

BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY SYLLABUS with dates Spring 2015 tentative

Course Description:

Buddhism is known for meditation, loving kindness, compassion and non-attachment. But it is also a philosophy, in fact, many philosophies. And many Buddhist philosophers disagree with each other about important issues in metaphysics and epistemology. This course will examine the views of many Buddhist schools, such as the atomists, the idealists and the school that claims ultimate reality is beyond the scope of words. The role of meditation, art and morality in relation to philosophy will also be discussed.

Required books

Burtts *Teachings of Compassionate Buddha* (MassMarket) 9780451627117

Chodron *No Time to Lose* Shambhala Boston 2007

Herrigel, Eugen *Zen and the Art of Archery* Vintage, 1999 0375705090

Sherab, Khenchen Palden *Turning the Wisdom Wheel of the Nine Golden Chariots*
9780982092231

Friquetgnon , Marie *A Brief Introduction to the Philosophy of Santaraksita* Cool Grove Press 2012
9781887276382

Recommended: Gold, Jonathan *Paving the Great Way* Columbia Univ. Press 2014

I Early schools 1/15-1/22 (Burtts, Friquetgnon)

A)The Buddha and his teachings

B)The role of Scripture

C) Philosophy:

1) Vaibhasika (atomism)

2) Sautrantika (qualified atomism)

II Mahayana in India 1/29-2/5 Burt, Friquegnon

A) Differences from early schools

B) Role of ritual and practice, role of the bodhisattva (text- *No Time to Lose*)

C) Philosophy

1) Madhyamaka (Emptiness School)

2) Cittamatra/Yogacara (Idealist School)

3) Yogacara-Madhyamaka (Santaraksita)

Questions given out 2/5

Review 2/12

Midterm 2/19

III Buddhism in China 2/26-3/5 (Burt, text to be assigned)

A) Relation with Taoism and Confucianism

B) The Arts

C) Philosophy

1)) Emptiness Schools

2) Idealist Schools

3) Hua Yen (Identity in Difference)

4) Chan (meditation)

IV) Buddhism in Korea and Japan 3/12 and 3/26 (text to be assigned, Burt, *Zen and the Art of Archery*)

A) Pure Land

B) Zen

V) Buddhism in Tibet 4/2-4/9 *Turning the Wisdom Wheel of the Nine Golden Chariots*

VI) Meditation and Ritual 4/16-4/23 *The Buddhist Path (on reserve)*, Friquegnon

Review 4/30

Final Exam 5/7

Maximum 3 absences. There will be a midterm and a final. The midterm may be retaken if you want to try for a higher grade. There will be extra credit for an essay on Jonathan Gold's book.

Do not make cell phones calls, play games or text message in class. Please do not leave class early without receiving permission in advance. If you must leave early, please sit near the door so you will not be disruptive.

Office hours: M. and W. 12:15-1:00; Th. 3:30- 4:15

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