

Fall 2004

BUDDHISM

Religious Studies 164

INSTRUCTOR: Shigeo H. Kanda

OFFICE: Trinity Hall 244

OFFICE HOURS: MW 10:00 -11:00 am.
M 5:30- 6:30 pm.
T 9:00-11:00 am.

TELEPHONE: 898-4165 or 898-5661 (Dept. Office)
Email: skanda@csuchico.edu (no attachments please)

COURSE TIME: Section 1: MWF 12:00-12:50 pm (Butte 219)
Section 2: MWF 1:00-1:50 am (Butte 325)

REQUIRED TEXTS: Chen, Buddhism in China
De Bary, The Buddhist Tradition
Mitchell, Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience
Harvey, An Introduction to Buddhism

Recommended Texts:

Keown, Dictionary of Buddhism
Shambhala Dictionary of Buddhism and Zen
Powers, Concise Encyclopedia of Buddhism
Gach, Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Buddhism

Plus: Additional readings on reserve in library will be assigned..

GRADING: Letter grade A-F and Credit/No Credit

A. Two mid-terms and a final exam to be evaluated as equal in weight. Exams are multiple-choice and essays in format. No make-ups!!!
Do not plan your friend's wedding, parties, job interviews, or plans to enter nirvana on exam days. Stay healthy, exercise, get your flu shot, minimize boozing, eat well, accumulate puñna, and/or recite your mantras.

Mid-term dates to be announced later.

COMMON FINAL EXAM DATE:

Monday, December 13, 2003 @ 4:00-5:50 pm in Plumas Hall 205

Avoid final exam conflicts with other courses you are taking.

B. A semester (term) paper, minimum 5 pages in length (excluding cover-sheet, end-notes, and bibliography), typed, and double-spaced (maximum font-size is 12) which demonstrates a student's critical assessment of a Buddhist subject or issue.

Submit brief statement in writing for approval about your topic before submitting paper on due date .

PAPER DUE ON: December 8, 2003 (Wednesday).

C. Regular class attendance and discussions are required. Students are expected to attend class regularly. ***If you plan to cut classes frequently, dropped this course immediately.*** From time-to-time roll will be taken to verify regular attendance. Class participation is encouraged, so be ready to raise questions and express your" feelings" about the Buddhism as it relates to your understanding/perception of "religions."

D. You are required to attend 4 university-sponsored cultural events, preferably "Asian" in scope , during the semester. Part of your class participation requirement will be met when you hand in a written statement detailing each event you attended . I will dock your final grade, if you fail to turn in all two cultural events.

Due: December 8, 2003 together with semester paper.

RS 164 meets the general education requirements of area C, section 3. In light of this fact, this course will provide students with readings in primary sources. In addition, this course will fulfill not just one but all three of the sub-requirements of area C-3, which include the following: 1) a critical historical reading of the material under study (and involving several centuries of both theistic and non-theistic metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical thought); 2) an analytic study of several major problems in these areas that include reference to the history of these problems; and 3) attention to more than one major artistic, literary, or philosophical figure in relation to a significant issue of either current public or intellectual import (including biographical information, development of the problems dealt with, and critical appraisal of the figures' achievements).

You must take course for grade if you are applying it to General Education.
Course satisfies the Non-Western Studies requirement of General Education.

Students with Certified Disabilities:

Please notify instructor of any special needs relating to your disability within the first two weeks of the semester. We will make every reasonable effort to facilitate your success in this course. Please note that you may be required to show documentation of your disability.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction or "Pep Talk"

- A. The Indian antecedents of Buddhist symbols and concepts: The margas of Hinduism and the skill-in-means teaching of the Buddha
- B. The recovery of the original Buddhadharma. The "spirit" versus the "letter" or the Buddha's Dharma as interpretive issues. Buddhist Religion v/s Buddhist Religions.
- C. The Compassionate Buddha as the basis for Buddhist skill-in-means (*upaya*).
- D. Basic Buddhist concepts/symbols: *anatta*, *anitya*, *karma*, *paticcasamuppada*, *nibbana (nirvana)*, *prajna*, *vipassana*, etc.

II. The Rise and Development of Early Indian Buddhist Teachings

- A. The Buddhist Councils, Formation of the Buddhist Canons and Monastic Issues.
- B. *Abhidhamma* and Early Mahayana. Sthavira versus Mahasamghika debates over *Buddha*, *Dharma*, and *Samhga*.
- C. Madhyamika and Yogacara (Vijnanavada)
- D. Examples scriptural conflicts/debates: Vimalakirtinirdesa, Saddharmapundarika, Prajñaparamita, Pure-Land, Avatamsaka, etc.

