

Buddhist Studies

Group in Buddhist Studies

The Group in Buddhist Studies is comprised primarily of faculty from the Departments of East Asian Languages & Cultures and South & Southeast Asian Studies. The group offers an interdisciplinary program of study. The program allows undergraduate students to complete a minor in Buddhist Studies. Students seeking a major with content related to Buddhism should check out the majors in either South & Southeast Asian Studies (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/south-southeast-asian-studies/>) or East Asian Religion, Thought & Culture (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/east-asian-religion-thought-culture/>).

Please see the minor tab for details about requirements and declaration.

Students with a strong interest in an area of study outside their major often decide to complete a minor program. These programs have set requirements.

General Guidelines

1. All minors must be declared before the first day of classes in your Expected Graduation Term (EGT), and for summer graduates, minors must be declared before the first day of Summer Session A.
2. All upper-division courses must be taken for a letter grade.
3. A minimum of four upper-division courses must be completed at UC Berkeley to fulfill the minor requirements.
4. To fulfill the minor requirements, upper-division courses must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.
5. Courses that fulfill the minor requirements may be applied toward the Seven-Course Breadth requirement for Letters & Science students.
6. No more than one upper division course may be used to simultaneously fulfill requirements for a student's major and minor programs.
7. All minor requirements must be completed before the last day of finals during the semester the student plans to graduate. If students cannot finish all courses required for the minor by then, they should see a College of Letters & Science adviser.
8. All minor requirements must be completed within the unit ceiling. (Please see the College Requirements tab for further information regarding the unit ceiling.)

Buddhist Studies Minor

Declaring

Students should review the requirements and complete the prerequisite. Upon completing the prerequisite, students may apply to declare the minor online (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpndhLT_VVId-B_d59jiN7IHFDjn-wptgmkRYIDBIZasPQQ/viewform?usp=sf_link). Please see the department's Minor website (<https://buddhiststudies.berkeley.edu/buddhist-studies/undergraduate-studies-cbs/>) for advice and the latest information related to the minor.

Requirements

Language Prerequisite

All students must complete two courses in a relevant Asian language. Available options include Sanskrit, Chinese (Mandarin or Classical), Tibetan, Mongolian, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Khmer, and Burmese.

Proficient students may take upper-division courses in the same language or start a new language at the lower-division level. It is important to note that courses fulfilling the language requirement do not count towards the upper-division course requirement.

Students with transfer credits in a related language may also meet this prerequisite, subject to approval from the undergraduate advisor.

Requirements

The minor in Buddhist Studies requires five upper-division courses. Notably, Buddhist Studies C50 may substitute for one of these five courses. Students must take three courses within the Department of Buddhist Studies. Additionally, two electives must be chosen from relevant courses offered by the Departments of Buddhist Studies, East Asian Languages & Cultures, South & Southeast Asian Studies, or History of Art.

Buddhist Studies Courses

Select three courses in Buddhist Studies		12
BUDDSTD 50	Introduction to the Study of Buddhism	4
BUDDSTD C11	Buddhist Thought in India [4]	
BUDDSTD C11	Tibetan Buddhism [4]	
	or BUDDSTD C11	
BUDDSTD C11	Tibetan Buddhism	
BUDDSTD C11	Buddhism and its Culture in Japan [4]	
BUDDSTD C11	Buddhism in China [4]	
BUDDSTD C11	Mongolian Buddhism [4]	
BUDDSTD C12	Buddhism on the Silk Road [4]	
BUDDSTD C12	Buddhism and the Environment [4]	
BUDDSTD C12	Buddhism in Contemporary Society [4]	
	or BUDDSTD C12	
BUDDSTD C12	Buddhism in Contemporary Society	
BUDDSTD C13	Zen Buddhism [4]	
BUDDSTD C13	Pure Land Buddhism [4]	
BUDDSTD C13	Mantric Traditions of Asia [4]	
BUDDSTD 137	Buddhist Art and Archaeology along the Maritime & Overland Silk Routes	4
BUDDSTD C14	Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts [4]	
BUDDSTD C14	Introductory Readings in Kanbun [4]	
BUDDSTD 150	The Origins and Development of Buddhist Art in South Asia [4]	
BUDDSTD C152	Buddhist Astral Science	4
BUDDSTD C152	Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism [4]	
	or BUDDSTD C152	
BUDDSTD C152	Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism	
BUDDSTD C158	Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy	4
BUDDSTD 190	Topics in the Study of Buddhism [4]	

