

**The UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**Religious Studies 323 L01  
Mahāyāna Buddhism  
Course Outline Fall 2012**

Instructor: Chien Y. Hsu  
Office: SS1304  
Phone: 403-220-5612 Email: [cyhsu@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cyhsu@ucalgary.ca)  
Class Time: MWF 12:00-12:50pm  
Location: ST064  
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00pm or by appointment

**Required Textbooks**

Paul Williams. *Mahāyāna Buddhism, The Doctrinal Foundation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. London: Routledge, 2009.

Additional short readings will be posted on Blackboard.

**Course Description**

This course will acquaint students with the beliefs and practices of Mahāyāna Buddhism in India, China, Tibet and Japan. In this course, students will examine the cultural, historical, and philosophical contexts of these traditions through lectures and assigned readings.

**Learning Outcomes**

This course provides students the opportunity to develop a wide range of critical and practical skills necessary for reflective thinking, communication of ideas, and ethical reasoning. Over and above gaining an understanding of the Mahāyāna Buddhism of India, Tibet, China and Japan, this course challenges students to reflect upon and assess how we and those we study organize, live in, and relate to Mahāyāna Buddhism. It challenges students to identify and to call into question the presuppositions, central concepts, agendas, and cultural biases of both the scholar and the subjects of our inquiry. The analytical and self-reflective skills emphasized in this course will find application in the bulk of courses offered at the university as well as in life outside the academic setting.

**Course Requirements**

**I. Tests**

Students will write two tests (midterm and final) each worth 30% of the final grade. The midterm will be 50 minutes and held on October 15. The final exam will be Registrar scheduled. The tests are not cumulative. Students will be tested on their understanding of the key concepts presented in the texts, lectures, or films. The format of the exams consists of two sections. In section A (40%), participants must correctly define 20 key terms. In section B (60%), students must provide a brief answer (3-4 paragraphs) to each of the four short essay questions given on the test.

## **II Short Research Paper**

- (a) A short research paper of not more than 2,500 words (6-8 pages, double-spaced, including bibliography and note) should be submitted at the final day of the class (December 07). The short research paper is worth 30% of the final grade.
- (b) Outline to indicate contents, methodology, and proposed Bibliography of the research paper should be submitted on November 02, 2012 and is worth 10% of the final grade.
- (c) The students should consult a reference book on how to compose a research paper before attempting to write the paper. The Chicago Manual of Style or the MLA Style Sheet is highly recommended.
- (d) Other details of the research paper will be announced and discussed in the class.

### **Policy Regarding Missed Requirements**

Tests and deadline of the research paper are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. a medical or counsellor's certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons) missed requirements will be awarded an "F".

This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity on the part of each student as well as to uphold the principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class.

Although there is no formal policy for class attendance, students are encouraged to attend all classes in order to take full advantage of the course.

### **Grading Scale**

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme, standardized within the Department of Religious Studies:

A+	100 - 96	A	95.9 - 90	A-	89.9 - 85
B+	84.9 - 80	B	79.9 - 75	B-	74.9 - 70
C+	69.9 - 65	C	64.9 - 60	C-	59.9 - 55
D+	54.9 - 53	D	52.9-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

### **Integrity of Student Work & Plagiarism**

The University of Calgary Calendar states:

*Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge. Knowledge is cumulative and further advances are predicated on the contributions of others. In the normal course of scholarship these contributions are apprehended, critically evaluated, and utilised as a foundation for further inquiry. Intellectual honesty demands that the contribution of others be acknowledged. To do less is to cheat. To pass off contributions and ideas of another as one's own is to deprive oneself of the opportunity and challenge to learn and to participate in the scholarly process of acquisition and development of knowledge. Not only will the cheater or intellectually dishonest individual be ultimately his/her own victim but also the general quality of scholarly activity will be seriously undermined. It is for these reasons that the University insists on intellectual honesty in scholarship. The control of intellectual dishonesty begins with the individual's recognition of standards of honesty expected generally and compliance with those expectations.*

