

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY —FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Classics and Religion
Religious Studies 313 L01: Introduction to Buddhism
Course Outline - Fall 2015, MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m.

(University of Calgary Policy about course outlines may be found in Academic Regulations, Section E, of the *University Calendar*)

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Required Texts

Gethin, Rupert. (1998) *The Foundations of Buddhism*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Gethin, Rupert. (2008) *Sayings of the Buddha: New Translations from the Pali Nikāyas*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Course Description: As an introduction to Buddhism, this course focuses on the historical development of Early Buddhist formations (500 BCE to 100 CE), investigating their beginnings and transformation in India and other SE Asian cultures. The course begins by examining the historical and cultural context in which Early Buddhism began, first as represented in the life and teachings of Siddhārtha Gautama, and then followed by the socio-cultural institutions and religious practices that developed after his life. The course then examines the cosmological structures of Buddhist universes, the early socio-economic structure of Buddhist schools and institutions, including the relationships between monastic and lay communities, the oral/written transmission of texts, as well as the archaeology of Buddhist devotion that develops during the Mauryan period with the worship of stūpas, relics, and images. The course concludes with describing Buddhist developments in the northwestern borderlands (Gandhāra) and a discussion on the place of women in early Buddhism.

Course Website: Desire2Learn

Our course web site will list important announcements, electronic readings, important links to web pages, and downloadable documents.

Course Requirements and Weighting:

1. Regular attendance, preparation of reading assignments, and regular, wakeful participation in discussion.
2. Midterm examination, 30 points (30%).
3. Research paper, 30 points (30%).
4. Final examination, 40 points (40%).

*** There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination in this course**

Schedule of Exams and Essays	Evaluation
1. Midterm in class on Friday, October 30.	Midterm (30%)
2. Research paper due on Friday, December 4.	Research paper (30%)
3. Comprehensive Final: To Be Scheduled by the Registrar	Final (40%)

Missed Exams: If you cannot write a test on the scheduled date due to a sudden illness or emergency, you must contact me or the Department office as soon as possible. To be allowed a rewrite of a test, you must provide proof of illness/emergency. Transfer of weight from a missed test or unwritten essay to another course requirement will not be allowed in this course. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court order) or without **PRIOR** arrangement with the instructor, missed assessments will receive an 'F'. This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class. Excuses other than those listed above will receive little attention.

To ensure academic honesty: No student is allowed to leave the examination room until they have handed in their exam. No additional materials or technical aids are permitted at your desk during an exam.

Grading:

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme (standardized within the Department of Classics & Religion):

A+	100-96	A	95-90	A-	89-85
B+	84-80	B	79-75	B-	74-70
C+	69-65	C	64-60	C-	59-55
D+	54-53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content

Course Requirements explained:

1. Attendance and participation: Regular attendance, preparation of reading assignments, and class participation are expected in a university-level class. These are not graded requirements, but obviously they will impact your performance in the course. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to ask a fellow student to lend you their notes.

Classroom sessions will consist of lectures on the scheduled subject matter related to the overall theoretical objective of the course. Students must prepare the material before each meeting and be ready to comprehend the topics to be covered. As much as possible the lectures attempt to complement the required readings or address related issues not treated extensively in

the assigned books. During such sessions, students must have knowledge of the required readings. Participation in class thus plays a significant role in conducting lectures.

Given the nature of the lectures, and the fact that the examinations will test knowledge of material discussed in lectures as well as the readings, it cannot be overemphasized that attendance is necessary and to your advantage. Your attendance in class allows you to participate in and contribute to the class by raising questions and offering insights. More importantly, your attendance allows you to hear what specific points are being emphasized. Students are reminded that presence at lectures, participation in classroom discussion and projects, and the completion of assignments are important components of most courses, and students will serve their interests best by regular attendance. Those who choose not to attend must assume whatever risks are involved.

2. Midterm examination (30 points = 30%): This will consist chiefly of short identification and essay questions, with the possibility of some objective questions, as well. Some time in the preceding class will be devoted to review. **THE DATE OF THE MIDTERM IS Friday, October 30.**

3. Final examination (40 points = 40%): The format will be the same as for the midterm exam. The date of the final exam is **to be scheduled by the registrar.**

4. Research Paper (between 1800 to 3500 words) worth 30% of the final course grade, is due on *Friday, December 4 at the beginning of class*. The requirement is an essay reflecting detailed research and critical reflection on a specific topic pertaining to Early Buddhism in South Asia or Southeast Asia. Paper topics are open: you are free to choose any topic within Early Buddhist developments (specific texts, practices, and historical figures work best). **PAPER PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS AND POSTED ON THE DESIRE2LEARN COURSE SITE).** Late papers will be penalized 10% of the value of the assignment **for each day the paper is late**. If you have any questions please contact me immediately.

Recording of the lectures is not permitted, except by special permission (see Tape Recording of Lectures, *University of Calgary Calendar*).

E-mail policy: E-mails will be responded to within 24 hours during weekdays. I do not reply to email messages that are poorly written, unclear or disrespectful.

Academic Honesty: *Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contributions of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignments or examinations are regarded as extremely serious academic offenses. Students are advised to consult pp 48-51 of the University Calendar which provides a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.*

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Desire2Learn Help

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l> for Student Help and FAQ's about Desire2Learn. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

Gnosis

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email:

gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at ascarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints. Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.

Safewalk

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.