Electives

Select two elective courses

BUDDSTD C50	Introduction to the Study of Buddhism or BUDDSTD 5 Introduction to the Study of Buddhism	4
BUDDSTD C113	Buddhist Thought in India	4
BUDDSTD C114	Tibetan Buddhism or BUDDSTD 1 Tibetan Buddhism	4
BUDDSTD C116	Buddhism in China or BUDDSTD 1 Tibetan Buddhism	4
BUDDSTD C117	Mongolian Buddhism	4
BUDDSTD C118	Buddhism in Modern China	4
BUDDSTD C120	Buddhism on the Silk Road	4
BUDDSTD C126	Buddhism and the Environment	4
BUDDSTD C128	Buddhism in Contemporary Society or BUDDSTD 1 Buddhism in Contemporary Society	4
BUDDSTD C130	Zen Buddhism or BUDDSTD 2 Buddhism in Contemporary Society	4
BUDDSTD C132	Pure Land Buddhism	4
BUDDSTD C135	Tantric Traditions of Asia	4
BUDDSTD 137	Buddhist Art and Archaeology along the Maritime & Overland Silk Routes	4
BUDDSTD C140	Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts	4
BUDDSTD C141	Introductory Readings in Kanbun	4
BUDDSTD C147	Introduction to Pali	4
BUDDSTD 150	The Origins and Development of Buddhist Art in South Asia	4
BUDDSTD C152	Buddhist Astral Science	4
BUDDSTD C154	Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism or BUDDSTD 1 Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism	4
BUDDSTD C158	Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy or BUDDSTD 1 Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism	4
BUDDSTD 190	Topics in the Study of Buddhism	4
CHINESE C116	Buddhism in China	4
CHINESE C118	Buddhism in Modern China	4
CHINESE C140	Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts	4
HISTART 134A	Topics in Buddhist Art and Architecture: Buddhist Temple Art & Architecture in Japan	4
HISTART 134B	Topics in Buddhist Art and Architecture: Buddhist Icons in Japan	4
HISTART 134C	Topics in Buddhist Art and Architecture: Buddhist Art in the Modern/Contemporary World	4
EA LANG C120	Buddhism on the Silk Road	4
EA LANG C126	Buddhism and the Environment	4
EA LANG C128	Buddhism in Contemporary Society	4
EA LANG C130	Zen Buddhism	4
EA LANG C132	Pure Land Buddhism	4
EA LANG C135	Tantric Traditions of Asia	4
EA LANG C152	Buddhist Astral Science	4
JAPAN C115	Buddhism and its Culture in Japan	4
MONGOLN C117	Mongolian Buddhism	4
SASIAN C113	Buddhist Thought in India	4
SASIAN C114	Tibetan Buddhism	4

TIBETAN C114	Tibetan Buddhism	4
TIBETAN C154	Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism	4

Buddhist Studies

Expand all course descriptions [+] Collapse all course descriptions [-]

BUDDSTD 39 Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 1.5 - 2 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.

Freshman/Sophomore Seminar: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1.5-2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final Exam To be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Freshman/Sophomore Seminar: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD 50 Introduction to the Study of Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2024 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2023
Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2022 Second 6 Week Session

This course will consider materials drawn from various Buddhist traditions of Asia, from ancient times to the present day. However, it is not intended to be a comprehensive or systematic survey; rather than aiming at breadth, it is designed around key themes such as ritual, image veneration, mysticism, meditation, and death. The overarching emphasis throughout the course will be on the hermeneutic difficulties attendant upon the study of religion in general, and Buddhism in particular.

