

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

**COURSE OUTLINE WINTER 2015**

Course: Religious Studies 323 LEC 1 Mahāyāna Buddhism

Class Time: 12:00-12:50 M W F

Instructor: Chien Y. Hsu

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Telephone: 403-220-5612

Location: MS 217

Office Hours: M W 1:00~2:00 pm 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 Desire2Learn (D2L).

**Course Description**

This course will acquaint students with the beliefs and practices of the 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.

**Core Competencies**

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 the 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 registrar-scheduled final exam) **each worth 30%** of the final grade. The midterm will be 50 minutes and held on February 13. The final exam will be held on the day scheduled by the registrar. 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 paragraph) 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 notes) should be submitted at the final day of the class (April 15, 2015). 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 March 13, 2015 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 is highly recommended.
- (d) Other details of the research paper will be announced and discussed in the class.

## Grading Scale

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Letter	GPA	Percentage	Description From Calendar
A+	4.0	96-100	<i>Excellent</i> – superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.
A		90-95	
A-	3.7	85-89	
B+	3.3	80-84	<i>Good</i> – clearly above average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete.
B	3.0	75-79	
B-	2.7	70-74	
C+	2.3	65-69	<i>Satisfactory</i> – basic understanding of the subject matter.
C	2.0	60-64	
C-	1.7	55-59	
D+	1.3	53-54	<i>Minimum Pass</i> – marginal performance, generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in same subject.
D	1.0	50-52	
F	0	Under 50	<i>Fail</i> – unsatisfactory performance or failure to complete assignments.

## 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.

**Expectations for student conduct in this course:**

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. Students should respect the instructor and other students in the class.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

Laptops are allowed to be used in the class but not any type of cell phones.

**Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

**References and Bibliography:**

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

**Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>). If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

**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 Student Accessibility Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility 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.

**Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help**

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

**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>.

**Classics Student Society**

Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [classsoc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:classsoc@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

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

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@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.