

**Relg 3325
Buddhism**

University of Central Arkansas
Autumn, 2014

Days and Time: Tuesday, Thursday, 10:50–12:05

Room: 302

Instructor: Dr. Nicholas Brasovan

Office: IRBY 301c

Phone: (501) 852-2642

Email: nbrasovan@uca.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 12:30-2:30
& by appointment.

Course Description: This seminar is an intensive study of the manifold philosophical and religious dimensions of Buddhism. We begin by establishing a foundational understanding of the relatively early developments of Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism in India. We then take a look at the unique forms of Buddhism developed and carried-on in Tibet. Finally, we will turn to an in-depth study of the major schools of East Asian Buddhism, such as Zen Buddhism. We will spend a significant amount of time reading and discussing primary-source, canonical, texts: e.g., the early *Sutras*; the *Vimalakirti Sutra*; and the *Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch*.

Objectives: One major concrete objective of this course is to sharpen our skills for carrying out academic text-based research, writing, and argument. Another is to gain a broader worldview, which will enable us to converse and compete in global economic, academic, and/or political arenas.

Required Texts:

1. Donald W. Mitchell and Sarah H. Jacoby. *Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience*, 3rd edition (Oxford Press 2014)
2. *The Vimalakirti Sutra*, translated by Burton Watson (Columbia University Press, 1997)
3. PDF and Handouts to be uploaded or distributed in class

Additional Resources (recommended, not required):

1. Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>.
2. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>.
3. UCA Writing Center
4. Torreyson Library

Assignments and Point Distribution:

1. **Four Quizzes = 40 %**
2. **Midterm = 20%**
3. **Term Paper = 20 %**
 - a. I will provide prompts for your research papers.
Students are encouraged to consult with me as they develop their ideas and theses for their papers. *I am happy to read rough drafts and outlines.*
 - b. Paper must be 8-10 pages in length: double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font.
 - c. MLA formatting is required.
 - d. Due Final Day of Class
3. **Final Exam = 20%** of course grade (**DATE TBA**)

Course Policies:

1. **Attendance:** Four unexcused absences will result in a drop of one full letter grade from student's final grade. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in an additional drop in one full letter grade from final grade.
2. Use of **cell phones** and laptops are prohibited in class. Students using cell phones or laptops without permission will be counted retroactively absent.
3. Students are expected to come to class prepared to **participate**. This requires reading the assigned material for the day's discussion.
4. **Academic Honesty:** The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to *academic integrity* and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. *Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate.* Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy.
5. The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Office of Disability Services, 450-3613.
6. Students should familiarize themselves with all policies included in the Student Handbook, particularly the following: Sexual Harassment Policy and Academic Policies.
7. An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS documents for most buildings on campus are available at <http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/>. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes.
8. If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to "student-on-student" or "employee-on-student"), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on those specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator. For further information, please visit: <https://uca.edu/titleix>. **Disclosure of sexual misconduct by a third party who is not a student and/or employee is also required if the misconduct occurs when the third party is a participant in a university-sponsored program, event, or activity.*

Buddhism: Fall 2014

Tuesday	Thursday
	August 21 Classes Begin
August 26. <i>Foundations of Indian Philosophy</i> Kalupahana (PDF) Deutsch (PDF)	August 28 <i>Introducing the Buddha</i> Mitchell Chapter 1
September 2 <i>Buddha's Teachings</i> Mitchell Chapter 2	September 4 <i>Buddha's Teachings</i> Mitchell Chapter 2
September 9 <i>Way of the Elders</i> Mitchell Chapter 3	September 11 <i>Way of the Elders</i> Mitchell Chapter 3 Quiz 1
September 16 <i>Early Sutras</i> Early Sutras (PDF)	September 18 <i>Great Vehicle</i> Mitchell Chapter 4
September 23 <i>Great Vehicle</i> Mitchell Chapter 4	September 25 <i>Great Vehicle</i> Mitchell Chapter 4 Quiz 2
September 30 <i>Great Vehicle</i> Mitchell Chapter 5	October 2 <i>Great Vehicle</i> Vimalakirti Sutra
October 7 <i>Great Vehicle</i> Vimalakirti Sutra	October 9 Midterm Examination
October 14 Film (time permitting)	October 16 Fall Break
October 21 <i>Tibet</i> Mitchell Chapter 6	October 23 <i>Tibet</i> Mitchell Chapter 6
October 28 <i>China</i> Mitchell Chapter 7 Sections: "Translation and Inculturation" – "Foundation of the Chinese Experiences" <i>Daodejing</i> (Daodejing) (PDF); <i>Zhuangzi</i> (PDF)	October 30 <i>China</i> Mitchell Chapter 7
November 4 <i>China</i> Platform Sutra (PDF) Hershock (PDF)	November 6 Quiz 3
November 11 <i>Korea</i> Mitchell Chapter 8	November 13 <i>Japan</i> Mitchell Chapter 9
November 18 <i>Japan</i> Mitchell Chapter 9	November 20 <i>Japan</i> Mitchell Chapter 9 D.T. Suzuki Quiz 4
November 25 Film (time permitting)	November 27 Thanksgiving Holiday
December 2 <i>Buddhism Today</i> Mitchell 10	December 4 <i>Buddhism Today</i> Mitchell 10 Term Paper Due
December 9 Final Exams	December 11 Final Exams
December 16	

