

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 3010 INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

DR. CHARLES S. PREBISH

Charles Redd Chair in Religious Studies

Office: 331 Old Main

Office Phone: 797-1529

E-Mail: charles.prebish@usu.edu; charles.prebish@jbeonlinebooks.org

World Wide Web:

<http://www.jbeonlinebooks.org>

Office Hours: W 9-11, or by appointment

Course Description

This course is intended to be a general survey of the historical development, basic doctrine, and practice of Hīnayāna, Mahāyāna, and Vajrayāna Buddhism. In each aspect of the course, the organizational structure of the presentations will focus on the "Three Jewels" of Buddhism: Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. That is to say, we will be interested in the historical details of Buddha's life and how they have been understood across cultures; the basic elements of his doctrinal teachings; and the manner in which his community of followers has practiced his teachings. We will also focus, at the conclusion of the course, on Buddhism's globalization and its adaptation to Western culture.

Required Texts

Damien Keown and Charles Prebish, Buddhism-The eBook (eBook, 3rd edition)

Charles Prebish, Buddhism-The American Experience (eBook)

How to Buy the eBooks

The eBooks may be purchased in one of two ways. You may go to the Journal of Buddhist Ethics Online Books website at www.jbeonlinebooks.org and order the books online by paying with a credit card. If you choose this option, the eBooks can be downloaded to your computer directly from the website. If you prefer, you may print out an order form from the website and mail it, with your check or money order, to the address indicated. You will then receive a CD-ROM with the eBooks on it by return mail.

Course Requirements

There will be two examinations and a final examination. Each examination will count 100 points. All exams will be essay in nature, and will offer the student a choice of questions to answer. Exam number 1 will be given at the end of week 6. Exam number 2 will be given at the end of week 14. Vocabulary Study Guides will be distributed before the first two examinations. Make-up examinations will be granted only for medical problems or family emergencies, and must be properly documented. Medical excuses offered at the conclusion of the course are **NOT** retroactive. If you have an ongoing medical or psychological problem, you must notify the professor as soon as the problem is identified. Notification of non-attendance for an examination must be filed prior to, or no later than one hour after,

the examination. Excuses such as oversleeping or failed alarm clocks are **NOT** considered valid excuses for missing an examination. Non-excused absences for examinations will yield a non-negotiable grade of "F" for that item.

Course Attendance

Each student should attend every class for which the student is scheduled and should be held responsible for all work covered in the courses taken. As a result, unannounced attendance will be taken at least five times during the semester. Each unexcused absence will result in a five-point deduction from the student's total score for the semester. Absences on days on which attendance was taken will only be accepted upon the presentation of a valid, documented excuse.

Grading

Overall course grades will be determined by your total performance on all graded course activities. Grades in Religious Studies 3010 **will not** be curved in any fashion, nor will there be any **extra credit** opportunities. The grading scale employed will be as follows:

A	93-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-92	C	70-76
B+	87-89	D	60-69
B	83-86	F	59 and below
B-	80-82		

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of all institution institutions of higher learning. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Please see the USU General Catalog for explicit descriptions of Academic Dishonesty. Any instances of Academic Dishonesty in this class will result in an automatic grade of "F."

Disability Access

The university encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by university policy or by state or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible.

Cell Phones

All cell phones must be turned off during the class period. Any cell phone that rings during the class session will result in a 5-point penalty for its owner.

Course Outline

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Week 1 <u>The Indian Background</u> Introduction to the Course Hinduism	Buddhism-The eBook, 14-24
Week 2 <u>Buddhist Beginnings</u> Life of the Buddha Early History of the Sangha	Buddhism-The eBook, 26-75,
Week 3 <u>Buddhist Unity</u> 4 Doctrines of the Early Buddhists	Buddhism-The eBook, 76-101
Week 5 <u>Buddhist Sectarianism</u> History of the Hīnayāna Sects Doctrinal Differentiation	Buddhism-The eBook, 120-140
Week 6 <u>Buddhist Community</u> Buddhist Monastic Life Buddhist Monastic Literature Buddhist Ethics	Buddhism-The eBook, 102-119, 333-357
Week 7 <u>The Rise of Mahāyāna</u> Historical & Literary Development Doctrines Common to all Mahāyānists	Buddhism-The eBook, 140-149
Week 8 <u>The Flowering of Mahāyāna</u> Mahāyāna Texts and Schools	Buddhism-The eBook, 150-17

Week 9 <u>Buddhist Meditation</u> 10 Theories and Techniques Hīnayāna vs. Mahāyāna Approach	Buddhism-The eBook, 178-208
Week 11 <u>Buddhism in Southeast Asia and Tibet</u> Historical & Literary Development Doctrinal Issues	Buddhism-The eBook, 209-231, 264-285
Week 12 <u>China, Korea, and Japan</u> Historical & Literary Development Doctrinal Issues	Buddhism-The eBook, 233-263
Week 13 <u>Buddhism and the West</u> 14 American Buddhism Social Engagement	Buddhism-The eBook, 286-306, 307-332 Buddhism-The American Experience, all
Week 15 <u>Conclusions</u> A Retrospective Look	Buddhism-The eBook, 358-375
<u>Films</u>	
Buddha Realms	
Lotus in the Fire	
Now I Know You	
The Heart of Being	
Becoming the Buddha in L.A.	