

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION  
Tibetan Religious Traditions

RELS 327 L01- Fall 2018, Tues-Thurs 9:30-10:45 a.m., EDC 284

(University of Calgary Policy about course outlines may be found from page 39 of the *University Calendar*)

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2018

<b>Course</b>	Tibetan Religious Traditions
<b>Time</b>	9:30-10:45 a.m. Tuesday/Thursday
<b>Instructor</b>	James B. Apple
<b>Office Hours</b>	Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. or by appointment
<b>Office</b>	SS 532
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:jbapple@ucalgary.ca">jbapple@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	403-220-8267

**Required Text(s):**

Powers, John. (2007) *Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism*. Revised Edition. Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.

Pommaret, Françoise. (2003) *Tibet: An Enduring Civilization*. New York, NY: Harry N. Abrams.

**Course Description:** Religious Studies 327 is a selective survey of the philosophical, cultural, and historical aspects of Buddhist and related formations in Tibet. We initially consider the Indian Buddhist doctrines and practices that are often essentialized as "Buddhism," which nevertheless are necessary for understanding "Buddhism" as it developed in Tibet. The course then surveys the history of Buddhism in Tibet, from Buddhism's introduction into this country up to the predominance of Tibet's four principal Buddhist traditions. We then focus upon selected thematic topics such as the gradual stages to awakening (*lam rim*) literature, mind training (*blo sbyong*), buddha-nature, tantra, women in Tibetan Buddhism, life and institution of the Dalai Lama, along with the issues of orientalism and the modern interpretation of Tibetan Buddhist formations.

**Online elements for this course: Desire2Learn [ D2L ]**

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\***

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
October 25	Midterm Exam	30	
December 4	Term Paper	30	
(registrar scheduled)	Final Exam	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.

**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, usually used within the Department of Classics and 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

**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 examination 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 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25.**

**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 (of approximately 1800 words) worth 30%** of the final course grade, is due on **Tuesday, December 6 at the beginning of class.** The requirement is an 1800 word essay reflecting detailed research and critical reflection on a specific topic pertaining to Tibetan Buddhist traditions. Paper topics are open: you are free to choose any topic within Tibetan Buddhist traditions (specific texts, practices, 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 or Video 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.

**Electronic Device Policy:** Please review the university policy regarding specific permission and forms required for recording of lectures:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>

Scientific evidence demonstrates that use of cellphones lowers student achievement as well as damages the brain (see links below). Use of cellphones are not permitted while attending class. Cell phones must be turned off and not taken out in class for texting or any other purposes. The in-class

wearing of earphones or similar devices is not permitted. Computers should not be used for watching videos or playing computer games.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/mental-wealth/201402/gray-matters-too-much-screen-time-damages-the-brain>

<http://blog.chron.com/sciguy/2013/12/study-students-who-use-cellphones-more-get-lower-grades/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/memory-medic/201303/why-writing-hand-could-make-you-smarter>

### **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 (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>). If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, or librarian staff.

### **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/](http://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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

### **Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help**

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

### **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](mailto: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.

**Freedom of Information and Privacy**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

**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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.

**Health and Wellness**

There are services available to students to help with physical and mental health, including the SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>.

Learn more about the Campus Mental Health Strategy here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.

**Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule:**

This outline is subject to change. It may be modified if it appears to the instructor that the material is not being adequately covered in the allotted time. The amount of time devoted to particular topics is contingent on the instructor's sense of what deserves greater emphasis as the course

progresses. **Remember, to be aware of changes occurring in the schedule and to receive any crucial information regarding the course, regular attendance in class is necessary.** The instructor is not responsible for accommodating those with unexcused absences. 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. In addition, important materials are regularly handed out during class. The instructor is not responsible for providing handouts at a later date for those with an unexcused absence from class. Keep in mind that all lectures in class constitute material that may appear on the final examination. Remember, too, that it is not possible for the instructor to explain all the material contained in the readings—it is up to students to be familiar with the readings regardless of the extent to which the assigned texts are discussed in class.

### Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule (Note D2L= Desire to Learn Link):

September 6 to September 20	<p>Introduction, Buddhist History and its Practices; Life of the Buddha; Indian Buddhist Background</p> <p>Indian Background: Buddhist thought and practice in “India”</p> <p>Indian Background: Mahayana and Tantric Buddhism in “India”</p>	<p><b>Tuesday:</b> Introduction to the course.</p> <p><b>Thursday :</b> Powers (2007):21-28; Pettit (1999): 41-45 [D2L]</p> <p>Buddhism in India: Powers, 31-59.</p> <p>Important Buddhist Doctrines: Powers, 63-80.</p> <p><b>Tuesday:</b> Meditation: Powers, 81-99. Two Realities and Four Schools: <i>Abhidharma-kosa</i> 6:4. (Readings on Course web page) [D2L ] Mahayana Buddhism in India: Williams: Chapter 3 [ D2L ]</p>
Sept. 25-27	<p>Indian Background: Mahayana and Tantric Buddhism in “India”</p> <p>Tibetan History and Culture History of Buddhism in Tibet (I)</p>	<p><b>T:</b> Mahayana: Powers, 101-134</p> <p><b>Th: Williams,</b> “Land and Identity,” Pommaret: 13-25. “Tibetan Religious History,” Powers, Chapter 5: 137-179. Samuel [D2L]: Chapters 23-24. “Kings and Lamas,” Pommaret: 51-75.</p>

Oct. 2-4	Tibetan History and Culture History of Buddhism in Tibet (I)	<b>T:</b> "Religions and Beliefs," Pommaret: 27-50. Samuel [ <b>D2L</b> ]: Chs. 26-27.  <b>Th:</b> Samuel: Chs. 26-27. [ <b>D2L</b> ]
Oct. 9-11	History of Buddhism in Tibet (II) A Survey of Traditions	<b>T:</b> "The Four Schools: Nyingma and Kagyu," Powers: 355-397.  <b>Th:</b> Powers: 355-397.
Oct. 16-18	A Survey of Traditions	<b>T:</b> "The Four Schools:" Powers: 399-431.  <b>Th:</b> "The Four Schools:" Powers: 399-431.
October 23-25	A Survey of Traditions  <b>***Mid-term Exam***</b>	<b>T:</b> "The Four Schools: Sakya and Geluk," Powers: 433-496.  <b>Th:</b> Midterm Exam
Oct. 30-Nov. 1	Exemplums of Tibetan Buddhist thought and practice: <i>The Step-by-Step Stages of the Path to Buddhahood (I)</i>	<b>T:</b> Dalai Lama: Chapters 1-7; Lam Rim Outlines [ <b>D2L</b> ]  <b>Th:</b> Dalai Lama: Chapters 1-7; Lam Rim Outlines [ <b>D2L</b> ]
Nov. 6-8	Exemplums of Tibetan Buddhist thought and practice: <i>The Step-by-Step Stages of the Path to Buddhahood (II)</i>	<b>T:</b> Dalai Lama: Chapters 8-10; Lam Rim Outlines [ <b>D2L</b> ]  <b>T:</b> Dalai Lama: Chapters 8-10; Lam Rim Outlines [ <b>D2L</b> ]
Nov. 13-15 No Classes, Fall Break		

Nov. 20-22	<p>Understanding Tibetan Tantra</p> <p>Death and Dying in Tibetan Buddhism</p> <p>Tibetan Festivals</p>	<p><b>T:</b> Powers: 249-323; Mills (2003: chapter 4) [ <b>D2L</b> ]</p> <p><b>Th:</b> Powers: 325-352</p> <p>Rigzin: 1-14 [ <b>D2L</b> ]; Yuthok: 48-72 [ <b>D2L</b> ]; Powers: 219-231.</p>
Nov. 27-29	<p>Women in Tibetan Buddhism &amp; Feminism</p> <p>The Twentieth Century and the Dalai Lama</p>	<p><b>T:</b> Women in Tibetan Buddhism: Klein (1995): 5-57. [Recommended: 61-88] [ <b>D2L</b> ]</p> <p><b>Th:</b> Women in Tibetan Buddhism: Klein (1995): 5-57.</p>
Dec. 4-Dec. 6	<p>Interpreting Tibetan Buddhism &amp; Contemporary Tibetan Buddhism</p> <p><b>***TERM PAPER DUE Dec. 4***</b></p> <p><b>***TERM PAPER DUE Dec. 4 ***</b></p>	<p><b>T:</b> Powers: 181-218</p> <p>Pommaret: Chapters 4 &amp; 5</p> <p>Dalai Lama readings to be posted</p> <p><b>Th:</b> [ <b>D2L</b> ]</p> <p>Contemporary Tibetan Buddhism: Germano (1998).</p> <p><b>***TERM PAPER DUE ***</b></p>
TBA	Registrar Scheduled Final Exam	