

**RELS 5314 Buddhism and Culture 佛教與文化**  
**Course Outline**

Instructor: Dr Tong Sau lin  
Second Semester 2023/2024      Time: Friday 7:00-9:30 pm  
Venue: ELB\_403

**Course Description**

For over twenty centuries, the slow and steady expansion of the Indian Buddhist civilization in different directions over the Asiatic continent has made the culture of India, at a particular stage, become inseparable from the history of the rest of Asia. Through historical analysis and theoretical enquires, this course introduces students to the academic study of Buddhist impact on the major beliefs, values, ritual practices, sacred writings and historical developments of the three major traditions in Asia, namely, Indian, Chinese and Japanese. Attention will be specially drawn on the role of Buddhism in developing and interacting with the domestic social institutions (political and economic), civilization and folklore in China. Our main goal is to investigate how these three traditions, from an immense treasury of Buddhist teachings, selectively incorporate those useful and practical factors into their own thoughts, beliefs, liturgies and social developments over the course of their long histories. The course will consist mainly of regular lectures on relevant topics and regular assigned readings. The medium of instruction will be Cantonese supplemented with Mandarin and English.

**Learning Outcomes**

※ Knowledge Outcomes:

Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:

- (1) enlarge and refine their understanding of the doctrines and notions in three Buddhist traditions: Indian, Chinese and Japanese;
- (2) appreciate the role of Buddhism in traditional cultures and in contemporary cultures;
- (3) describe how cultural values, rites, customs and institutions interact with religious beliefs.

※ Attitude Outcomes:

- (1) nurture a larger sensitivity to the contributing role of religions in human culture and history;
- (2) develop skills in analytical reading, formal writing, and critical thinking.

## Assessment Scheme

### (1) Presentation (40%)

1-3 students in a group to study a topic related to any theme in religious studies, or a particular religious tradition. Your study contains your discoveries, comments, reflections, responses, comparisons, and questions arising from the analysis of the selected topics. Students are also required to submit their presentation outlines at least one week prior to the date of presentation.

### (2) Final Paper (60%)

A term paper of substantial research will be decided early in the semester and teacher will monitor students' progress and teach them skills for independent research. In this final paper, students are required to demonstrate a proper command of essential knowledge delivered in the lectures and reading materials. Besides, they need to digest what they have learned and reconstruct all that into their ideas by a perspective of critical understanding.

The length of the paper should normally consist of about 4,000-5,000 words in Chinese or English (including citations and bibliography). The soft copy should be submitted via the VeriGuide (see details below), and the hard copy to the instructor's mail box on 3/F, Leung Kau Kui Building.

Submission deadline of soft copy to VeriGuide: 11:59 pm, April 29, 2024 (Mon).

Submission deadline of hard copy: May 3, 2024 (Fri).

Delayed submission of paper will result in grade deduction.

Task nature	Weight
<b>Presentation:</b>	40%
Group performance	20%
Individual performance	20%
<b>Final paper</b>	60%
<b>Total weight</b>	100%

## Learning Activities

Lecture (hr) in/out class	Class Attendance and Discussion (hr) in/out class	Reading (hr) in/out class	Final Paper (hr) in/out class
2.25	0.25	3	3
M	M	M	M

M: Mandatory Activity; O: Optional Activity

NA: Not Applicable

## Feedback for Evaluation

Throughout the course, students are welcome to give comments and feedback on class arrangement through emails or personal exchanges with the lecturer. Students are also invited to provide suggestions for enhancing teaching and learning effect, as well as reviews of their difficulties in taking the course. An end-of-term university-wide course evaluation will be conducted in class.

## Course Content and Schedule

Week 1: Course Introduction; The Historical and Early Context of Buddhism, The story of the Buddha (Jan 12)

Readings:

Lamotte, Etienne. "The Buddha, His Teachings and His Sangha". In Bechert & Gombrich, eds. *The World of Buddhism*, pp. 41-58;

The "Death and Parinirvāṇa of the Buddha". In John Strong, *The Experience of Buddhism: sources and interpretations*. Belmont. Calif. : Wadsworth Pub.

Co.,1995, pp. 45-50;

于凌波：《向知識分子介紹佛教》，Ch. 3。莆田：福建莆田廣化寺，1990。

Week 2: An Overview: The position of Buddhism in Indian and Chinese cultures; The personalities of Indian and Chinese cultures (Jan 19)

Readings:

Tan Chung & Geng Yinzeng, *India and China: Twenty Centuries of Civilizational Interaction and Vibrations*. ch. 4. New Delhi: Centre for Studies in Civilizations, 2005.

中村元著，林太、馬小鶴譯：《東方民族的思維方法》，臺北：淑馨，1991。

Week 3: Buddhism and caste system (Jan 26)

Readings:

Harold Coward, "Gandhi, Ambedkar, and Untouchability". Harold Coward ed, *Indian Critiques of Gandhi*. pp. 41-66. Albany: State University of New York Press. 2003.

