

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
Mahāyāna Buddhism

RELS 323 L01- Winter 2020, Tues-Thurs 12:30-1:45 p.m., SS 541

(University of Calgary Policy about course outlines may be found from Section E of the *University Calendar*)

REVISED OUTLINE DUE TO COVID-19 Situation

Course	Mahāyāna Buddhism
Time	Online, lectures posted for 12:30-1:45 p.m. Tuesday/Thursday
Instructor	James B. Apple
Office Hours	Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. or by appointment
Office	SS 532
E-mail	jbapple@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403-220-8267

Required Text(s):

Williams, Paul. *Mahāyāna Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations*. (2009) 2nd Edition. Routledge.

Thurman, Robert A.F., translator. (1987) *The Holy Teaching of Vimalakīrti: A Mahāyāna Scripture*. Philadelphia: Pennsylvania State University Press.

Apple, James B. (2019). *Atiśa Dīpaṃkara: Illuminator of the Awakened Mind*. Boulder : Shambhala.

Course Description: Self-consciously styled as the “Greater Vehicle” among Buddhist traditions, Mahāyāna streams of Buddhism have had a profound impact on the shape of Buddhist formations in India, throughout Asia, and beyond. This course will examine, in a selected survey format, the classification, cultural formations, literature, and systematic thought of Mahāyāna doctrines and practices utilizing a range of interdisciplinary methods and approaches. The course focuses on the problems of classification and definition; the “new metaphysics” of emptiness; controversies in the conception of Buddhahood; the centrality of compassion; visualization and other meditation techniques; the role of faith and the practices of lay people; and the development of the bodhisattva ideal.

Online elements for this course: **Desire2Learn [D2L]**

Our course web site will list important announcements, electronic readings, important links to web pages, and downloadable documents. Remaining examinations will be completed online through **D2L**. The Term Paper will be uploaded to **Dropbox on D2L**.

Course Requirements and Weighting:

1. Regular preparation of reading assignments and lecture notes.
2. Midterm examination, 30 points (30%). **Completed**
3. Second Examination, online D2L, 20 points (20%).
4. Third Examination, online D2L, 20 points (20%).
5. Research paper, via D2L dropbox, 30 points (30%).

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required pass/fail
February 27, 2020	Midterm Exam	30 Completed	
March 24, 2020	Second Exam	20	
April 9, 2020	Third Exam	20	
April 14, 2020	Term Paper	30	

Missed Exams: If you cannot write a test on the scheduled date due to a sudden illness or emergency, you must contact me or the Department office as soon as possible. Transfer of weight from a missed test or unwritten essay to another course requirement will not be allowed in this course. All students must complete the course requirements to complete the course.

Grading

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 Classics and Religion:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

Course Requirements explained:

1. Examinations: All remaining examinations for this course are completed online. The examinations are NOT “open book”. Students are not permitted to consult any course materials while completing any of the examinations. Each examination will be available for a 14-hour period on the date assigned for the test. Examinations are timed, requiring students to complete the test within a specified time limit. It is important for students to take extra care to ensure that they have access to dependable power and internet service. Do not rely on your computer battery as your only power source when taking the exam. Plug in your computer power cord. “My battery died” will not be considered an acceptable reason for failing to complete the test. For students who experience interruption to internet service while taking the exam, please contact the instructor as soon as internet service is restored. In the meantime, document your location, and the date and time of the interruption to internet service. If a student cannot complete an exam during the 14-hour period on the date assigned for the test due to interruption to internet service or computer malfunction, the student must notify the instructor of the interruption to internet service within 24 hours after the test period via email. Students that require a makeup exam are required to arrange

a time with the instructor.

IMPORTANT: Course content is **NOT** available on the day of an examination. Students need to ensure that they have completed preparation for the test before the day of the test.

Reviewing Tests:

The online tests for this course display the student's final score. Examinations answers are not displayed.

