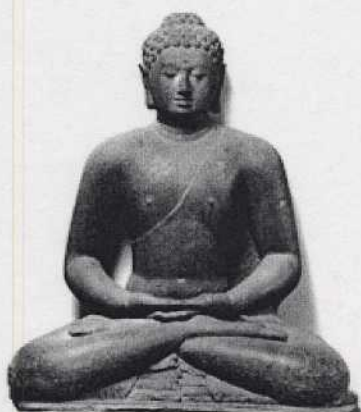


SE '01
Rms

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY of Honolulu

Religion 35590 - Buddhism (3)

Accelerated Evening Undergraduate Session
April 2 - June 11, 2001

Robert Mitchell
Instructor

Prerequisite: RE 103 (or by permission of the Instructor)
E-mail: RE35590@aol.com
Web Page: <http://www.iqthost.com/rmitchell/RE35590>
Web Board: <http://adad.chaminade.edu:8080/~10>

SYLLABUS

Course Description An ahistoric exploration of Buddhism with emphasis upon an examination of fundamental core tenets and their expression through engagement with the modern world. Students gain an indepth understanding of each of the Four Noble Truths and examine the expression of these concepts as interpreted through contemporary Engaged Buddhism movement(s). Emphasis is placed upon the examination of the involvement of Engaged Buddhism in the peace movement, environmental activism, human rights, gender equity, ethnic concerns, and health care. The course will utilize Internet resources and online technologies to guide the student's academic learning.

Course Objectives Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Discuss the philosophical foundations of Buddhism including the Four Noble Truths, the Eightfold Noble Path, and the early Buddhist Attitude;
- Discuss each of the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism and describe the manner in which these concepts are interpreted by contemporary Engaged Buddhist activists;

- Discuss the fundamental outlook of Engaged Buddhism with regard to contemporary socio-political issues;
- Define key terms and concepts related to the discussion of early Buddhist tenets and contemporary Engaged Buddhism;
- Discuss the involvement of Engaged Buddhism in the areas of peace making, environmental activism, human rights, gender equity, ethnic concerns, and health care;
- Discuss the views and philosophies of contemporary leaders in the Engaged Buddhism movement(s).

Class Format and Activities

This course is offered online utilizing e-mail, web page, web board, and Internet technologies and resources. Students are required to have access to a computer that is connected to the Internet prior to registration. Students are also expected to be familiar with basic Internet technology including sending and receiving e-mail and attachments, web board postings, navigating the World Wide Web, performing informational searches on the Internet, and transmitting and downloading files. Regular weekly e-mail communication with the instructor and the submission/completion of all required assignments is important to the successful completion of the course. Collaborative electronic communication between classmates concerning course content is encouraged.

There are two required in-person meetings; an orientation meeting held at the beginning of the term and a final meeting, at which a final examination will be administered, at the conclusion of the term. Orientation and final meetings are held on the Chaminade University of Honolulu campus at hours designated in advance.

Specific weekly course assignments, as described in the course schedule, are to be completed by the student. Weekly course assignments typically include: (1) a reading assignment, (2) a response to a web board discussion question, and (3) the submission of a one-page reaction paper on an essay selected by the student from options appearing on the course schedule. In addition, students are required to take one mid-term examination, prepare and submit one written Research Paper on a topic preapproved by the instructor, and take one comprehensive final examination.

Students may also be required to submit additional written assignments and/or quizzes from time to time as determined and directed by the Instructor. Written assignments are due to the Instructor via e-mail by the due dates stated in the Course Schedule.

Course Schedule A listing of weekly assignments appears in the Course Schedule. Students are encouraged to contact the Instructor directly with any questions, or for clarification of assigned tasks, prior to due dates. No late submissions will be accepted.

Required Text(s)

Rahula, Walpola. What the Buddha Taught. New York: Grove Press, 1974.

Queen, Christopher S., ed. Engaged Buddhism in the West. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2000.

Reading Assignments In order for students to participate effectively in Web Board discussions, prepare for examinations, and prepare written assignments, it is expected that each student complete assigned readings during the time period indicated on the Course Schedule.

Recommended Resource(s) It is expected that students utilize the Buddhism 101 and Engaged Buddhism Internet resource sites, which can be accessed through the course web page to augment their studies and identify research resources. Also, since the course format assumes that students already possess a RE103-level understanding of the Buddhist tradition, it is recommended that students obtain an introductory-level world religion text book and review the chapter that covers Buddhism. As example, a basic survey of the Buddhist tradition may be found in:

Malloy, Michael. Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge and Change. Mountain View, California: Mayfield Publishing Company, 1999.

Study Guide The Instructor will provide students with a Study Guide covering course materials. Since the Midterm and Final Examinations will be drawn from items appearing in the Study Guide, students are responsible for all items appearing in the Study Guide.

Course Web Page Course materials and access to the Web Board are available through the Religion 35590 Web Page located at:

<http://www.iqthost.com/rmitchell/RE35590>

Students are required to read and assume responsibility for all course materials, requirements, assignment schedules/deadlines, and resources published on the Course Web Page. Contact the instructor immediately if there are any aspects of the Syllabus or other course documents that require explanation or further clarification.

Web Board Participation Web Board-based class discussions are utilized as a means of stimulating and encouraging thoughtful reflection concerning the topics, themes and subject matter covered in the course. Regular weekly participation in web board discussions is required. In the event that technical difficulties arise disrupt access or utilization of the web board system, the instructor may elect to utilize e-mail to conduct discussions and maintain dialogue.

E-Mail Communications Students are to sign and provide course identification on all

messages, assignments and other communications directed to the instructor. Students are encouraged to maintain the same e-mail address throughout the term. Notify the instructor promptly should a change in e-mail address be necessary.

