

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY —FACULTY OF ARTS  
Advanced Studies in Indian Buddhism  
Buddhism & Science**

**RELS 453.01 L01 Fall 2018, M 2:00-4:45 p.m., SS 527**

(University of Calgary Policy about course outlines may be found from page 38 of the  
*University Calendar*)

James Apple, Ph.D.

Office: SS 532

Office hours: T, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Or by appointment.

E-mail: [jbapple@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jbapple@ucalgary.ca)

Office phone: 403-220-8267

Dept Office/Phone: 403-220-5886

\* Classics & Religion Department

Office: Social Sciences 558

E-mail: [clare@ucalgary.ca](mailto:clare@ucalgary.ca)

**Required Texts**

Lopez Jr, Donald S. 2010. *Buddhism and Science: A Guide for the Perplexed*. University of Chicago Press.

Wright, Robin. 2017. *Why Buddhism is True: The Science and Philosophy of Meditation and Enlightenment*. Simon & Schuster Press.

McMahan, David L., and Erik Braun. 2017. *Meditation, Buddhism, and Science*. New York (N.Y.): Oxford University Press.

**Course Description:**

This seminar examines the discourse between Buddhism and Science. The discourses of Buddhism and Science have entered into public discussion and debate in recent decades. What is Buddhism? What is Science? What does the conjunction of these two terms imply? What is the history of this conjunction? Are Buddhism and Science compatible? What is the science of Buddhist-derived forms of meditation? This seminar critically examines these questions in the light of recent publications on the topic.

**Course Ethos**

This course requires a high degree of self-motivation. The study of Buddhism and Science discourses is truly a demanding intellectual task, for which a robust reading requirement is a necessary component, and we will examine a number of sources that will not be familiar to all. Furthermore, this is a seminar course. Rather than following

the lecture format, we will have discussions, and for discussions to be substantive, disciplined, and thought-creating, it means that seminar members must do the readings and attend the seminar with the intention to contribute to the course Conferences

### **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 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

### **Course Requirements explained:**

**1. Attendance and Seminar Discussion Moderator [10%]:** All attendees will be required to lead a seminar discussion (more than one, depending on our numbers). This entails a short presentation in which the discussion leader identifies the central themes brought out by the course readings and then proposes a series of questions for the class to consider. A schedule for presentations and conference session talking points will be determined in the first two weeks of the term.

**2. Three Short critical response essays due on the following dates:** 10/1, 10/22, and 11/5. **[60% total; 20% each].** These reports will serve as documentation of your presence and as evidence of your engagement with the reading material. The short essay guidelines and topics will be distributed in class.

**3. Research Paper worth 30%** of the final course grade, is due on Monday, December 3 at the beginning of class. The requirement is an essay reflecting detailed research and critical reflection on a specific topic pertaining to Buddhism & Science. Paper topics are open: you are free to choose any topic related to Buddhism & Science.

#### **PAPER PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS.**

Research Paper Requirements: Students enrolled in 453 – 3000-3500 words

Students enrolled in 603 – 3500-4000 words

Students enrolled in 703 – 4000-4500 words

**There will be NO registrar scheduled final exam in this course.**

**Recording of the course discussions** is not permitted, except by special permission (see Tape 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.

**Academic Honesty:** Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contributions of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarisms on any assignments or examinations are regarded as extremely serious academic offenses. Students are advised to consult pp 54-56 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 correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

### **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)

### **Desire2Learn Help**

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l> for Student Help and FAQ's about Desire2Learn. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

**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 damage 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/scigu/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>

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@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 program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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 Block.

### **Freedom of Information and Privacy**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <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.

**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 inexcusable 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 inexcusable absence from class.

**Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule (Note: D2L LINK= Desire2Learn)**

Sept. 10	<b>Introduction</b>  <b>The Discourses of Buddhisms and Sciences</b>	<b>Background reading:</b> <b>[Session 1: Lopez, Introduction, 1-39 [D2L]</b>  <b>Session 2: Saturday Morning Physics with Donald S. Lopez, Jr. (in-class video)</b>
Sept. 17	<b>CONFERENCE 1</b>  <b>Buddhism &amp; Science</b>	<b>Session 1: Lopez, 39-72</b>  <b>Session 2: Lopez, 73-104</b>
Sept. 24	<b>CONFERENCE 2</b>  <b>Buddhism &amp; Science</b>	<b>Session 1: Lopez, 105-152</b>

		<b>Session 2: Lopez, 105-152</b>
Oct. 1	<b>CONFERENCE 3 Buddhism &amp; Science</b>	<b>Session 1: [First Short Critical Essay due]</b> <b>Lopez, 153-196</b> <b>Session 2: Lopez, 197-211</b>
Oct. 8	Thanksgiving	<b>No class.</b>
Oct. 15	<b>CONFERENCE 4 Is Buddhism True?</b>	<b>Session 1: Wright, 1-57</b> <b>Session 2: Wright, 58-90</b>
Oct. 22	<b>CONFERENCE 5 Is Buddhism True?</b>	<b>[Second Short Critical Essay due]</b> <b>Session 1: Wright, 91-141</b> <b>Session 2: Wright, 142-171</b>
Oct. 29	<b>CONFERENCE 6 Is Buddhism True?</b>	<b>Session 1: Wright, 172-224</b>  <b>Session 2: Wright, 225-282</b>
Nov. 5	<b>CONFERENCE 7 Meditation, Buddhism, and Science</b>	<b>[Third Short Critical Essay due]</b> <b>Session 1: McMahan &amp; Braun, 1-46.</b> <b>Session 2: McMahan &amp; Braun, 47-61</b>
Nov. 12	Mid-term Break	<b>No class.</b>
Nov. 19	<b>CONFERENCE 8</b>	<b>Session 1: McMahan &amp; Braun, 62-83</b> <b>Session 2: McMahan &amp; Braun, 84-113 [D2L]</b>
Nov. 26	<b>CONFERENCE 9</b>	<b>Session 1: McMahan &amp; Braun, 114-132</b> <b>Session 2: McMahan &amp; Braun, 133-151</b>
Dec. 3	<b>CONFERENCE 10</b>	<b>Session 1: [Final Research Papers are due]</b> <b>McMahan &amp; Braun, 152-197</b> <b>Session 2: McMahan &amp; Braun, 198-211</b>