



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2022**

COURSE NUMBER: Religious Studies 323 L01

COURSE NAME: Mahāyāna Buddhism

CLASSROOM LOCATION: Web based

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Class notes and lectures posted by 2:00 p.m. every Tuesday/Thursday

INSTRUCTOR NAME: James B. Apple

UCALGARY EMAIL: jbapple@ucalgary.ca

UCALGARY PHONE: 403-220-8267

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL 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.

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT:

University of Calgary Policy about course outlines may be found in Academic Regulations, Section E, of the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-1.html>

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.

COURSE DELIVERY:

The course online content will be delivered in an *asynchronous context* (i.e., students complete on their own time such as discussion boards, watching videos, etc.). This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (**D2L**). To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the *asynchronous* learning tasks using the **D2L** learning environment.

Course Organization and Requirements: The course is organized on a lecture/discussion basis following the topics and readings listed in the tentative schedule (see below). Students are expected to keep up with the reading schedule. Each student is required to write three exams and a term paper. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, identification of terms and concepts, and/or short answer questions. Students should consult the posted lecture notes and required textbooks to become familiar with concepts utilized in the course. The parameters for the term paper will be posted and distributed on the course D2L website.

Core Competencies: Students will gain university level skills in the study and understanding of Asian religion and culture with specific attention to Mahāyāna Buddhist culture and history. Students will become familiar with the history and culture of Mahāyāna forms of Buddhism in South, Central, and East Asia including how Buddhist religious traditions grew out of, and reflects, unique historical, geographical, and cultural conditions.

Required Readings, Textbooks, and Learning Materials (available at the UCalgary Bookstore)

Williams, Paul. 2009. *Mahāyāna Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations*. 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 Dīpaṅkara: Illuminator of the Awakened Mind*. Boulder: Shambhala.

The D2L course web site will list important announcements, electronic readings, important links to web pages, and downloadable documents.

***LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

Principles and guidelines for supplementary fees that may be associated with additional technology requirements for courses can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/calendar-scheduling/supplementary-fees.

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

*** For online, remote or blended courses:**

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Tentative Lecture Material and Reading Schedule:

The following lecture schedule is subject to change. It may be modified if it appears to the instructor that the material is not being adequately covered in the allotted time. The amount of time devoted to particular topics is contingent on the instructor's sense of what deserves greater emphasis as the course progresses. **Remember, to be aware of changes occurring in the schedule and to receive any crucial information regarding the course, attention to course announcements on D2L is necessary.** Keep in mind that all lectures constitute material that may appear on examinations. Remember, too, that it is not possible for the instructor to explain all the material contained in the readings—it is up to students to be familiar with the readings regardless of the extent to which the assigned texts are discussed in course lectures.

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule (Note D2L= Desire to Learn Link)

Week 1 Jan 11, 13	Introduction Mainstream Buddhisms	Tuesday: Introduction to the course. Thursday: Williams, pp. 1-18 Mainstream Buddhist Schools The Classification “Mahāyāna”
Week 2 Jan 18, 20	Mainstream Buddhisms	Tuesday: Williams, pp. 18-30 Thursday: How the Mahāyāna Began
Week 3 Jan 25, 27	Mahāyāna: Beginnings & Formations	T: Williams, pp.30-44 Mediums and Messages Th: Williams, “Monks in the Mahāyāna” : Ugra-paripṛcchā Wisdom and Compassion: Kāśyapaparivarta
Week 4 Feb 1, 3	Perfection of Wisdom	T: Williams, pp. 45-62 [D2L] The Development of Prajñāpāramitā

		Th: Heart Sūtra [D2L]
Week 5 Feb 8, 10	Vimalakīrti	T: Thurman, <i>The Holy Teaching of Vimalakīrti</i> , pp. 1-63. Th: <i>Thurman, The Holy Teaching of Vimalakīrti</i> , pp. 64-102.
Week 6 Feb 15, 17	Vimalakīrti ***EXAMINATION ONE***	T: <i>Thurman, The Holy Teaching of Vimalakīrti</i> , pp. 64-102.
Term Break, No classes Feb 22, 24		
Week 7 March 1, 3	Madhyamaka	T: Williams, pp. 63-83 [D2L] Nāgārjuna's <i>Root Verses on Madhyamaka</i> , ch. 1, 2, 6, 24 [D2L] "Nāgārjuna": Supplemental readings. Th: Williams, [D2L] Nāgārjuna's <i>Root Verses on Madhyamaka</i> , ch. 1, 2, 6, 24 <i>Atiśa, Illuminator</i> (Apple, Chapters 5, 10)
Week 8 March 8, 10	Yogācāra/Vijñānavāda/Cittamātra	T: Williams, pp.84-102 Th:
Week 9 March 15, 17	Yogācāra/Vijñānavāda/Cittamātra ***EXAMINATION TWO***	T: Williams, pp.84-102 Th:
Week 10 March 22, 24	Buddha nature & the Flower Garland	T: Williams, pp. 103-128 The Concept of Buddha Nature