III. Chinese Transformation of Indian Buddhism

- A. The religious-historical situation of China before Buddhism's advent ca. 2 BCE.-Taoism and Confucianism
- B. Buddhist-Taoist and Buddhist-Confucian reproaches and symbolic transformation: How "Chinese" is Buddhism ?

- C. The Confucian challenge: "Is Buddhism filial and ethical?"
- D. Chinese Buddhist Schools (Tsong): T'ien T'ai, Pure-Land, Hua Yen, and Ch'an (Zen).
- E. Buddhist existentialism and eschatology: "easy" versus "hard" paths to enlightenment-- T'an Luan, Tao Ch'o, and Shan Tao.
- F. The Degenerate Age of the Dharma (Buddhist Apocalypics).

IV. The Japanese Transformation of Indian, Chinese, and Korean Buddhism

- A. The character of Japanese Religions and Regent Shotoku's three flowers of Japanese culture.
- B. The 6 Nara Schools of Buddhism- Todaiji (The Grand Eastern Temple).
- C. Heian Buddhism-Gentry and/or Esoteric Buddhism. Tendai and Shingon Buddhism as "mountain Buddhism"(Hiei-san v/s Koya-san).
- D. Buddhism in a Degenerate Age (Mappo) : Popular Buddhism. Honen, Shinran, Nichiren, and Soto and Rinzai Zen Buddhism. Are these forms of Buddhism a radical break from Nara and Heian and Buddhisms?
- E. Korean Buddhism: Three Kingdoms Period (18 BCE-688 CE) and the Unified Sill Dynasty (669-918 CE) ; Son Buddhism (Ch'an); Hwaom (Hua Yen); and Chinul

V. The American Transformation of Buddhism

- A. Immigrants versus "White American" Buddhists.
- B. America as the source for a "New Buddhism?" Cf. Zen, Tibetan, Vipassana, etc. Immigrants versus White American Buddhist Converts

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Sri Bodhisattva Kanda

Reading Assignment I

Buddhism's Indian Religious Heritage and Basic Buddhadharma

Read:

India's Religious Heritage: Hinduism

Smith, Huston, The World's Religions, Chapter on Hinduism

Oxtoby, W., World Religions: Eastern Traditions, 2nd edition, pp.12- 67.
(Both books on reserve as an RS 5 listing under "Kanda").

Article on "Jainism" in Dictionary of Religion, edited by Jonathan Z. Smith
(On Reference Shelf : BL 31; H37; 1995)

Introducing Basic Buddhadharma:

Mitchell, Donald, Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience,
Introduction, Chapters 1- 3.

Harvey, Peter, An Introduction to Buddhism, Introduction, Chapters 1-3.

DeBary, Theodore, The Buddhist Tradition, Chapters 1-4.

SOME TERMS TO REVIEW AND REMEMBER

Hinduism

Karma (including “disinterested action”)
Samsara
Maya
Atman
Sruti
Smriti
Veda
Bhagavad Gita
Jati/Varna
Darsana
4 Ends/Aims of Life
4 Stages of Life (Ashramadharma) for “twice-born” males
3 Margas/Yogas (karma, jnana, and bhakti)
8 Steps of Raja Yoga
Upanishads/Vedanta
Brahman (Nirguna and Saguna)
Tat Tvam Asi
Sat chit ananda
Monism, monotheism, polytheism, and henotheism
Mahavira and Jainism
Avatar
Avidya
Sramana
Trimurti (Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva)
Shakti/Devi (plus examples: Durga, Kali, Lakshmi, etc.)

Buddhism

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Skandha | Madhyamaka |
| Anatta (p) | Mahayana and Hinayana |
| Arhat | Theravada |
| Bhikku (p) | Nirvana/ nibbana (p) |
| Bhikkhuni (p) | Nagarjuna |
| Buddha and Bodhisattva | Jataka |
| Paticcasamuppada (p) | parinirvana/painibbana (p) |
| dharma/dhamma (p) | Prajñaparamita |
| abhidhamma (p) | Pratimoksa/patimokkha (p) |
| dhyana | Sunyata |
| dukkha | Sutra/sutta (p) |
| karma/kamma (p) | Tripitaka/tipitaka (p) |
| puñña (p) | Vajrayana |
| Yogacara | Vipasyana/vipassana (p) |
| Vinaya | “4 Signs” |
| Tantra | Jainism |
| 4 Aryan (Noble) Truths | Maitreya |
| 6 rebirths | Bodhgaya and Deer Park (Sarnath) |
| Trikaya | Tusita (p) |
| Mt. Sumeru | Mantra, mudra, mandala |
| Mahayana Sutras (examples) | |