

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

*August 27, 2007*

**Religious Studies 313.01  
Early Buddhism  
Course Outline FALL 2007**

INSTRUCTOR	L. Kawamura
TA	Christina Yanko
E-mail	cryanko@ucalgary.ca
CLASS TIME AND ROOM	Monday Evening 18:30 – 21:20
OFFICE/OFFICE HOURS	SS 1312 by appointment
TELEPHONE	220-3073 or 220-5886 (leave a message)
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**Required Textbook**

Rupert Gethin, *The Foundations of Buddhism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998

**Course Description**

The Early Buddhist tradition as it developed in India.

**General Remarks:**

This course will focus on the Early Buddhist tradition as it developed within the historical-cultural context of India and then expanded into Sri Lanka and SE Asia. Although the course will be lecture oriented, the students are encouraged to ask questions at any time.

**Course Contents:**

In this course, we shall investigate the development of religious ideas that comprise the Early Buddhist tradition (500 BCE to 100 CE) as it developed and transformed in India and other SE Asian cultures. We will begin our investigation by examining the historical and cultural context in which Early Buddhism began first as the life and teachings of Siddhartha, then as a re-affirmation of the Enlightenment of the historical Siddhārtha and as a reaction to the ossified state in which Buddhism found itself when the various sectarian schools began to develop in the earlier stages.

**Core Competencies:**

As part of the course requirements, students will learn to write a short research paper based upon thorough investigation and documentation. A topic of interest that is related to the subject matter of the course will be selected in consultation with the instructor. Because the outcome of the paper will be presented orally to the class, the students will learn how to prepare a summary for this purpose. Through their oral presentation and questions thereafter, the students will have an

opportunity to share their findings with the rest of the class. Because the content of the course is Early Buddhism, this course will offer the students an opportunity to participate in the investigation of the Indian way of thinking, and in the way that the Indian Buddhist ideas changed as Buddhist sectarianism began to develop. Also the students will be introduced to the Global and International influences of Buddhism that developed into its multicultural forms such as its influence on Tibet, China, and Japan. In so far as it is the Early form of Buddhism that was transmitted to North America as the Theravada tradition, this course will provide an opportunity for students to research the Sri Lankan developments in Canada and in Calgary.

### **Short Research Paper:**

The required short research paper should be on a topic related to the contents of the course. It should have a clear introduction in which the purpose and scope of the paper is stated. Proper documentation of sources both quoted and used for reference should be given in the footnotes and bibliography. Plagiarism (See explanation below) is a serious matter and will automatically result in an F for the short paper. It should be noted that **a series of quotations does not comprise a research paper**. The purpose of the research paper is to investigate a topic and report the result of the investigation in one's own words. It should be clear from the notes which part of the composition is a paraphrase of the source(s) and which parts constitute the student's own contribution. This distinction between use of sources and the student's own contribution should be transparent in the style of the paper. Also, it should be noted that a comparison of two ideas does not constitute a theme; rather, the use of a comparison is a method that may be used to develop a thesis.

### **Course Requirements:**

#### **I Test**

- (a) Test I in the 1<sup>st</sup> hour October 1, 2007 **20 points**
- (b) Test II in the 1<sup>st</sup> hour November 19, 2007 **20 points**

#### **II. Outline:** (Due on October 29, 2007) **5 points**

An outline to indicate contents, methodology, and proposed Bibliography of the paper.

#### **III. Short Research Paper** (Due on **FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2007**) **40 points**

- (a) A short research paper of not more than 3,000 words, 8-10 pages, double spaced, including Bibliography and Notes.
- (b) The student should consult a reference book on how to compose a research paper before attempting to write the paper. The Chicago Manual of Style or the MLA Style Sheet are highly recommended.
- (c) Late papers will be disadvantaged by virtue of losing a grade point for each day late after the Due Date. That is, an A paper will become an A- paper if it is one day late, a B+ paper if it is late

two days, and so on.

(d) PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PAPER ASSIGNMENT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION WHEN THIS CLASS HANDOUT HAD BEEN EXPLAINED ON THE FIRST DAY OF LECTURES. Students often have a test in other courses on the day that this assignment is due, contract a cold or other illness on the day that this assignment is due or find that there are no books in the library a week before the assignment is due; consequently, it is highly recommended that you begin to work on this research paper early in the term so that you will not be pressured in the last minute to find that there are no books in the library to get the paper done, or to find that one has to deal with illness, or that a test has been scheduled in another course, on top of all of the other problems may arise.

#### **IV. Paper presentation and discussion**

**10 points**

Presentation (November 26, 2007 and December 3, 2007,  
Sign up for time will take place on November 26, 2007)

#### **V. Attendance at every and all presentations**

**5 points**

##### **Note:**

1) As a courtesy to other members of the class, students who make their presentations early are required to attend the presentations of others who follow in the second class time. The goal and purpose of the presentation is to share ideas with each other.

2) There will be No Registrar scheduled Final Examination in this course.

##### **Grading:**

Grading will be based on an accumulation of points. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	100 – 98	A	93 – 97	A-	90 - 92
B+	85 89	B	80 - 84	B-	75- 79
C+	70- 74	C	65– 69	C-	60- 64
D+	55- 59	D	50– 54	F	49 or less

##### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is a serious offense, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F on the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that "plagiarism exists when:

a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate

the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),

b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,

c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or

d) a student submits or presents work in one, course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources.

**Gnosis:**

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [gnosis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

**Please note:**

**1) E-mail query will be received and answered during the week days (Monday - Friday) only.**

**2) No cell phones will be allowed in the classroom during the test and presentations. As a courtesy to other students, please turn off your cell phones during lecture time.**

**3) A make-up test will be considered only when the student is ill and can show this by means of a Doctor's letter (a note written on a prescription pad paper WILL NOT be accepted).**

**4) A make-up test and/or consideration of absence from presentations can be requested when there is a death in the family. This can be certified by an Obituary posted in a Newspaper or a written statement by the Funeral Home on its official stationery indicating you as a member of the family.**

**E N D**