2. Midterm examination (30 points = 30%) [Completed]: This exam may consist of true/false, multiple choice, or short identification and essay questions, with the possibility of some objective questions, as well. Some time in the preceding class will be devoted to review. **THE DATE OF THE MIDTERM IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27.**

3. Second examination (20 points = 20%) and Third examination (20 points = 20%): The format will be the same as for the midterm exam.

4. Research Paper (of approximately 1800 words) worth 30% of the final course grade, is due on Thursday, **April 14 by 4:00 p.m. via Dropbox on D2L.** The requirement is an 1800 word essay reflecting detailed research and critical reflection on a specific topic pertaining to Mahāyāna Buddhist formations in Asia. Paper topics are open: you are free to choose any topic within Early Buddhist developments (specific texts, practices, historical figures work best). **PAPER PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS AND POSTED ON THE Desire to Learn (D2L) COURSE SITE.** Late papers will be penalized 10% of the value of the assignment for each day the paper is late. If you have any questions, please contact me immediately.

Recording of the lectures is not permitted, except by special permission (see Tape or Video Recording of Lectures, *University of Calgary Calendar*).

E-mail policy: E-mails will be responded to within 24 hours during weekdays. I do not reply to email messages that are poorly written, unclear or disrespectful. Emails must be sent from a University of Calgary (@ucalgary.ca) email address.

Academic Honesty: *Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contributions of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarisms on any assignments or examinations are regarded as extremely serious academic offenses. Students are advised to consult pp 49-52 of the University Calendar which provides a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.*

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. 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, or librarian staff.

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

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.

Electronic Device Policy: Please review the university policy regarding specific permission and forms required for recording of lectures:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>

Scientific evidence demonstrates that use of cellphones lowers student achievement as well as damages the brain (see links below). Use of cellphones are not permitted while attending class. Cell phones must be turned off and not taken out in class for texting or any other purposes. The in-class wearing of earphones or similar devices is not permitted. Computers should not be used for watching videos or playing computer games.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/mental-wealth/201402/gray-matters-too-much-screen-time-damages-the-brain>

<http://blog.chron.com/sciguy/2013/12/study-students-who-use-cellphones-more-get-lower-grades/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/memory-medic/201303/why-writing-hand-could-make-you-smarter>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at [as-carts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts@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 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 for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at 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. 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.

REVISED Tentative Lecture material and Reading Schedule on Following Page

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March. 17-19	Madhyamaka	<p>T: Williams, pp. 63-83</p> <p>[D2L] Nāgārjuna's <i>Root Verses on Madhyamaka</i>, ch. 1, 2, 6, 24</p> <p>[D2L] "Nāgārjuna": Supplemental readings.</p> <p>Th: Williams,</p> <p>[D2L] Nāgārjuna's <i>Root Verses on Madhyamaka</i>, ch. 1, 2, 6, 24</p> <p>Atiśa, <i>Illuminator</i> (Apple, Chapters 5, 10)</p>
March. 24-26	<p>***<i>Second Examination: Vimalakīrti, online D2L, Tuesday, March 24</i>***</p> <p>Cittamātra</p>	<p>T: Second Examination (20%)</p> <p>Th: Mind-only Williams, pp.84-102</p>
March 31-April 2	<p>Buddha nature & the Flower Garland</p> <p>Lotus Sutra</p>	<p>T: Williams, pp. 103-128; Williams, pp. 129-148</p> <p>Th: Williams, pp. 149-171</p>
April 7-9	<p>Buddhas in Mahāyāna Buddhism</p> <p>***<i>Third Examination: online D2L, Tuesday, April 9</i>***</p>	<p>T: Williams, pp. 172-186</p> <p>Th: Third Examination (20%)</p>
April 14	<p>***TERM PAPER DUE (30%) Thursday, April 14***</p>	<p>T: Term paper to be uploaded to Dropbox on D2L</p>