Technical Assistance In the event that technical questions or difficulties arise, students are encouraged to contact the Chaminade Computer Lab for assistance. The Computer Lab may be reached by telephone at 735-4819.

Course Paper The Course Paper is due to the instructor via e-mail, facsimile, or regular mail on the date indicated in the Course Schedule. Papers should be double-spaced with all references cited properly. For information concerning proper formats and citations, consult the "MLA Handbook."* The course Research Paper should be between six to eight pages in length, written in the first person singular voice, and include a bibliography. Course Papers are to be written in the first-person singular voice. Papers not written in the first-person singular voice will automatically lose one full grade point, or, at the discretion of the Instructor, may be rejected entirely. Please see the "Course Paper" web page for further details and requirements.

* The MLA Handbook is available for reference use in the Sullivan Library, and is for sale through the Chaminade University Bookstore. In addition, the Purdue Online Writing Lab is an excellent online writing resource, including MLA handouts and an Internet link to the MLA web site. This site may be reached through the Internet at:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu>

Examinations There are two examinations administered during the course; one mid-Term examination and one final examination. The mid-term examination will be transmitted for completion by each student via e-mail and the final examination must be attended and completed by each student in person on the date and time assigned in the Course Schedule. No make-up examinations will be allowed for the final examination.

Grading Excellence in this course requires not only academic mastery of course content, but also personal reflection upon the relevance of issues regarding religious meaning to the human community. Minimum satisfactory performance entails the successful completion of the following: (1) weekly discussion group postings concerning topics provided by the instructor (pass/fail); (2) one mid-term examination; (3) the submission of one written paper on an approved research subject of five to eight pages in length; and (4) one comprehensive final examination. The weight of the various elements comprising the overall course grade is summarized as follows:

Table 1. Assignment Weight

Web Board Postings and Reaction Papers	15%	Pass/fail
Mid-Term Examination	15%	Scored
Research Paper	30%	Scored
Final Comprehensive Examination	40%	Scored
Total	100%	Letter Grade

Table 1. Lists various weights assigned to grade points achieved on specific scorable and non-scorable assignments during the term. At the end of the term, weighted points acquired on scorable and non-scorable assignments are combined and the cumulative total is used in the conversion of grade points to course letter grades.

Table 2. Conversion: Points to Letter Grades

Course letter grades are based upon the total number of cumulative points achieved on all scoreable assignments during the term. Table 2. Lists the point value ranges applied in the conversion of cumulative scored points to letter grades:	90 - 100	A
	80 - 89	B
	70 - 79	C
	60 - 69	D
	0 - 59	F

All grades will reflect the standards set forth in Chaminade's 1998-99 General Catalog. As indicated in the catalog, an "A" signifies outstanding scholarship and unusual intellectual initiative; a "B" signifies superior work; a "C" signifies a competent grasp of the subject matter; a "D" signifies inferior work; and an "F" indicates failure to grasp the minimum subject matter. Since the final examination comprises 40% of the course grade, it is not possible to earn a letter grade higher than a "D" if the final examination is failed or missed.

Expectations Religion 35590 is a writing-intensive, upper division course taught during an accelerated evening session. Consequently, the course necessitates an extensive amount

of independent reading, research, writing, discussion and critical reflection on behalf of each student in order to satisfactorily complete course requirements.

Regular Participation With the possible exception of documented emergencies, there will be no extensions given on assignment due dates or the final examination without the prior approval of the instructor. Students who fail to submit assignments or comply with other requirements are advised to withdraw from the course in order to avoid a final course grade of "F". Grades of "Incomplete" will only be given in cases of documented extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control.

Deadlines Students are expected assume responsibility for knowing, observing and meeting assignment deadlines as described in the course schedule. Late or make-up assignments will not be accepted by the instructor, except under extraordinary documented circumstances, such as military deployment or serious illness. It is the students' responsibility to provide the instructor with verifiable documentation for any extraordinary circumstances that prevent the submission of assignments on time, and to present a plan to complete missed deadlines and/or assignments missed to the instructor for approval.

Proctored Final Examinations In extraordinary circumstances, final examinations may be administered by an approved proctor. Arrangements for proctored examinations must be made in advance with the Chaminade University Evening Programs Office. The Evening Programs Office may be reached at 735-4755.

Plagiarism The Chaminade University of Honolulu General Catalog states that: "Plagiarism is the offering of work of another as one's own. Plagiarism is a serious offense and may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Complete or partial copying directly from a published or unpublished source without proper acknowledgement to the author. Minor changes in wording or syntax are not sufficient to avoid charges of plagiarism. Proper acknowledgement of the source of a text is always mandatory.
2. Paraphrasing the work of another without proper author acknowledgement.
3. Submitting as one's own original work (however freely given or purchased) the original exam, research paper, manuacript, report, computer file, or other assignment that has been prepared by another individual."

This policy statement means that students' are not allowed to submit the work of another as their own, that altering the work of another for presentation as one's own constitutes plagiarism, and that all sources must be properly cited. If a student commits plagiarism, or fails to properly cite all sources, then the student will receive no credit for the assignment and the Academic Dean will be notified accordingly.

If there is any doubt about whether or not the use or submission of a particular work constitutes plagiarism, contact the Instructor for guidance and assistance.

Incomplete Grades As indicated earlier in this Syllabus, Incomplete grades will not be issued except in extraordinary circumstances and in no event unless the majority of work has been completed to the satisfaction of the instructor.

Mutual Consideration and Respect: As subjects examined during this course may touch upon topics, beliefs, and/or issues considered sensitive by some students, it is imperative that all students demonstrate courtesy and respect concerning the views, opinions, and beliefs of others.

© Robert G. Mitchell, 2000. All rights reserved.
This page was last updated on 04/01/2001.

[Go Back to Home Page](#)