

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

December 14, 2006

Religious Studies 323.91
Mahayana Buddhism
Course Outline Winter 2007

INSTRUCTOR	L. Kawamura
CLASS TIME AND ROOM	Monday Evening 18:30 – 21:20
OFFICE/OFFICE HOURS	SS 1312 by appointment
TELEPHONE	220-3073
E-mail	kawamura@ucalgary.ca

Required Textbook

Paul Williams, Mahayana Buddhism

Recommended Readings:

Paul Williams, Studies in the Philosophy of the *Bodhicaryavatara*
Musashi Tachikawa, An Introduction to the Philosophy of Nagarjuna
Gail Omvedt, Buddhism in India, Challenging Brahmanism and Caste
Mark Tatz, translation, The Skill in Means (*Upayakauśalya*) Sūtra
Edward Conze, Buddhist Thought in India
Gadjin M. Nagao, Mādhyamaka and Yogicāra, Leslie S. Kawamura (translation)
The Holy Teaching of Vimalakīrti, Robert F. Thurman (translation)
John S. Strong, The Experience of Buddhism, Sources and Interpretation.

Course Description

The Mahāyāna Buddhist tradition as it developed in India, Tibet, China, and Japan.

General Remarks:

This course will focus on the Mahāyāna Buddhist tradition as it developed within the historical-cultural context of India, China, and Japan. 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 Mahāyāna Buddhism as they developed and transformed in India, China, and Japan. We will begin our investigation by examining the historical and cultural context in which the Mahāyāna began first as a re-affirmation of the Enlightenment of the historical Siddhārtha and secondly as a reaction to the ossified state in which Buddhism finds 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 (China and Japan) and Tibet. Because the Chinese culture had a 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 Mahāyāna doctrines in East Asia.

Core Competence:

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 contents of the course is Mahāyāna Buddhism, this course will offer the students an opportunity to participate in the investigation of not only the Indian way of thinking, but also in the way that the Chinese, Tibetans, and Japanese integrated, assimilated, and transformed the Indian Buddhist ideas that they applied their ways of thinking while mutually encountering their global and international influences. In short, the students will be introduced to the Global and International influences that developed Mahāyāna Buddhism into its multicultural form while giving it its own uniqueness within the historical and cultural context of the country in which its influence extended. In so far as it is the Mahāyāna form of Buddhism that was transmitted to North America, this course will provide an opportunity for students to research Mahāyāna developments in the United States and Canada.

Short Research Paper:

The required short research paper should be on a topic related to the contents of the course (ie., Mahāyāna development in India, China, Tibet, or Japan). 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 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.

Course Requirements:

I. Test

(a) Test I in the 1st hour February 26th, 2007

40 points

II. Outline: (Due on February 12th, 2007) **5 points**

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

III. Short Research Paper (Due on March 30, 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 (last hour of March 26, 2007 and full class time of April 2 and 9, 2007, Sign up for time will take place on March 19, 2007)

V. Attendance at every and all presentations **5 points**

Note:

1) On March 19, 2007, we will determine the order in which the papers will be presented during the following two weeks. As a courtesy to other members of the class, students who make their presentations early are requested to attend the presentations of others who follow in the second class time. The point about 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+	96-100	A	92-95	A-	91-86
B+	85-81	B	80-77	B-	76-71
C+	70-65	C	64-62	C-	61-59
D+	58-55	D	54-50	F	49-0

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.

Please note:

- 1) **E-mail queries will be received and answered during the week days (Monday - Friday) only.**
- 2) **No cell phones will be allowed in 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 presentation 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.

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>.