures, Chapters: 31-33

17 November (W): Buddhism in East Asia: Japan
   Reading:
   An Introduction to Buddhism, Chapter: 7, pp. 161-169
Course Reader: “Devotional Voices of the Pure Land” and “The No-Narrative of Seated Zen Meditation” from *The Different Paths of Buddhism: A Narrative-Historical Account*  
*Buddhist Scriptures*, Chapters 34, 41-42, 56-60

22 November (M): Buddhism in Tibet  
Guest lecture: Joel Gruber  
Reading:  
*Course Reader: “Lamas, Monks, and Yogins” from Civilized Shamans: Buddhism in Tibetan Societies*  
*Buddhist Scriptures*, Chapter: 48

24 November (W): Buddhism in Mongolia  
Reading:  
*Buddhist Scriptures*, Chapter: 47

26 November (F): Holiday

Part IV: Buddhism beyond Asia

29 November (M): Midterm

1 December (W): Western Encounters with Buddhism  
Reading:  
*An Introduction to Buddhism*, Chapter 13: “Buddhism Beyond Asia”  

3 December (F): Review of the Course: What is Buddhism: Religion, Philosophy or Science?

8 December (W): Final paper submission