

*RE 355 BUDDHISM*  
*Fall 2001*

**Description:** This course will examine the historical, social, psychological and spiritual phenomena that constitute Buddhism. It is intended as both a general survey of Buddhism, its history and development, and a reflection on contemporary movements and developments in Buddhist thought and actions.

**Required Texts:**

Chappell, David. *Buddhist Peacework*. Boston: Wisdom Books, 1999.  
His Holiness The Dalai Lama. *Ethics for the New Millennium*. New York: Riverhead Books, 1999.  
Kotler, Arnold. *Engaged Buddhist Reader*. Berkeley: Parallax Press, 1996.  
Hairston, Maxine, John Ruszkiewicz, and Christy Friend. *The Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Longman, 1999.

**Excerpts from:**

Rahula, Walpola. *What the Buddha Taught*.  
Hahn, Thich Nhat. *Being Peace* and *The Miracle of Mindfulness*.  
Unno, Taitetsu. *River of Fire, River of Water*.  
Tatsuguchi, Roland K. *Shin Buddhism: A Brief Overview*.  
And other authors...

**The Student will be able to:**

- Discuss why the study of Buddhism is part of the religious studies program at this University and how it contributes to a deeper appreciation of my own journey of faith and meaning.
- Discuss the historical development of Buddhism as it moves from India to Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia, and China, Tibet, Korea, Japan, and the West.
- Discuss the story of the Buddha through contrasting imagery in India, Tibet and the West.
- Discuss the Theravada teaching on the Four Noble Truths and "Mental Culture."
- Discuss the development and meaning of the Mahayana teachings on *śūnyā*, *bodhisattva*, and *karuna*.
- Compare and contrast the Theravada and Mahayana visions of meditation and daily life.
- Compare and contrast the teachings and perspectives of Ch'an (Zen) Buddhism and Pure Land Buddhism.
- Discuss His Holiness the Dalai Lama and his reflections on personal and social ethics.
- Discuss the teaching and practice at the center of Engaged Buddhism and Buddhist work for peace and compassion for all beings.

your books. Your paper must include your insights into the reality of **diversity** in the study of the Buddhism and religion in general. Remember, diversity issues also arise because of who we are as student/learners and because of the complex demographics of the communities we research and serve. (50%)

- o Other than the required texts for the course, at least three of the sources must be in book form. The others may be articles or internet based resources (10%) All text must be cited and citations must be done as outlined in *Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers*.
- o Paper is typewritten, double-spaced, with excellent presentational qualities, and written in a style consistent with the *Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers*. (10%)

**Grade Calculation:**

Attendance: more than three unexcused absences may result in one grade reduction. Excessive absences may result in failure of the course.

Essays:	30%	300 points total
Presentations:	20%	200 points total
Class Project:	20%	200 points
Final Exam:	20%	200
Participation:	10%	100 points
(may include in class writing and discussions)		

Your grade is calculated using the following scale:

A: 93-100%; B: 83-92%; C: 73-82%; D: 63-72%; F: 0-62%

**It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any specific special needs or difficulties so that appropriate strategies for completion of work may be mutually developed.**

Class Schedule  
Fall 2001

Dr. David Coleman  
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DATE	Topic	Reading
August 27	Introduction	
August 29	Film: India, Empire of the Spirit Cultural frames for the development of Buddhism in India	
August 31	Ahimsa and Non-Violence Values at the heart of a tradition	Colette Caillat, "Ahimsa," from <i>The Encyclopedia of Religion</i> .  Mark Juergensmeyer, "Nonviolence,"

DATE	Topic	Reading
		from <i>The Encyclopedia of Religion</i> .
September 3	Labor Day	
September 5	Film: Transformations of Myth Through Time: Buddhism	Charles S.J. White, "The Way to Enlightenment: Buddhism," in <i>Study Guide: Joseph Campbell, Transformations of Myth Through Time</i> (San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovonovich, Publishers: 1990) 79-86.
September 7	Quest for the Buddha Film: Little Buddha	"The Legend of the Buddha Shakyamuni," in <i>Buddhist Scriptures</i> . 34-66.  David J. Kalupahana, "Life of the Buddha," chap. in <i>A History of Buddhist Philosophy</i> (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1992), 22-29.
September 10	Quest for the Buddha Film: Little Buddha	Kenneth Kramer, "The Traceless Buddha," from <i>World Scriptures: An Introduction to Comparative Religions</i> (New York: Paulist Press, 1986), 73-95.
September 12	Quest for the Buddha Film: Little Buddha	His Holiness the Dalai Lama, <i>Freedom in Exile: The Autobiography of the Dalai Lama</i> (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1990), 1-2, 6-13, 203-208, 267-271. Reproduced in <i>Religious Worlds: Primary Readings in Comparative Perspective</i> , ed., Department of Religious Studies, DePaul University (Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co.:1991), 107-115.
September 14	Quest for the Buddha Film: Little Buddha  Library Assignment: Find two reviews of the film. Read them and bring them to class	Roland Tatsuguchi, "Origins of Buddhism," in <i>Shin Buddhism: A Brief Overview</i> (Honolulu: Shinshu Kyokai Mission, October 16, 1994), 1-8.  Thich Nhat Hahn, "Three Gems," "The Heart of Practice," in <i>Being Peace</i> (Berkeley: Parallax Press, 1996), 11-30; 45-58.
September 17	Class Discussion on the Quest for the Buddha	

