

Religion 207: Understanding Buddhism

3 credits

TuTh 5:30-6:55pm

INSTRUCTOR:	Sarah Hadmack
OFFICE:	Palanakila 140
OFFICE HOURS:	MW 11:30am-12:30pm; TuTh 4:20pm-5:20pm
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EFFECTIVE DATE:	Spring 2009

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Survey of major forms and practices of Buddhism. WCC: DH, WI

Recommended Preparation: English 100 and Religion 150 or 151

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES



The student learning outcomes for the course are:

1. Identify the myths, histories, doctrines, and practices of the major schools of Buddhism.
2. Identify each school's understanding of the human condition, ethics, knowledge, death, the afterlife, and conceptions of the divine.
4. Interpret primary sources.
5. Examine the relationship between religion and culture/society.
6. Question and think critically.

COURSE TASKS

The course will be centered on the following tasks, which serve as both learning and assessment tools.

- ☒ Take two exams. Exams will be based on material covered in class and the course readings.

- Exams will be challenging but students are allowed open notes and open books.
 - Exam II is not cumulative.
 - To do your best on each of the exams, it helps to cultivate good listening, studying, and note-taking skills.
-  Complete a variety of writing assignments.
- Satisfactorily complete the research paper. Each student will select a Buddhist topic he/she finds interesting and begin researching it early in the semester. Research papers include submitting drafts, peer reviews, and one conference with the instructor. The research paper should be approximately 8-10 pages double-spaced. Paper writing guidelines and a rubric will be distributed prior to the due date.
 - Satisfactorily complete four shorter papers. The shorter papers do not require drafts, peer reviews, or conferencing. For these essays, students will be provided with the paper topic and should select the format in which he/she would like to write. NOTE: some formats require a 1-2 page reflection paper.
-  Complete a variety of in-class activities and a few homework assignments including journal entries, card swaps, webbing, flashcard ‘quiz,’ pair square discussions, popcorn reading, role play, silent Socratic dialogue, toss a ‘test,’ crossword puzzles, word searches, art symbolism identification, game shows, etc.
- These assignments enhance your analysis, synthesis, and critical thinking skills. They also enable you to reflect on themes in class and comprehend the topics in a more sophisticated manner.
 - Groups will typically consist of 3-4 members, and will usually be randomly assigned. The instructor acknowledges that not all students feel comfortable performing in front of the class. You will not have to participate in all of the activities. For example, role-playing and popcorn reading calls on volunteers and is not a requirement in order to pass the class.
 - For some of these in-class activities you will receive detailed feedback. For other assignments you may only receive a check mark indicating full credit.
 - Since group assignments require being present for class, you will **not** be able to make-up these assignments, regardless of reason, if class is missed.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

Grades will be based on the following:

Research Paper Draft	10%
Final Research Paper.....	20%
2 Exams (15% each)	30%
Four papers (5% each)	20%
In class activities, participation, and attendance.....	20%
	100%

Grades available:

A = 90% -100%

B = 80% -89%

C = 70% -79%

D = 60% -69%


F = 59% and below


N= The 'N' grade indicates that the student has worked conscientiously, attended regularly, finished all work, fulfilled course responsibilities, and has made measurable progress. However, either the student has not achieved the minimal student learning outcomes and is not prepared to succeed at the next level, or the student has made consistent progress in class but is unable to complete the class due to extenuating circumstances, such as major health, personal, or family emergencies

LEARNING RESOURCES

Please bring these materials to every class:

 *The Buddhist Handbook* by John Snelling

 *Buddha or Bust* by Perry Garfinkel

 *Live in a Better Way* by the Dalai Lama

CLASS SCHEDULE*

*Note: Class schedule is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class. Assignments are due during the first 15 minutes of class.

