

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**Religious Studies 323 L60 – Mahayana Buddhism**  
**Course Outline Summer 2005**

*05/07/07 - revised*

|                            |                                                                |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>INSTRUCTOR</b>          | Sarah Haynes                                                   |
| <b>CLASS TIME</b>          | T/R 11:00am-2:45pm                                             |
| <b>OFFICE/OFFICE HOURS</b> | SS 1323 /by appointment                                        |
| <b>TELEPHONE</b>           | 220-7906                                                       |
| <b>E-MAIL</b>              | <a href="mailto:sfhaynes@ucalgary.ca">sfhaynes@ucalgary.ca</a> |

**Required Textbook:**

Paul Williams, *Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations*. NY: Routledge,1989.

A selection of articles put together in a course pack.

**Course Description:**

The Mahayana Buddhist tradition as it developed in India, China, Japan, Tibet, and the West.

**General Remarks:**

This course will focus on the Mahayana Buddhist tradition as it developed within the historical-cultural context of India, China, Japan, Tibet, and the West. 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 Mahayana Buddhism as they developed and transformed in India, China, Japan, Tibet, and the West. We will begin our investigation by examining the historical and cultural context in which Mahayana began first as a re-affirmation of the Enlightenment of the historical Siddhartha and secondly as a reaction to the ossified state in which Buddhism found itself when the various sectarian schools began to develop in the earlier stages. We will then turn our attention to its gradual penetration into East Asia, Tibet, and the West. Because Chinese culture had great influence on the manner in which the introduction of Buddhism took place, we will examine the Chinese historical-cultural context that played an important role in the soteriological transformation of Mahayana doctrines in East Asia. Lastly, we will focus on how Mahayana entered the Western world and the adaptations it has since undergone to become one of the fastest growing religious traditions in both North America and Europe.

**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, students will learn

how to prepare a summary for this purpose. Through their oral presentation and subsequent questions, the students will have an opportunity to share their findings with the rest of the class. Because the content of the course is Mahayana Buddhism, this course will offer the students an opportunity to participate in the investigation of not only the Indian way of thinking, but also the way that the Chinese, Japanese, Tibetans, and Westerners integrated, assimilated, and transformed Indian Buddhist ideas to their ways of thinking, while mutually encountering global and international influences. In short, students will be introduced to the Global and International influences that developed Mahayana Buddhism into its multicultural form while maintaining its own uniqueness within the historical and cultural context of each country in which its influence extended.

### **Short Research Paper:**

The required short research paper should be on a topic related to the contents of the course (i.e., Mahayana development in India, China, Japan, Tibet, or the West). 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 in pointing out in the notes which parts of the composition are a paraphrase of the sources and which parts constitute the student's own contribution. This distinction between use of sources and the student's own contribution should be transparent. *The Paper Outline must be attached to your paper.*

### **Course Requirements:**

#### **I. Tests**

**30 points**

Mid-term test on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005

#### **II. Short Research Paper**

**30 points**

A short research paper of not more than 3000 words, 10-12 pages, double-spaced, including bibliography and notes (please see above). **Due August 11<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class.**

If for some reason the student is unable to hand the paper in at the assigned time please have the paper date stamped in the Department of Religious Studies.

- (a) 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.
- (b) Late papers will be highly disadvantaged by deducting 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.
- (c) PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PAPER ASSIGNMENT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION WHEN THIS CLASS HANDOUT WAS EXPLAINED

ON THE FIRST DAY OF LECTURES. Students often have tests in other courses on the day that this assignment is due, contract a cold/illness on that day, or find that there are no books in the library a week before the deadline; 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 at the last minute to find that there are no books in the library to get the paper done, or 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 that may arise. Also, the student must attach the paper outline to the paper for the assignment to be complete.

(d) Please do not hand in your only copy of your paper. Please back up your work.

### **III. Paper Outline**

**10 points**

Outline to indicate contents, methodology, and proposed bibliography. Please note that the outline should state the thesis (as distinct from methodology, i.e., to compare ideas does not constitute a thesis statement, but does constitute a methodology), the methodology that will be employed, and the anticipated conclusion. A proposed bibliography of at least 5 books and 2 journal articles should be given. **Due July 21<sup>st</sup> at the beginning of class.**

### **IV. Paper Presentation and Discussion**

**10 points**

Students are required to present the findings of their research paper in a 20 minute presentation to the class. We will determine the order in which the papers will be presented in class.

**The 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> will be devoted to paper presentations and discussion.**

### **V. Critical Book Review or Movie Assignment**

**15 points**

Students are required to hand-in a critical book review OR a movie assignment.

A critical book review should be written on one of the books to be used for the research paper. The intention of this assignment is to prompt the students to get an early start on the short research paper. Further details will be provided on this assignment.

**Due August 4<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class.**

The movie assignment requires students to watch 1 of 3 films chosen by the professor. The assignment will require the students to reflect on the film in relation to Mahayana philosophical ideas learned in class. Further details will be provided on this assignment.

**Due August 4<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class.**

### **VI. Participation in each and every presentation**

**5 points**

Every student will be expected to attend the presentations of research papers given by the students during the entire class time on the **11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>**. The point about the presentation is to share ideas with each other as a presenter and as a participant.

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 - 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.

### Academic Honesty:

*Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar. If you have questions about correct 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 Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor two weeks before the scheduled date.

### Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

### Recording of lectures:

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must be first approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

### Safewalk Programme:

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

### 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>.