Introduction to the Study of Buddhism: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Introduction to the Study of Buddhism: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C50 Introduction to the Study of Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

This introduction to the study of Buddhism will consider materials drawn from various Buddhist traditions of Asia, from ancient times down to the present day. However, the course is not intended to be a comprehensive or systematic survey; rather than aiming at breadth, the course is designed around key themes such as ritual, image veneration, mysticism, meditation, and death. The overarching emphasis throughout the course will be on the hermeneutic difficulties attendant upon the study of religion in general, and Buddhism in particular.

Introduction to the Study of Buddhism: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: EA LANG C50/S, SEASN C52

Introduction to the Study of Buddhism: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C113 Buddhist Thought in India 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

This course is an advanced introduction to the major teachings of Indian Buddhism and their philosophical elaborations. We will cover the core tenets attributed to the Buddha, and the later doctrinal and scholastic developments that turned Buddhism into one of the principal philosophical traditions of India. For this we will read select primary sources—in principle, extracts of the scriptures and later treatises—and academic articles and book chapters. Rather than offering a broad introductory survey of Buddhist traditions across space and time, this class is geared towards students who are already familiar with the basics of Buddhism and want to deepen their understanding of the principal teachings of Buddhism originating in India.

Buddhist Thought in India: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students who have passed S ASIAN C113 will not get credit for SASIAN C113.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8-8 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: SASIAN C113

Buddhist Thought in India: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD 114 Tibetan Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2018 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2016 10 Week Session, Summer 2016 Second 6 Week Session

This course is a broad introduction to the history, doctrine, and culture of the Buddhism of Tibet. We will begin with the introduction of Buddhism to Tibet in the eighth century and move on to the evolution of the major schools of Tibetan Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhist literature, ritual and monastic practice, the place of Buddhism in Tibetan political history and the contemporary situation of Tibetan Buddhism both inside and outside Tibet.

Tibetan Buddhism: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Tibetan Buddhism: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C114 Tibetan Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Spring 2020

This course is a broad introduction to the history, doctrine, and culture of the Buddhism of Tibet. We will begin with the introduction of Buddhism to Tibet in the eighth century and move on to the evolution of the major schools of Tibetan Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhist literature, ritual and monastic practice, the place of Buddhism in Tibetan political history, and the contemporary situation of Tibetan Buddhism both inside and outside of Tibet.

Tibetan Buddhism: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students who have passed S ASIAN C114 will not get credit for SASIAN C114.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: SASIAN C114/TIBETAN C114

Tibetan Buddhism: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C115 Buddhism and its Culture in Japan 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2021

This course provides a critical survey of prominent and other noteworthy expressions of Buddhist thought and culture in Japanese history. The Japanese experience of Buddhist teachings, practices and institutions, as well as aesthetic expressions in painting, sculpture, architecture, garden design, literature, and theatre will be examined against the backdrop of the transmission of all these forms of Buddhist culture from India to China to Korea to Japan. Special attention will also be given to the fusion of Buddhist and "native" Japanese sensibilities in theater (Noh, Kabuki, and Bunraku) and popular art such as ukiyo-e prints and manga.

Buddhism and its Culture in Japan: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: JAPAN C115

Buddhism and its Culture in Japan: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C116 Buddhism in China 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2019

This course is an introduction to the history of Buddhism in China from its beginnings in the early centuries CE to the present day. Through engagement with historical scholarship, primary sources in translation, and Chinese Buddhist art, we will explore the intellectual history and cultural impact of Buddhism in China. Students will also be introduced to major issues in the institutional history of Buddhism, the interactions between Buddhism and indigenous Chinese religions, and the relationship between Buddhism and the state. Previous study of Buddhism is helpful but not required.

Buddhism in China: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: CHINESE C116

Buddhism in China: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C117 Mongolian Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course covers the history of Mongolian Buddhism from its inception in the Yuan dynasty to the present. The importance of Mongolian Buddhism to the greater dharma lies not only with the ways of its priests but also with the means of its patrons, the Mongol aristocracy, in forging a distinctive tradition in Inner Asia and disseminating it throughout the world. While maintaining a historical thread throughout, this course will examine in detail some of the tradition's many facets, including Mongolian-Buddhist politics, the politics of incarnation, the establishment of monasteries, economics, work in the sciences, astral science and medicine, ritual practice, literature, sculpture and painting, music and dance, and more.