*With respect to student work in a course, it is the responsibility of the instructor to specify the academic requirements of the course.*

Intellectual dishonesty and plagiarism are serious offenses, the penalty for which may be:

- a) *reduction of the grade on the assignment, test, or examination;*
- b) *reduction of the final grade;*
- c) *failure of and expulsion from the course; or*
- d) *expulsion from the University.*

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the General Academic Regulations, Grading Policy and Integrity of Student Work in the University of Calgary Calendar.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

### **Blackboard Help**

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: [http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6\\_1/student/bbls\\_r6\\_1\\_student/digital\\_drop\\_box.htm](http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbls_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm).

### **Gnosis**

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [gnosis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

### **Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative**

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

### **Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at [www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints). Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **Safewalk**

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.

## Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule

- 9/10: Introduction  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp.1~7
- 9/12: The beginning of Buddhism  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp.7~11
- 9/14: The early Buddhist teaching  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp.7~11
- 9/17: The sectarian (*abhidharma*) Buddhism  
The Sthavira School  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp.11~17
- 9/19: The sectarian (*abhidharma*) Buddhism  
The Mahāsaṅghika  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp.17~20
- 9/21: The origin of Mahāyāna  
(Mahāyāna and laity)  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 21~26
- 9/24: The origin of Mahāyāna  
(Mahāyāna before “Mahāyāna”)  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 27~35
- 9/26: The origin of Mahāyāna  
(On the origin of Mahāyāna )  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 36~44
- 9/28: Mahāyāna sūtras  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp.45~47
- 10/01: *Prajñāpāramitāsūtras*  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp.47~50  
Reading on blackboard: *Āgama* and *Prajñāpāramitāsūtra*
- 10/03: Absence of Self and Emptiness  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp.51~55
- 10/05: *Mādhyamika* I  
(The establishment)  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp.63~71
- 10/08: Thanksgiving Day (No lectures)

- 10/10: *Mādhyamika* II  
(Three *Mādhyamika* critiques)  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 72~ 75
- 10/12: *Mādhyamika* III  
(The two truths)  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 75~ 83
- 10/15: Midterm test
- 10/17: *Yogācāra* I  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp.84~87
- 10/19: *Yogācāra* II  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 88~91
- 10/22: *Yogācāra* III  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 92~96
- 10/24: *Yogācāra* IV  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 96~103
- 10/26: The *tathāgatagarbha* I  
Reading on blackboard: The Origin of the *Tathāgatagarbha* Teaching
- 10/29: The *tathāgatagarbha* II  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 104~108
- 10/31: The *tathāgatagarbha* III  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 104~118
- 11/02: The later *Madhyamaka* and *Yogācāra* (*TERM PAPER OUTLINE DUE*)  
Reading on blackboard
- 11/05: The *Madhyamaka* and *Yogācāra* in Tibet  
Reading on blackboard
- 11/07: Tibetan Buddhist system of doxographies  
Reading on handout
- 11/09: The Eastern Asia tradition  
Reading on blackboard: The development of Chinese Buddhism
- 11/10~13: Reading days (No lectures)

- 11/15: The Chan (Zen) tradition I  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 129~ 131.
- 11/19: The Chan (Zen) tradition II  
Reading on blackboard
- 11/21: Lotus-sūtra tradition in China and Japan I  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 149~164.
- 11/23: Lotus-sūtra tradition in China and Japan II  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 165~173.
- 11/26: The Huayuan tradition I  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 132~140.
- 11/28: The Huayuan tradition II  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 141~148.
- 11/30: The Pure-land traditions in China  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp.238~253
- 12/03: The Pure-land traditions in Japan  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 231 ~268.
- 12/05: The cult of Bodhisattvas  
Reading: Paul Williams, pp. 218~230.
- 12/07: Review for final exam (*TERM PAPER DUE*)
- 12/10~19: *FINAL EXAM* (scheduled by the registrar)