尚會鵬：《種姓與印度教社會》，第一、二章，北京：北京大學，2001。

Week 4: Buddhism and non-violence (Feb 2)

Readings:

Ludwig Alsdorf, *The History of Vegetarianism and Cow-Veneration in India*. Trans. From German by Gal Patil, Revised by Nichola Hayton. London, NY: Routledge. 2010.

巴弟帕卡薩(Bodhipaksa)著，林珍如譯：《佛陀吃肉嗎？》，臺北：法鼓文化，

2004。

愚子：〈尊重生命，慈悲不殺〉，《五戒現代觀·上》，頁 1-58，北京：宗教文化，2004。

#### Week 5: Lunar New Year Vacation (Feb 9)

#### Week 6: Women in Buddhism (Feb 16)

##### Readings:

Ed. Peter N. Gregory & Susanne Mrozik, *Women Practicing Buddhism: American Experiences*. pp. 159-174. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2008.

釋恒清：《菩提道上的善女人》，臺北：東大圖書，1995。

#### Week 7: Buddhist translation in China (Feb 23)

##### Readings:

王鐵鈞：《中國佛典翻譯史稿》，北京：中央編譯，2006。

曹仕邦：《中國佛教譯經史論集》，頁 137-175，臺北：東初，1992(民 81)。

#### Week 8: Buddhism and domestic moral concepts (Mar 1)

##### Readings:

Prabodh Chandra Bagchi, *India and China: A Thousand Years of Cultural Relations*. ch. V. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 2008.

方立天：《中國佛教文化》，第九章及第十一章。

Y. V. Dahiya, *Hinduism and Buddhism in Perspective*. ch. 2. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 2008.

#### Week 9: Japanese Buddhist culture, Case study of Sokagakkai (Mar 8)

##### Readings:

Shoko Watanabe, *Japanese Buddhism; a critical appraisal*. pp. 111-126. Tokyo : Kokusai Bunka Shinkōkai (Japan Cultural Society), 1970.

張曼濤主編：《日韓佛教研究》，頁 15-37，臺北：大乘文化，1978(民 67)。

村上重良著，張大柘譯：《宗教與日本現代化》，頁 111-232，高雄：佛光，1993(民 82)。

楊曾文主編：《日本近現代佛教史》，第二章，杭州：浙江人民，1996。

#### Week 10: Buddhism and Food (Mar 15)

##### Readings:

Huang, Y., Ang, C.Y.W. "Vegetarian foods for Chinese Buddhists: Religious and philosophical bases of food choices" in *Food technology*, 1992, vol. 46, no.10, pp. 105-108.

林伯謙(1998)，〈北傳佛教與中國素食文化〉，《東吳中文學報》第 4 期，頁 93-138。

張萍，〈唐代的斷屠鈞〉，《中國典籍與文化》，2002(4)。

Week 11: Buddhism and folk culture; Zen Koan and humour (Mar 22)

Readings:

*Hinduism and Buddhism in Perspective*. ch. 5.

Miranda Shaw, *Buddhist Goddesses of India*. pp. 1-13. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 2006.

Youru Wang, *Linguistic strategies in Daoist Zhuangzi and Chan Buddhism : the other way of speaking*. London, chapters 7 & 10; New York : RoutledgeCurzon, 2003.

方立天：《中國佛教文化》，第十三章。

劉淑芬：〈林葬——中古佛教露屍葬研究之一〉，《中古的佛教與社會》，上海：上海古籍，2008。

周裕鍇著：《禪宗語言》。下篇：第三至五章。杭州：浙江人民出版社，1999。

Week 12: Good Friday (Mar 29)

Week 13: Thanatology and Death Education in Buddhism (Apr 5)

Readings:

Frank E. Reynolds, "Death as Threat, Death as Achievement: Buddhist Perspectives with Particular References to the Theravada." In Hiroshi Obayahsi ed., *Death and After Life: Perspectives of World Religions*. (Princeton, 1992): Chapter 11.

聖嚴法師：《歡喜看生死》。台北市：天下生活，2000。

Week 14: Group presentation (Apr 12)

Week 15: Group presentation (Apr 19)

### **Instructor's contact details**

Instructor: Dr. Tong Sau lin 唐秀連

Email: sltong@cuhk.edu.hk ; tongsaulin@hotmail.com

### **Academic honesty and plagiarism**

Each student must upload a soft copy of the completed final paper to the plagiarism detection engine VeriGuide, at the URL: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide>

He or she should hand in a hardcopy of the assignment to the instructor on or before the due date of submission, together with a signed receipt which contains a declaration of honesty issued by VeriGuide.