DATE	Topic	Reading
<p>Essay Assignment: You will write an essay entitled "The Quest for the Buddha." Within this essay you will do the following: Introduction, which will include your thesis for answering the question in light of the readings, movie, movie reviews, and class discussion. You will have seven paragraphs in which you compare and contrast each author's approach and insights into the quest for the meaning and person who is the Buddha. You will have an additional 2-3 paragraphs on the insights the film provided and how the film as a medium of communication helps us to participate in the quest for the Buddha. Finally, you will have one to two paragraphs relating the insights you gained from the reviewers and the class discussion into the meaning of the Buddha. Finish with a conclusion which draws the points together and which relates the quest to your own experience. Draft due September 21.</p>		
September 19	The First Noble Truth	Recommend: Walpola Rahula, <i>What the Buddha Taught</i> (On reserve in library)
September 21	The Second Noble Truth	
September 24	The Third Noble Truth	
September 26	The Fourth Noble Truth	
September 28	The Rise of the Mahayana	John M. Koller and Patricia Koller, "Rise of the Mahayana," chap. in <i>A Sourcebook in Asian Philosophy</i> (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1991), 247-261.
October 1	The Way of the Bodhisattva	Richard H. Robinson and Willard L. Johnson, "Soteriology and Pantheon of the Mahāyāna," chap. in <i>The Buddhist Religion: A Historical Introduction, Third edition</i> (Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing Co.), 74-90.
October 3	Meditation: Theravada	Walpola Rahula, "'Meditation' or Mental Culture: <i>Bhāvanā</i> " and "What the Buddha Taught and the World Today," chapters in <i>What the Buddha Taught</i> (New York: Grove Press, Inc., 1959), 67-89.
October 5	Meditation: Mahayana	Thich Nhat Hahn, "The Essential Discipline," "The Miracle is to Walk on Earth," and "A Day of Mindfulness," chapters in <i>Miracle of Mindfulness</i> (Berkeley: Parallax Press), 1-32.
October 8	Discoverer's Day	

DATE	Topic	Reading
<p>Essay: Construct a two part essay: the first part is a narrative form that details the experiences of the Theravada and Mahayana Buddhists as they explored the meaning of the Buddha in light of their day, their culture, and the development of the <i>dharma</i> and <i>sangha</i>. Here you will give your account of the historical and cultural contexts of Buddhists, their teachings, and communities. The second part will use your analysis to compare and contrast the Theravada and Mahayana vision of Buddhism today. What is similar? Dissimilar? What converges in the writing of Walpola Rahula and Thich Nhat Hahn? Conclude with some reflections on diversity and meaning in Buddhism and relate this reflection to your own experience. This essay is due October 15. 4-5 pages, typewritten, double-spaced.</p>		
October 10	Faith and Buddhism	<p>D.T. Suzuki, "The Buddhism of Faith in India," chap. in <i>On Indian Mahayana Buddhism</i>, ed. Edward Conze (New York: Harper Torchbooks, Harper &amp; Row, Publishers: ), 129-146. Takamaro Shigaraki, "Buddhist Path for All Human Beings," chap. in <i>An Introduction to Shin Buddhism</i> (Honolulu: Buddhist Studies Center, 1988).</p>
October 12	Intuitive Insight and Enlightenment	<p>Kenneth Kramer, "Zen's Original Face," from <i>World Scriptures: An Introduction to Comparative Religions</i> (New York: Paulist Press, 1986), 142-169. D.T. Suzuki, "An Interpretation of Zen – Experience," chap. in <i>Studies in Zen</i>, ed. Christmas Humphreys (New York: Dell Publishing Co., 1955), 61-84.</p>
October 15	The Foundation of Ethics	<p>His Holiness the Dalai Lama, <i>Ethics for the New Millennium</i> (Berkeley: Riverhead Books, 1999), 1-78.</p>
October 17	Discussion	
October 19	Discussion	
October 22	Ethics and the Individual	<p>His Holiness the Dalai Lama, <i>Ethics for the New Millennium</i> (Berkeley: Riverhead Books, 1999), 79-158.</p>
October 24	Discussion	
October 26	Discussion	
October 29	Ethics and Society	<p>His Holiness the Dalai Lama, <i>Ethics for the New Millennium</i> (Berkeley: Riverhead Books, 1999), 159-237.</p>

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
October 31	Discussion	
November 2	Discussion	
November 5	Engaged Buddhism Being Peace Touching Peace	Arnold Kotler, ed., <i>Engaged Buddhist Reader</i> (Berkeley: Parallax Press, 1996), 1-56
November 7	Discussion	
November 9	Compassion in Action	Arnold Kotler, ed., <i>Engaged Buddhist Reader</i> (Berkeley: Parallax Press, 1996), 57-134
November 12	Discussion	
November 14	The Greening of Self	Arnold Kotler, ed., <i>Engaged Buddhist Reader</i> (Berkeley: Parallax Press, 1996), 135-190
November 16	Discussion	
November 19	Community For a Future to be Possible	Arnold Kotler, ed., <i>Engaged Buddhist Reader</i> (Berkeley: Parallax Press, 1996), 191-252
November 21	Discussion	
November 22-23	Thanksgiving Holidays	
November 26	Building Inclusive Communities	David W. Chappel, ed., <i>Buddhist Peacework: Creating Cultures of Peace</i> (Boston: Wisdom Publications, 1999), 39-60; 69-80.
Class Project is due!		
November 28	Discussion	
November 30	Rebuilding Moral Cultures	David W. Chappel, ed., <i>Buddhist Peacework: Creating Cultures of Peace</i> (Boston: Wisdom Publications, 1999), 81-102; 113-138.
December 3	Discussion	
December 5	Buddhist Peace Principles	David W. Chappel, ed., <i>Buddhist Peacework: Creating Cultures of Peace</i> (Boston: Wisdom Publications, 1999), 199-231.
December 7	Discussion	
December 10-13	Final Exams	Time: TBA