

Religion 340: Buddhism (Spring 2020)

Professor Luke Whitmore; lwhitmor@uwsp.edu

Office Hours: Wed. 1:30-5:30 and by appointment. (CCC 417 and, by arrangement, Zest).

Description

The worlds of Buddhism stretch in space and time from approximately the fifth century BCE in north India and western Nepal to the numerous Buddhist communities in Wisconsin today. This course will orient you to the diverse set of ideas, cultures, beliefs, and practices that make up the Buddhist world, and give you the tools to understand the diversity of Buddhisms today. In this course you will be asked, in many different ways, to view the world from perspectives radically different from your own, a skill essential for our times. What we do in class and what you do to prepare for class are both designed to facilitate this goal

Learning Outcomes

This course offers you the tools necessary to achieve the following outcomes (in ways that are specific to Buddhism):

- **GEP Humanities 1:** Read closely, think critically, and write effectively about texts or cultural artifacts that reflect on perennial questions concerning the human condition (such as the search for truth and meaning, the confrontation with suffering and mortality, or the struggle for justice, equality, and human dignity).
- **GEP Humanities 2:** Investigate and thoughtfully respond to a variety of ideas, beliefs or values held by persons in situations other than one's own.
- **GEP Global Awareness 1:** Identify and explain various components of a culture that is distinct from those found within the United States.
- **GEP Global Awareness 2:** Analyze how cultural similarities and differences are negotiated in ways that help shape the modern world.
- **RELIGIOUS STUDIES:** Demonstrate the ability to interpret, describe, and compare religious phenomena as they intersect with diverse historical, social, and cultural contexts.

Required Texts: For Rental

We are NOT reading these text rental books in their entirety.

The Experience of Buddhism (Strong)

The Life of Buddhism (ed. Reynolds and Carbine)

Required Texts: For Purchase

Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction by Damien Keown (**2nd edition**). ISBN-10: 0199663831
ISBN-13: 978-0199663835. **Note: Please be sure that you are purchasing the 2013 version of this book.**

Monkey: A Journey to the West, trans by David Kherdian (Shambhala, 2005) ISBN: 978-1590302583

Assessments and Requirements

Weekly Journal Entries: 15%

Class Participation and Preparation: 5%

Physical Class Attendance: 5%

Unit 1 Take-Home Test: 20%

Unit 2 Take-Home Test: 20%

Graded Online Discussion Posts: 10%

Book Review or Final Research Essay: 20% (approximately 1000 of your own words). Due during Finals.

Oral Presentation of Book Review or Final Research Essay: 5%.

Percentage to Letter Grade Conversion

A: 94-100, A-: 90-93, B+: 87-89, B: 83-86, B-: 80-82, C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72, D+: 67-69, D: 65-66, F: 64 or lower

Learning Accommodations

UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition during the semester where you need assistance, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (library) as soon as possible. DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or DATC@uwsp.edu. <https://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>

Written Assignments

If you are not able to turn in on time due to particularly extenuating circumstances, some flexibility may be possible. If this is the case, you must have asked and received permission from me no later than the day before the assignment is due. Without permission, a grade penalty will be assigned at my discretion or I may not allow you to submit.

Required Readings

If I do not provide photocopies of an assigned reading not in one of our books for one of our in-class meetings, you must print out the reading (you will find PDF versions on our Canvas site) and bring to class. Bring Keown, Strong, and *Life of Buddhism* to every in-class meeting.

Smart Phones

Tablets or laptops for the purposes of note-taking are fine, with permission. Please keep your your smart phones in your bags during class time. If smartphone usage distracts myself or the class it will impact your participation and preparation grade.

Attendance

Everyone is automatically entitled to one unexcused in-class absence. If you miss more than two physical classes or if you are not involved on Canvas for more than three weeks in a row we should meet in person to discuss how class is going. Please place a copy of any absence-related information (including emails to me) in the Absence-Related Info Assignment on Canvas.

1 or fewer unexcused absences (Excellent) = 90-100%

2 unexcused absences (Good) = 80-90%

3-5 unexcused absences (Poor) = 66-79%

More than 5 in-class absences of any kind = failure of class as a whole ***unless*** you and I meet in person and agree that it is possible for you to continue and succeed in the class. This option may require the completion of extra work. Absences will be excused only when the excuse is

provided (via email or in person) in advance of the class that will be missed. You should also be sure to upload a note/relevant information (including a copy of emails to me) into the “Absence-Related Info” Assignment on Canvas. Acceptable reasons for an excused absence are illness, family emergency, or school (not club) sponsored trip or athletic competition. If you miss class (excused or unexcused) you should complete the assignments, request and review notes from a colleague, and ***then*** ask me any questions you have about the material. ***It is not the professor’s responsibility to fill you in on what you missed if you were absent.***

Assignments

Assignments will change. Be sure to check Canvas before each assignment.

Student Conduct

I assume you have reviewed the following policies and guidelines:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CH17-UWSP-Updated2018.pdf>

<https://catalog.uwsp.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=422#section-1-communal-bill-of-rights-and-responsibilities>

Resources Regarding Academic Integrity

<https://libraryguides.uwsp.edu/plagiarism>

<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/AcademicIntegrityBrochure.pdf>

Emergency Response Guidance:

In the event of a medical emergency call 9-1-1 or use the closest Red Emergency Phone. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim.

In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure.

In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner.

Active Shooter/Code React – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Call 9-1-1 when it is safe to do so. Follow instructions of emergency responders. See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Procedures at uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.”