Mongolian Buddhism: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: MONGOLN C117

Mongolian Buddhism: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C118 Buddhism in Modern China 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2020

Modern Chinese Buddhism emerged from a variety of reactions to the challenges posed by modernity. The course aims at introducing students to the ways in which Buddhists in China have engaged and continue to engage with a modern society and a globalized world. The course will follow the trends of Chinese Buddhism from the early twentieth century down to the most recent developments in the present. In exploring modern constructions of Buddhism in China, we will distinguish between modernism and modernity, and investigate how Chinese Buddhists introduced reforms and innovations, while also attempting to maintain continuity with traditional ideals and modes of practice.

Buddhism in Modern China: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: CHINESE C118

Buddhism in Modern China: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C120 Buddhism on the Silk Road 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

This course will discuss the social, economic, and cultural aspects of Buddhism as it moved along the ancient Eurasian trading network referred to as the "Silk Road". Instead of relying solely on textual sources, the course will focus on material culture as it offers evidence concerning the spread of Buddhism. Through an examination of the Buddhist archaeological remains of the Silk Road, the course will address specific topics, such as the symbiotic relationship between Buddhism and commerce; doctrinal divergence; ideological shifts in the iconography of the Buddha; patronage (royal, religious and lay); Buddhism and political power; and art and conversion. All readings will be in English.

Buddhism on the Silk Road: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Also listed as: EA LANG C120

Buddhism on the Silk Road: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C126 Buddhism and the Environment 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2011, Fall 2009, Spring 2008

A thematic course on Buddhist perspectives on nature and Buddhist responses to environmental issues. The first half of the course focuses on East Asian Buddhist cosmological and doctrinal perspectives on the place of the human in nature and the relationship between the salvific goals of Buddhism and nature. The second half of the course examines Buddhist ethics, economics, and activism in relation to environmental issues in contemporary Southeast Asia, East Asia, and America.

Buddhism and the Environment: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One lower-division course in Buddhist Studies or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: EA LANG C126

Buddhism and the Environment: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD 128 Buddhism in Contemporary Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2015 10 Week Session, Summer 2015 First 6 Week Session

A study of the Buddhist tradition as it is found today in Asia. The course will focus on specific living traditions of East, South, and/or Southeast Asia. Themes to be addressed may include contemporary Buddhist ritual practices; funerary and mortuary customs; the relationship between Buddhism and other local religious traditions; the relationship between Buddhist institutions and the state; Buddhist monasticism and its relationship to the laity; Buddhist ethics; Buddhist "modernism," and so on.

Buddhism in Contemporary Society: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: von Rospatt

Buddhism in Contemporary Society: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C128 Buddhism in Contemporary Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

A study of the Buddhist tradition as it is found today in Asia. The course will focus on specific living traditions of East, South, and/or Southeast Asia. Themes to be addressed may include contemporary Buddhist ritual practices; funerary and mortuary customs; the relationship between Buddhism and other local religious traditions; the relationship between Buddhist institutions and the state; Buddhist monasticism and its relationship to the laity; Buddhist ethics; Buddhist "modernism," and so on.

Buddhism in Contemporary Society: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: von Rospatt

Also listed as: EA LANG C128/S, SEASN C145

Buddhism in Contemporary Society: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C130 Zen Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2013, Spring 2010

This course will introduce students to the Zen Buddhist traditions of China and Japan, drawing on a variety of disciplinary perspectives (history, anthropology, philosophy, and so on). The course will also explore a range of hermeneutic problems (problems involved in interpretation) entailed in understanding a sophisticated religious tradition that emerged in a time and culture very different from our own.