		<p>The Lions Roar of Queen Śrīmālā</p> <p>Th: Williams, pp. 129-148</p> <p>“Manifestation of the Tathāgata”</p>
<p>Week 11</p> <p>March 29, 31</p>	<p>Compassion</p>	<p>T: Williams, pp. 149-171;</p> <p>Lotus Sūtra, chapter 1</p> <p>Th: Williams, pp. 172-186.</p>
<p>Week 12</p> <p>April 5, 7</p>	<p>Buddhas in Mahāyāna Buddhisms</p> <p>***Term papers due Tuesday, April 5***</p> <p>Path of the Bodhisattva</p>	<p>T: Williams, pp. 172-186.</p> <p>On the three bodies of a Buddha</p> <p>Th: Williams, pp. 187-208</p> <p>Atiśa, <i>Illuminator</i>:</p> <p>Chapter 4, On the Awakening Mind</p> <p>Chapter 9, <i>Bodhisattva's Jewel Garland (Bodhisattvamanyāvalī)</i></p> <p>Chapter 11, <i>Lamp for the Path to Awakening (Bodhipathapradīpa)</i></p> <p>Chapter 12, <i>Stages of the Path to Awakening (Bodhipathakrama)</i></p>
<p>Week 13</p> <p>April 12</p>	<p>Faith, devotion, Buddhas, and Bodhisattvas</p> <p>***EXAMINATION THREE***</p>	<p>T: Williams, pp. 209-243</p> <p>“Celestial Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.”</p> <p>Th:</p> <p>Tārā, the Saviouress</p> <p>Atiśa, <i>Illuminator</i> (Apple, Chapter 13)</p>

*****THIS COURSE WILL NOT HAVE A REGISTRAR-SCHEDULED FINAL EXAMINATION*****

***ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS**

Course Requirements and Weighting:

1. Preparation of reading assignments, and regular, wakeful attention to the **D2L course web site**.
2. Examination #1, 25 points (25%) = Early Mahāyāna, Perfection of Wisdom, and Vimalakīrti
3. Examination #2, 25 points (25%) = Madhyamaka and Yogācāra
4. Term Paper, 35 points (35%) = Term Paper on topics within Mahāyāna forms of Buddhism
5. Examination #3, 15 points (15%) = Buddha-nature and Buddhas

Schedule of Exams and Essays	Evaluation	Required pass/fail
1. Exam #1 online D2L, Thursday, February 17 Access to Exam #1 on D2L from 8:00 a.m., Feb. 17 until 8:00 a.m., Feb. 28.	Exam #1 (25%)	yes
2. Exam #2, online D2L, on Thursday, March 17 . Access to Exam #2 on D2L from 8:00 a.m., March 17 until 8:00 a.m., March 18.	Exam #2 (25%)	yes
3. TERM PAPER, upload to Dropbox on D2L, due Tuesday, April 5, 2022 .	Term Paper (35%)	yes
4. Exam #3, online D2L, on Tuesday, April 12 .	Exam #3 (15%)	yes

***EXAMINATIONS**

The 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 24-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 24-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 test 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 Examinations:

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

Weighting of Examinations:

Assessment weighting for the examinations identified above will not be changed to accommodate student requests. This policy is in accordance with University of Calgary Calendar Academic Regulations E.1 (e) Course Outlines, "Weighting may not be changed during the term or at the time of grade reporting."

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS*

If you cannot write a test on the scheduled date due to a sudden illness or emergency, you must contact the instructor in writing within 24 hours to discuss options to submit and/or make-up for that component. Transfer of weight from a missed test to another course requirement will not be allowed in this course. Students must complete all course components to complete the course.

***GRADING**

The following link provides information on the University of Calgary's undergraduate grading system.
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

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

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. **In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades.**

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING TERM PAPER WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Please submit the term paper writing assignment electronically via the dropbox in D2L. The term paper may be submitted in Word or PDF format. Assignments should have a file name as follows: "First Name Last Name RELS 319 Term Paper" (e.g., Jonathan Smith RELS 319 Term Paper). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm on their due date. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of the submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

CONDUCT

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. A midterm evaluation may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

Include information related to relevant policies and supports for teaching and learning as indicated below.

***ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

***ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). 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.

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/.

***RESEARCH ETHICS (if applicable)**

If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

***INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

***FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

***COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

***MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

***Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

***Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

***Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

*** FREE EXPRESSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

The University of Calgary is a public comprehensive academic and research university that supports free expression. Free expression means the freedom to investigate, comment, listen, gather, challenge and critique subject to the law and, on University of Calgary campuses, to University policies and procedures related to the functioning of the University. For more information on Free Expression at the University of Calgary see:

<https://ucalgary.ca/provost/strategic-initiatives/statement-free-expression>

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

***OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk