

RELS351

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : RELS351 **Title :** Buddhism

Length of Course : 8

Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: This course is a study of Buddhism's major historical movements and cultural expressions. Students examine the origin and development of the teachings, rituals and institutions of the Buddhist tradition in South Asia since the beginning of the common era to the present day. Course topics include the life and times of Siddhartha Gautama ("the Buddha"); implantation in East Asian societies of the various forms of Buddhism that developed in South Asia; development of new Buddhist "schools" in East Asia; relationships between Buddhism and the other religious traditions in East Asia; relationships between Buddhism and the State; early Buddhist community; popular Buddhist piety and social movements; development of the three main branches of the Buddhist tradition, and the role of women in Buddhism.

Course Scope:

The course will outline the basic life and teachings of the Buddha, and the various branches of Buddhism to be found in the world today.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Outline the traditional life and essential teaching of the (historical) Buddha.
2. Discuss the major schools of Buddhism and how they spread to various parts of Asia.
3. Discuss issues common to the establishment and development of the Buddhist tradition(s), in India, Tibet, China and Japan.
4. Describe the reactions to Buddhism by the societies in which it was implanted.
5. Discuss the transformation of Buddhist teachings, practices, institutions, etc., as they were assimilated by the host countries.
6. Recognize that religions and ideologies not only form civilizations, but directly influence international

events.

7. Cite possible examples of the role of Buddhism, within the framework of the events reported in modern society.

Outline

Week 1: Different Paths of Buddhism: Introduction

Learning Outcomes

- *Religious Context of Primitive Buddhism
- *Historical Context of Nikaya Buddhism
- *Later Historical Spread of Buddhism and Early Buddhist Literature and Worldview

Required Readings

Go to the website: https://apus.libguides.com/er.php?course_id=6259

The Different Paths of Buddhism, by Carl Olson

- Pages 1-20, Crows and Monks

World Religions - Belief, Culture, and Controversy

- Read an article of your choice

Assignments

Read Lecture 1: Go over assigned readings

Deliverables:

- Introduction Form
- Library Course Guide Review Forum

Week 2: Narratives: Elephant and the Buddha

Learning Outcomes

- *Story
- *Birth Narrative
- *Renunciation of the World
- *Awakening Narrative
- *Teaching Career

Required Readings

Go to the website: https://apus.libguides.com/er.php?course_id=6259

The Different Paths of Buddhism, by Carl Olson

- Pages 21-32: The Elephant and the Buddha

World Religions - Belief, Culture, and Controversy

- Read an article of your choice

Assignments

Read Lecture 2: Go over assigned readings

Deliverables:

- Week 2 Forum
- Current Issues Essay;

Week 3: Core Beliefs

Learning Outcomes

- *Narratives of Death
- *The Dhamma and Authority of the Buddha
- *Dhamma and Language
- *Cult of the Buddha in the Pali Tradition

Required Readings

Go to the website: https://apus.libguides.com/er.php?course_id=6259

The Different Paths of Buddhism, by Carl Olson

- Pages 32-42, Narratives of Death

World Religions - Belief, Culture, and Controversy

- Read an article of your choice

Assignments

Read Lecture 3: Go over assigned readings

Deliverable:

- Week 3 Forum

Week 4: The Narrative Path of the Buddha

Learning Outcomes

- *The Four Noble Truths
- *The Eight Fold Path

Required Readings

Go to the website: https://apus.libguides.com/er.php?course_id=6259

The Different Paths of Buddhism, by Carl Olson

- Pages 45-57, The Narrative Paths of the Buddha

World Religions - Belief, Culture, and Controversy

- Read an article of your choice

Assignments

Read Lecture 4: Go over assigned readings

Deliverables:

- Week 4 Forum

Week 5: The view of No-self

Learning Outcomes

*No-self

*The Goal of Nibbana

Required Readings

Go to the website: https://apus.libguides.com/er.php?course_id=6259

The Different Paths of Buddhism, Carl Olson

- Pages 58-67, The view on Non-self

World Religions - Belief, Culture, and Controversy

- Read an article of your choice

Assignments

Read Lecture 5: Go over assigned readings

Deliverables:

- Week 5 Forum

- Thesis Statement

Week 6: Ethical and political implications

Learning Outcomes

*Ethical and Political implications of Buddhist narratives

*Buddhist Ethical Guidelines

*Action and Intention

*Issues of Kingship, War and Peace

Required Readings

Go to the website: https://apus.libguides.com/er.php?course_id=6259

The Different Paths of Buddhism, by Carl Olson

- Pages 68-81, Ethical and Political implications of Buddhism

World Religions - Belief, Culture, and Controversy

- Read an article of your choice

Assignments

Read Lecture 6: Go over assigned readings

Deliverables:

- Week 6 Forum

Week 7: Environmental Ethical Issue

Learning Outcomes

- *Environmental issues
- *Ethical issues of Life and Death
- *Sexual Ethical Issues

Required Readings

Go to the website: https://apus.libguides.com/er.php?course_id=6259

The Different Paths of Buddhism, by Carl Olson

- Pages 81-87, Environmental Ethical Issues

World Religions - Belief, Culture, and Controversy

- Read an article of your choice

Assignments

Read Lecture 7: Go over assigned readings

Deliverables:

- Week 7 Forum

- Final Reserach Paper

Week 8: Alms takers, Donations and Donors

Learning Outcomes

- *Tales of Beggars and Donors
- *Organization of the Sangha
- *Lifestyle of a Monk
- *Meditation

Required Readings

Go to the website: https://apus.libguides.com/er.php?course_id=6259

The Different Paths of Buddhism, by Carl Olson

- Pages 88-108, The Tales of Beggars and Donors

World Religions - Belief, Culture, and Controversy

- Read an article of your choice

Assignments

Read Lecture 8: Go over assigned readings

Deliverables:

- Week 8 Forum

Evaluation

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forums	55.00 %
Week 1 Introduction	6.11 %
Week 1 Library Guide	6.11 %
Week 2	6.11 %
Week 3	6.11 %
Week 4	6.11 %
Week 5	6.11 %
Week 6	6.11 %
Week 7	6.11 %
Week 8	6.11 %
Assignments	20.00 %
Week 2 - Current Issues Essay	10.00 %
Week 5 - Thesis Statement and Outline	10.00 %
Final Research Paper	25.00 %
Week 7 - Final Research Paper	25.00 %

Materials

Book Title: The Different Paths of Buddhism: A Narrative-Historical Introduction-E-book available in the APUS Online Library; hard copy not available from the APUS Bookstore, please try other sources.

Author: Olson, Carl

Publication Info: Rutgers University Press

ISBN: 9780813535623

Book Title: To find the library e-book(s) req'd for your course, please visit <http://apus.libguides.com/er.php> to locate the eReserve by course #. You must be logged in to eCampus first to access the links.

Author: N/A

Publication Info: N/A

ISBN: N/A

Site Name

Website URL/Address

Huston Smith	http://www.hustonsmith.net/
The Buddha Net	http://www.buddhanet.net/
Dalai Lama	http://www.dalailama.com/
Zen	http://www.zenguide.com/
BBC Religion	http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/
Sacred Texts	http://www.sacred-texts.com/
Hindu Net	http://www.hindunet.org/
Gandhi	http://www.mkgandhi.org/
Why Religion Matters – H. Smith	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obel1ea5ox4&feature=relatec

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow MLA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted as part of coursework to the Humanities Department.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on forum assignments in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources (please see details regarding forum communication below).

Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and

assignments. ***Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.***

Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc). See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure the all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor.

Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- "Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says "I agree" is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
- Students must post a response to the weekly forums prompt and post the required number of replies to other students – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations on number of replies and word count requirements.
- The main response to the forum is due mid-week – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations. Late main response posts to a forum may not be accepted without prior instructor approval.
- Replies must be posted in the week due and replies after the end of the each week may not be graded.

Quizzes and Exams

- Quizzes and exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Each quiz/exam is accessible only once. Once a quiz/exam is accessed, you will not be able to access it

again if you disconnect. Therefore, allocate time to complete your quiz. Weekly quizzes must be submitted by midnight Eastern Time, Day 7 of the assigned week. Late quizzes or exams will not be accepted without prior instructor approval.

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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