Zen Buddhism: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One lower division course in Asian religion recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Sharf

Also listed as: EA LANG C130

Zen Buddhism: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C132 Pure Land Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2019, Fall 2017

This course will discuss the historical development of the Pure Land school of East Asian Buddhism, the largest form of Buddhism practiced today in China and Japan. The curriculum is divided into India, China, and Japan sections, with the second half of the course focusing exclusively on Japan where this form of religious culture blossomed most dramatically, covering the ancient, medieval, and modern periods. The curriculum will begin with a reading of the core scriptures that form the basis of the belief system and then move into areas of cultural expression. The course will follow two basic trajectories over the centuries: doctrine/philosophy and culture/society.

Pure Land Buddhism: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required, with common exam group.

Instructor: Blum

Also listed as: EA LANG C132

Pure Land Buddhism: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C135 Tantric Traditions of Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2013, Spring 2010

The emergence of the tantras in seventh and eighth-century India marked a watershed for religious practice throughout Asia. These esoteric scriptures introduced complex new ritual technologies that transformed the religious traditions of India, from Brahmanism to Jainism and Buddhism, as well as those of Southeast Asia, Tibet, Mongolia, China, Korea, and Japan. This course provides an overview of tantric religion across these regions.

Tantric Traditions of Asia: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Dalton

Also listed as: EA LANG C135/S, SEASN C135

Tantric Traditions of Asia: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD 137 Buddhist Art and Archaeology along the Maritime & Overland Silk Routes 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018

The main aim of this course is to provide a multi-disciplinary approach by exploring the origins, development and diffusion of Buddhist art and archaeology along the maritime and overland trade routes chronologically and geographically through the combined study of archaeological records (excavations, pottery, glass, seals, coins, etc.) and key religious texts and epigraphy. This course will attempt to show how the spread of Buddhism from South Asia to Southeast Asia is closely connected with the growth of the maritime and overland networks based on trade that facilitated the movement of Buddhist merchants, travelling monks and teachers.

Buddhist Art and Archaeology along the Maritime & Overland Silk Routes: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Buddhist Art and Archaeology along the Maritime & Overland Silk Routes: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C140 Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2020, Spring 2016, Spring 2014

This course is an introduction to the study of medieval Buddhist literature written in classical Chinese. We will read samples from a variety of genres, including early Chinese translations of Sanskrit and Central Asian Buddhist scriptures, indigenous Chinese commentaries, philosophical treatises, and sectarian works, including Chan (Zen koans). The course will also serve as an introduction to resource materials used in the study of Chinese Buddhist texts, and students will be expected to make use of a variety of reference tools in preparation for class. Readings in Chinese will be supplemented by a range of secondary readings in English on Mahayana doctrine and Chinese Buddhist history.

Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Chinese 110A; or one semester of classical Chinese. Prior background in Buddhist history and thought is helpful, but not required

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: CHINESE C140

Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C141 Introductory Readings in Kanbun 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2018

Introductory reading class focusing on premodern texts written in Kanbun, the Japanese way of reading and writing Classical Chinese.

The first half focuses on the orthography and syntax of Kanbun, primarily using examples from military texts from the medieval period. The second half focuses on writings considered artistic, religious (Buddhist), literary, historical, biographical, or ritualistic in nature, including snapshots of doctrinal statements by influential thinkers in the Buddhist tradition. In that Kanbun is Chinese in format but was nearly always read in Classical Japanese word order, this fulfills the Japanese-major requirement of a second semester of Classical Japanese.

Introductory Readings in Kanbun: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 120. One semester of classical Japanese. Prior background in Buddhist history and thought is helpful, but not required

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Blum

Also listed as: JAPAN C141

Introductory Readings in Kanbun: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C147 Introduction to Pali 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022

This seminar introduces Pali grammar, paleography, and basic canonical and commentarial

genres for those with previous training in Sanskrit. Our focus will be on building reading skills

with Roman-script texts as well as Pali manuscripts in several Southeast Asian scripts housed in campus library collections.

Introduction to Pali: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Also listed as: SSEASN C147

Introduction to Pali: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD 150 The Origins and Development of Buddhist Art in South Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Rather than offering a comprehensive survey, this course deals with select themes that shed light on the origins, development and diffusion of Buddhist art chronologically and geographically through a combined study that considers the archaeological record (excavations, coins, etc.), key religious texts and epigraphy. Typical themes will be the early notion of aniconism and the evolution of iconic art (Buddha and bodhisattva images); the depiction of Jatakas and other narratives in reliefs and painting; the cave sculptures of the Western Deccan; tantric art, temples and monasteries; the art, archaeology and architecture of South India and Sri Lanka; Indic Buddhist monuments in South-East Asia such Bagan in Burma, Borobudur, and Angkor.

The Origins and Development of Buddhist Art in South Asia: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

The Origins and Development of Buddhist Art in South Asia: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C152 Buddhist Astral Science 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

This course studies the purview of astral science under Buddhist dominion. Here it is at once promoted for promulgating Buddhist world order and repudiated for begetting the suffering-inducing physical universe, a warped vessel of ceaselessly turning stars that the Buddhist dharma must transcend. The course begins with the part astral science plays in genesis, the creation of Buddhist world order. It then covers the science's central aspects, celestial systems, spatial orientation, time reckoning, the making of a calendar, and publication of an almanac. Thereafter, it treats the science's outgrowth into interrelated forms of Buddhist propaganda manifest as divination, magic, medicine, ritual, scripture, and iconography.

Buddhist Astral Science: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: EA LANG C152

Buddhist Astral Science: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD 154 Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2013 First 6 Week Session

Tibetan Buddhists view the moment of death as a rare opportunity for transformation. This course examines how Tibetans have used death and dying in the path to enlightenment. Readings will address how Tibetan funerary rituals work to assist the dying toward this end, and how Buddhist practitioners prepare for this crucial moment through tantric meditation, imaginative rehearsals, and explorations of the dream state.

Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Dalton

Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C154 Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2014

Tibetan Buddhists view the moment of death as a rare opportunity for transformation. This course examines how Tibetans have used death and dying in the path to enlightenment. Readings will address how Tibetan funerary rituals work to assist the dying toward this end, and how Buddhist practitioners prepare for this crucial moment through tantric meditation, imaginative rehearsals, and explorations of the dream state.

Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students receiving credit for S ASIAN C154 will not get credit for SASIAN C154.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Dalton

Also listed as: SASIAN C154/TIBETAN C154

Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD C158 Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023

This is an introduction to Buddhist philosophy, extending from its origins (as preserved in the early s#tra literature), down through its evolution into multiple competing philosophical traditions (Abhidharma, Madhyamaka, Yog#c#ra, Pram##av#da, and so on). We will explore Buddhist approaches to issues in epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, language, and ethics. One theme running through the course will be radical skepticism; we will explore how Buddhist philosophers questioned not only the existence of an enduring or essential self but also the existence of an external (mind-independent) world, and how their analyses impacted their understandings of meaning in language, their accounts of the nature and function of consciousness.

Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: There are no formal requirements, but a prior course in either philosophy or Buddhist studies is recommended

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for BUDDSTD C158 after completing BUDDSTD 158. A deficient grade in BUDDSTD C158 may be removed by taking BUDDSTD 158.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Philosophy C158/Buddhist Studies C158

Also listed as: PHILOS C158

Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD 190 Topics in the Study of Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session

This course will focus on specific themes, developments, and issues in the study of Buddhism. The course is intended to supplement our regular curricular offerings, and the content will change from semester to semester.

Topics in the Study of Buddhism: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Some prior study of Buddhism or Asian culture is recommended

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Topics in the Study of Buddhism: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD 198 Directed Group Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Small group instruction not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Directed Group Study: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing

Credit Restrictions: Enrollment is restricted; see the Introduction to Courses and Curricula section of this catalog.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Directed Group Study: Read Less [-]

BUDDSTD 199 Independent Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022

Independent study in topics not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Independent Study: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing

Credit Restrictions: Enrollment is restricted; see the Introduction to Courses and Curricula section of this catalog.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Independent Study: Read Less [-]