

University of Calgary
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies
RELS 323 L01: Mahayana Buddhism
Fall 2009

Instructor : Shinobu Arai Apple, Ph.D.

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Department Office: SS 1301, 403-220-5886

Class Location: Chinese Cultural Centre – 197 1st Street S.W. 403-262-5071

Class Time: T 18:00-20:50

Required Texts

- 1, William, Paul. *Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations*. (Second edition) London and New York: Routledge, 2009.
- 2, Materials on Blackboard for RELS323.

Course Description and Objectives

This Intermediate Religious Studies Course focuses upon the essential doctrines and practices of Mahayana Buddhism and its development and cultural influence in East Asia. While examining the formation of Mahayana Buddhism and its fundamental doctrines and practices through reading several major Mahayana texts, such as the *Prajnaparamita Sutras*, the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, and the *Lotus Sutra*, this course extends its perspective to the reception and developmental forms of Mahayana Buddhism within East Asian religious traditions, especially in China and Japan.

Core Competencies

This class is designed to give students the ability to read the primary texts in translation in a manner that will enable them to re-describe, evaluate, compare, and analyze respective formations of Mahayana Buddhism through engaging in class discussion, exams, papers, and presentations. For this purpose, students are required to read each of the assigned materials prior to the respective class.

Course Requirements

1. **Exams 45% (Midterm – 20 %, Registrar scheduled final – 25 %)**

Each exam consists of three sections: fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and short essay. The questions are designed for students to demonstrate their familiarity with the content of the course material and to demonstrate their ability to critically analyze the reading material given at the time of the exam. If you cannot take the exam on the scheduled date due to a sudden illness or

emergency, you must contact me by E-mail, or the Department office as soon as possible. To be allowed to take a rescheduled exam, you must provide proof of illness/emergency.

2. Paper 55% Total

Breakdown: Paper Outline – 5%
Paper – 40 % (First submission – 25%, Second submission – 15%)
Paper Advisories – 5%
Paper Presentation and its Manuscript – 5%

Paper Outline: September 22
Paper <first submission>: October 20
Paper Advisories: Nov. 9 (Submit via E-mail)
Paper <second submission>: November 24
Presentation & manuscript: December 1

***Late submission of the assignments above will result in losing a grade point (e.g.: B+ to B) for each day late after the due date.**

A Paper Outline is required and must be submitted by Sep. 22nd. It should indicate the subject and provide an outline of your proposed paper and the bibliography. Although each student is expected to submit her/his essay based on the Paper Outline previously submitted, **an alteration of the paper subject is allowed if the new Paper Outline is submitted no later than October 6th.**

The Paper should be over 2000 words, double spaced, and single-sided. The specific topic of the paper should relate to the category of “Mahayana Buddhism.” The paper is expected to exhibit students’ abilities to research the necessary materials for the topic and to demonstrate analytical thinking about the topic and materials chosen. Students are strongly encouraged to initiate their essay projects as soon as the course starts. Paper parameters and guidelines will be distributed in class.

Paper Advisories: Students are required to read other group members’ papers and to compose a paper advisory for each paper. This assignment aims at improving students’ analytical reading. The parameters and guidelines for the advisory will be distributed in class. The paper advisories will be submitted electronically to the instructor by November 9th. In the class of November 10th, students will engage in group discussion based on their advisories.

Presentation: The last two classes of this course will be used for student presentations based on their papers. Each student will prepare a presentation manuscript and give a 10 minute presentation, followed by a 5 minute discussion that is led by the presenter. All students are required to submit their manuscript on December 1st. Students are expected to demonstrate the ability to recapitulate their essays and to convey the core meaning to fellow students. Students must attend all

presentations and are encouraged to participate in the discussion. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class. Even though a student presents his/her own paper, failure to attend another class of presentations will result in the loss of half the grade of the “Paper Presentation and its Manuscript,” which is 2.5 %.

Important Reminder

1-a. Handouts will be given only in a class.

1-b. The instructor will not share the lecture notes with students.

Students who are absent from the class need to make arrangements with their fellow classmates for the handouts and notes.

2. No recording of the class is allowed unless students have permission from the instructor.

3. Students must maintain their own backup copies of their submissions.

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 Religious Studies):

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

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any essays or examinations is regarded as a serious academic offence at the University of Calgary and has severe consequences. Students are advised to consult pp. 49-52 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 correcting referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Center, please contact the office at (403) 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Center are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming texts/examinations with the instructor two weeks before the scheduled date.

(DRC web address is as follows: www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/)

Gnosis

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information, please e-mail: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis.

Tentative Class Schedule and Reading Assignment

NOTE: On **September 22nd**, the first half class will take place at **the Glenbow Museum from 4 to 5 PM.**

Date	Subject	Reading Assignment
Sep. 8	1) Introduction	Williams (09), pp.1-44. Check Blackboard
Sep. 15	2) The Pure Land schools I	Williams (09), pp.238-259. Check Blackboard
Sep. 22 <u>PAPER OUTLINE DUE DATE</u>	3) The Pure Land schools II <u>* At the Glenbow Museum (4-5pm)</u> 4) The <i>Perfection of Wisdom Sutra</i> I <u>(at the Chinese Culture Center from 6pm)</u>	Williams (09), pp.259-266. Check Blackboard Williams (09), pp. 45-62. Check Blackboard
Sep. 29	5) The <i>Perfection of Wisdom Sutra</i> II	Williams (09), pp. 45-62. Check Blackboard
Oct. 6 <u>OUTLINE ALTERATION DUE (if applicable)</u>	6) The <i>Perfection of Wisdom Sutra</i> III 7) The teaching and schools of the <i>Lotus Sutra</i> I	Williams (09), pp. 45-62. Check Blackboard Williams (09), pp. 149-161 Check Blackboard
Oct. 13	8) The teaching and schools of the <i>Lotus Sutra</i> II	Williams (09), pp.161-171. Check Blackboard
Oct. 20 <u>PAPER DUE DATE (1)</u>	9) The teaching and schools of the <i>Lotus Sutra</i> III	Williams (09), pp.161-171. Check Blackboard
Oct. 27	Mid-Term Exam (2 hours)	
Nov. 3	10) The teaching and schools of <i>Madhyamika</i> and <i>Yogacara</i> I	Williams (09), pp.63-83, and 84-102. Check Blackboard
Nov. 10 <u>PAPER ADVISORY SHEETS</u>	11) The teaching and schools of <i>Madhyamika</i> and <i>Yogacara</i> II 12) Group Discussion	Williams (09), pp.63-83, and 84-102. Check Blackboard
Nov. 17	13) The teaching and schools of the <i>Avatamsaka Sutra (Huayan)</i> I	Williams (09), pp. 129-148. Check Blackboard
Nov. 24 <u>PAPER DUE DATE (2)</u>	14) The teaching and schools of the <i>Avatamsaka Sutra (Huayan)</i> II 15) The <i>Tathagatagarba</i> thought	Williams (09), pp. 129-148. Check Blackboard Williams (09), pp. 103-128. Check Blackboard
Dec. 1 <u>Presentation</u>	Student Presentations I	
Dec. 8 <u>Presentation</u>	Student Presentations II	

***Reminder: This course has a Registrar Scheduled Final Exam.**