DATE	CLASSROOM TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES	READINGS DUE ON THIS DAY	ASSIGNMENTS DUE ON THIS DAY AND EXAMS TO BE TAKEN ON THIS DAY
1/27 T	Welcome to the course! Introductory materials		Please purchase the texts for this class
1/29 R	Sanskrit and Pali; Overview of Buddhism; Historical Context	Snelling Note on Language and p3-16; Garfinkel p1-18	
2/3 T	Buddha Board Game; Historical and Legendary Buddha	Snelling p17-50; Garfinkel p19-31	
2/5 R	Jataka Tales; Tripitaka; Major Teachings	Snelling p75-82; Garfinkel p32-48	
2/10 T	Major Teachings continued	Snelling p51-72; Garfinkel p49-75	
2/12 R	Sangha: Ordination, Daily Life, Monastic Codes	Snelling p261-276; Garfinkel p76-104	Writing Assignment 1
2/17 T	General Introduction to Mahayana	Snelling p83-92; Garfinkel p105-126	
2/19 R	Tantra	Snelling p93-102; Garfinkel p127-153	
2/24 T	Later Major Teachings	Snelling p105-120	
2/26 R	Chinese Buddhism	Snelling p121-146 Garfinkel p154-168	Writing Assignment 2
3/3 T	Chinese Buddhism continued	Garfinkel p169-200	
3/5 R	Exam 1		Exam 1
3/10 T	Vietnamese and Korean Buddhism; Thich Nhat Han	Snelling p147-150	
3/12 R	Japanese Buddhism	Snelling p151-166; Garfinkel p201-223	

3/17 T	Japanese Buddhism continued	Snelling p296-319	Writing Assignment 3
3/19 R	Tibetan Buddhism	Snelling p167-183; p276-296	
3/24 T	NO CLASSES – Spring Break	Dalai Lama’s book	
3/26 R	NO CLASSES – Spring Break		
4/21 T	The New Face of the Buddha: the Dalai Lama	Garfinkel p264-286	Writing Assignment 4
4/23 R	The Dalai Lama continued		
4/28 T	Buddhism in the West	Snelling p184- top217; Garfinkel p224-249	
4/30 R	Buddhism in the West continued	Snelling p217-257; Garfinkel p250- 263; 287-291	
5/5 T	Exam II		Exam II
Finals week			Research Paper due

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time, and remain for the entire class period. Students who miss class are responsible for material covered in their absence. Consult with peers or the instructor to make up missed work. There are 21 class periods this semester. For every three classes missed, the final grade will be lowered by one letter grade.

Make-up Policy:

Make-up assignments are only allowed if you use a NQA coupon. Students are provided with **two ‘No Questions Asked’ coupons** that enable them to turn in a written assignment or make up an exam **up to two weeks past the due date**. Without the NQA coupon, late work will not be accepted. Coupons may not be shared or replicated.

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to act with personal integrity, to respect other students’ opinions and property, and to help create an academic environment in which discussion is encouraged. Students are expected not to engage or tolerate acts of plagiarism, cheating, copying, fabrication of citations, or other acts of academic dishonesty. Students charged with academic dishonesty face serious consequences that range from an F grade for the assignment to a Fail grade for the course.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit can be earned by writing a two-page double spaced reaction paper to a class lecture, class discussion, attending a Buddhist event, watching a movie that centers on Buddhist themes, or reading an additional article or book on Buddhism. Religious events occurring on the island are posted on the website under ‘special announcements.’ Students may write up to **five extra credit papers**. Each paper is worth 2% of the final grade. All papers must be **two full, typed pages**. No more than two extra credit papers per student will be accepted during the last two weeks of classes. All extra credit must be received by May 6, 2009.

Cell Phones:

Kindly do not answer phone calls, text message, or play games on your cell phone during class. The instructor urges you to turn off your cell phone during class. The consequence for cell

phone use is _____
(students will vote on a policy during the first week of classes).

Disabilities Accommodation:

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale Akoakoa 213 for more information.

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL HELP YOU IN THIS CLASS

1. Keep up with the readings! The readings help reinforce the material. By doing the readings before class, you will feel better prepared, will easily follow along with the notes, and overall will have a more enriching educational experience. You will also be well prepared for the exams and papers after having completed the readings.
2. Mark up your textbook. Highlight key points and ideas. Whenever you are confused or have a question, write a 'Q' next to the sentence in the textbook. (Or if you would like to return your textbook at the end of the semester, keep a separate journal of notes from your readings.)
3. Always take notes in class. Copy down everything that I have on the PowerPoint slides, KeyNote slides, and the board. Very few of us have a photographic memory ;)
4. Ask questions if you don't understand. Tell me to slow down if I am going too fast. Let me know if you're having any problems. I am here to help you ☺ Let me know how I can make this the best educational experience for you!