Religion 207  Understanding Buddhism
3 credits
TR 1:00 to 2:15 PM in PALANA (212)

INSTRUCTOR: Christine Walters
OFFICE: PALANA TBA
OFFICE HOURS: TR 11:30 to 12:30 PM; 2:30 to 3:00 PM or by appointment
TELEPHONE: (808) 455-0628 (Leeward CC) EMAIL: cwalter@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2015

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O‘ahu’s Ko‘olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION
Survey of major forms and practices of Buddhism. (3 hours lecture)

Recommended Preparation: ENG 100 and either REL 150 or REL 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.
3. Interpret primary sources.
4. Examine the relationship between religion and culture/society.
5. Question and think critically.

COURSE TASKS
1. Attendance is highly recommended. The exams will rely heavily on lecture material, and in-class discussions will aid in the development of your writing assignments. If you miss class regularly, it will be detrimental to your success in this course.
2. Daily assignments are to be completed before class. For instance, if a reading assignment is listed on the course schedule for 3/1, the assignment should be completed before class meeting on that day. Please be sure to check Laulima daily for announcements, as the instructor will also assign supplemental material to the in-class lectures such as videos to watch and interactive sites to visit.
3. There will be occasional quizzes on both the reading assignments and the material from lectures available via Laulima. You will be responsible for completing quizzes on quiz dates, as listed on the course schedule. Quizzes can be taken in advance of the quiz date with prior approval from the instructor. Missed quizzes cannot be made up, since they will be available online. Failure to complete a quiz will result in a zero grade.
4. During the semester, we will watch two movies: *The Matrix* and *Seven Years in Tibet*. You will be responsible for writing a two-page reflection paper (per movie) based on your reaction to each movie and your prior understandings of the tradition. The writing assignment should be composed of at least 500 words (about two pages).

5. In addition to the exams and the reflection paper, there will be a “living religion” essay assignment. Your paper will describe and analyze a visit to a Buddhist community during one of their ritual performances. The essay should be about six (6) pages in length and be composed of AT LEAST 1500 words.

6. There will be two exams: a midterm and a final exam. Attendance at both exams is mandatory. If you know in advance that you will miss an exam, please contact the instructor to reschedule. If, for any unforeseen reason, you miss an exam, you must email the instructor immediately to reschedule, providing proof (and a very good explanation) for the absence. If you miss an exam, it must be made up before the exams are graded and redistributed to your classmates.

***See the course schedule for writing assignment deadlines. The instructor will NOT accept late papers.

**ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING**

**GRADE BREAKDOWN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflection papers</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Religion essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
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**GRADE SCALE**

- **A** 100%-90%
- **B** 89%-80%
- **C** 79%-70%
- **D** 69%-60%
- **F** below 59%

**LEARNING RESOURCES**


**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT**

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health challenge 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.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT**

There is ZERO tolerance for plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty. Students charged with academic dishonesty will receive a Fail grade for the course.
COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

WEEK 1: Introduction to course
January 12 – 16
   T 1/13: Review of course syllabus/Introduction to course content
         Discussion: What do we know about Buddhism?
   R 1/15: Introduction to Sanskrit and Pali pronunciation; Religious landscape of India

WEEK 2: The First of Three Jewels: the Buddha
January 19 – 23
   T 1/20: The Buddha’s life and religious experience
         Gethin, chapter 1
   R 1/22: the Buddha’s core teachings

WEEK 3: The Second of Three Jewels: the Dharma
January 26 – 30
   T 1/27: QUIZ ONE
         the Tripitaka
         Gethin, chapter 2
   R 1/29: other texts
         Gethin, chapter 3

WEEK 4: The Third of Three Jewels: the Sangha
February 2 – 6
   T 2/3: QUIZ TWO
         the Councils
         Gethin, chapter 4
   R 2/5: Spread of Buddhism throughout India

WEEK 5: Philosophical Developments
February 9 – 13
   T 2/10: QUIZ THREE
         Formation of Theravada Buddhism
         Gethin, chapters 5, 6
   R 2/12: Later philosophical developments (Mahayana)
         Gethin, chapter 9

WEEK 6: Buddhism and The Matrix
February 16 – 20
   T 2/17: The Matrix, part 1
         worksheet #1
   R 2/19: The Matrix, part 2
         worksheet #2

WEEK 7: Spread of Buddhism outside of India
February 23 – 27
   T 2/24: QUIZ FOUR
         Buddhism in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand
   R 2/26: REFLECTION PAPER DUE
         Buddhism in Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines

WEEK 8: Review/Exam
March 2 – 6
   M 3/3: Midterm Exam Review
   W 3/5: MIDTERM EXAM
WEEK 9: Rise of Mahayana
March 9 – 13
   T 3/10: Development of Mahayana philosophy
       Mitchell, chapter 4
   R 3/12: Institutions of Mahayana Buddhism

WEEK 10: Buddhism comes to China, Korea, Japan
March 16 – 20
   T 3/17: QUIZ FIVE
       Buddhism arrives in China; institutions
       Mitchell, chapter 7
   R 3/19: Buddhism arrives in Korea, Japan; institutions
       Mitchell, chapters 8, 9
March 23 – 27
NO CLASSES: SPRING BREAK

WEEK 11: Mahayana/Vajrayana schools
March 30 – April 3
   T 3/31: QUIZ SIX
       Mahayana schools
   R 4/2: Spread of Vajrayana back to Tibetan plains, north India, Mongolia
       Mitchell, chapters 6

WEEK 12: Buddhism and SYIT
April 6 – 10
   T 4/7: Seven Years in Tibet, part 1
       Worksheet #1
   R 4/9: Seven Years in Tibet, part 2
       Worksheet #2

WEEK 13: Buddhism and Violence
April 13 – 17
   T 4/14: QUIZ SEVEN
       Sources in tradition for/against violence
   R 4/16: REFLECTION PAPER DUE
       Examples of violence in Buddhism: Myanmar, Thailand, Tibet, Sri Lanka, Japan
       Handout: Brian Victoria’s Zen at War

WEEK 14: Buddhism comes to Europe and the Americas
April 20 – 24
   T 4/21: QUIZ EIGHT
       Scholarly interests in Buddhism
       Mitchell, chapter 10
   R 4/23: Asian immigration to “the West”
WEEK 15: Buddhism in the United States
April 27 – May 1
   T 4/28: QUIZ NINE
       Contemporary religious communities
       Mitchell, pages 390-415
   R 4/30: Buddhism and Psychology
       Handouts: Time, Psychology Today, Tricycle
WEEK 16: Review
May 4 – 8
   T 5/5: QUIZ TEN
       Discussion: What do we know about Buddhism?
   LIVING RELIGION PAPER DUE
   Final Exam Review
   R: 5/7: NO CLASS: REVIEW DAY

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 12th from 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM IN PALANA 212