

HR 1630: METHODS IN THE STUDY OF BUDDHISM—FALL 2019
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A survey of different approaches to the study of Buddhism, including textual, anthropological, sociological, historical, and bibliographic. Particular attention will be given to contemporary critical studies, appropriate historical and social contextualization of doctrinal claims, and relations between Buddhism and other religions in the modern world. May be upgraded for doctoral students. Auditors with instructor's permission.

SCHEDULE: day of week: Wed., time: 9:40 to 12:30

LOCATION: IBS/JSC Room 130 (CHECK; may be moved depending on class size)

TEXTBOOKS: readings selected from various sources, several are available online, either directly or through GTU Library/JSTOR; copies of essays that are Open Access will be posted to course MOODLE webpage; copies of essays that are not will be distributed in class

abbreviations:

JAAR: Journal of the American Academy of Religions

JIABS: Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies

HR: History of Religions

RC: Religion Compass

Assigned readings are to be done by everyone prior to the class meeting for which they are noted.

Discussion of the reading constitutes the substance of the class meeting for which it is noted.

CLASS PROJECTS:

- thesis (or dissertation) proposal (see IBS catalogue for format; 40% of grade);
- presentation of analysis of primary reading and leading in-class discussion (see class handout regarding critical reading 40% of grade); includes handouts outlining reading and relating it to broader issues in the field of study
- formal presentation of research topic (see class handout re. organization, etc., 20% of grade)

Student Learning Outcomes

- students will develop substantive understanding of different specific topics in Buddhist studies (content) and different approaches to the study of Buddhism (methods)—evaluated by participation in in-class discussions
- students will develop analytic skills by placing different studies into the broader perspective of the field they represent—evaluated by student's presentation
- students will develop critical thinking and analytic skills through close and detailed examination of a variety of different studies—evaluated by participation in in-class discussions
- students will develop research skills by looking for relevant sources for their own future research projects—evaluated by compiling bibliography for thesis proposal
- students will develop public speaking skills—evaluated by both in-class summaries, leading class discussions, and presenting plans for own future research
- students will develop writing skills—evaluated by clarity, organization, technical aspects (grammar, spelling, bibliographic), and structure of term project

COURSE CALENDAR

Sept. 4: Introduction to Class: critical approaches to Buddhist studies

Sept. 11: introduction to methodology

readings:

1.1 Cabezon: "Changing Field of Buddhist Studies," *JIAS* 30.1/2 283–298

1.2 Dubisson: "Exporting the Local," *RC* 1/6, 787–800.

1.3 Goulet, "Postcolonialism and the Study of Religion" *RC*, 5.10, 631–637.

Sept. 18: economics

readings:

2.1 Walsh, "Economics of Salvation,"

2.2 Foxeus: "Spirits, Mortal Dread, and Ontological Security," *JAAR* (2018):.

Sept. 25: ritual studies

readings:

3.1 Joo, "The Ritual of Arhat Invitation During the Song," *JIAS*, 30.1/2, 81–116.

3.2 Licha, "Dharma Transmission Rituals in Sōtō Zen Buddhism," *JIAS*, 39 (2016): 171–205

Oct. 2: psychology and cognitive science

readings:

4.1 Main, "Psychology of Religion," *RC*, 2.4: 708–733.

4.2 Joo, "Countercurrents from the West," *JAAR*, 79.3, 614–648

Oct. 9: sociology and anthropology

readings:

5.1 Goldstein, "Sociological Theory of Religion," *RC* 6.12, 347–353.

5.2 Langenberg: "Buddhist Blood Taboo," *JAAR* 84.1, 157–191.

5.3 Kitiarsa, "Beyond Weberian Trails," *RC*, 3.2: 200–224.

Oct. 16:

history and historiography: events, their contexts & meanings

readings:

6.1 van Schaik & Doney, "The Prayer, the Priest, and the Tsenpo," *JIAS* 30.1/2: 175–217.

6.2 Penkower, "In the Beginning...," *JIAS* 23.2 (2000): 245–296.

Oct. 23: GTU READING WEEK, no class meeting

Oct. 30: biography

readings:

7.1 Collett, "Therīgāthā: Nandā, Female Sibling of Gotama Buddha," *Women in Early Indian Buddhism*, ed. Collett, Oxford Univ. Press 2013

7.2 Miller: "The Vagrant Poet and the Reluctant Scholar" *JIAS* 28.2 (2005): 369–410

Nov. 6: archaeology, material culture and art

readings:

8.1 Mann, "Material Culture and the Study of Hinduism and Buddhism," *RC* 8.8, 264–273.

8.2 Schopen: "Archeology and Protestant Presuppositions in the Study of Indian Buddhism"
*HR*31.1 (Aug. 1991): 1-23

8.3 Greene: "Death in a Cave," *Artibus Asiae*

Nov. 13: philology: translations, texts and canons

readings:

9.1 Skilling: "Scriptural Authenticity and the Śrāvaka Schools" *Eastern Buddhist* 41.2 (2010): 1-47.

9.2 Lowe, "Buddhist Manuscript Cultures in Premodern Japan" *RC*,

Nov. 20: rhetoric and literary studies

readings:

10.1 McClintock: "Compassionate Trickster" *JAAR* 79.1 (2011), 90-112.

10.2 Wright, "The Discourse of Awakening," *JAAR* 61.1 (1993), 23-40.

Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Break, no class meeting

Dec. 4: philosophy

readings:

11.1 Heim, "Toward a "Wider and Juster Initiative," *RC* 1/1: 107-119

11.2 Stolz, "Buddhist Epistemology: The Study of Pramāna," *RC*

11.3 Sangoō, "Buddhist Debate in Medieval Japan," *RC*

Dec. 11: student presentations, papers due

students will make short presentations of their thesis/dissertation work