

**Course Syllabus**  
**EMT 1631HF – Foundational Tenets and Practices of Buddhism**  
**Emmanuel College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**

***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Cuilan Liu, PhD, Assistant Professor of Buddhist Studies  
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***Course Identification***

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Course Number: EMT 1631HF  
Course Name: Foundational Tenets and Practices of Buddhism  
Course Time: Wednesdays, 11am-1pm  
Course Location: EM105, Emmanuel College  
Prerequisites: None

***Course Description***

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This course surveys the diverse ideals, practices, and traditions of Buddhism. By reading primary and secondary sources central to Buddhism, we will examine key concepts, doctrines, and practices. Having acquired a solid understanding of the history and doctrine of Buddhism, students will learn to apply these understandings to critically analyze contemporary issues from a Buddhist perspective.

***Course Resources***

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**Required Course Texts/Bibliography**

- All reading materials will be made available in PDF.

**Course Website(s)**

- <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/66997>
- This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the My Courses module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701> . Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask the Registrar for further help.

**Key Dates for Assignments**

Component	Weight	Due Date
Attendance	5%	N/A
Class Participation	10%	N/A
Weekly summary of readings	20%	5 pm on the day before class
Course Evaluation	5%	
Term Project Proposal	15%	<b>Oct.17, 2018</b> Hard copy due in class + Electronic copy (in Word, not PDF) due by 5 pm on the due date.
Oral Presentation of Term Papers	35%	<b>Dec. 5, 2018 (To be confirmed)</b> 3.5 minutes per presentation.
Term Project Presentation/Exhibition	10%	<b>Dec. 5, 2018</b> Hard copy due in class + Electronic copy (in Word, not PDF) due by 5 pm on the due date.

### *Classroom Etiquette*

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In this course, students are invited to critically read, analyze, and evaluate in order to see more in a text than the text explicitly states. The critical analysis may involve but is not just the act of criticizing.

You may disagree with your classmates and professor, but do not disrespect any of them.

Students anticipating note-taking assistance are encouraged to make arrangements in advance. Digital recording of the course is not allowed. Students with demonstrated need to record the course are responsible for obtaining written permission from the professor and all participants (enrolled students, auditors, and visitors if applicable) in the class.

### *Policies*

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#### **Accessibility**

Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at

<http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

## Plagiarism

Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges [http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

*Other academic offences.* TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>.

## Late work

Students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course syllabus. The penalty for late assignments is 2% reduction in mark per day of lateness. Assignments will not be accepted after one week of the due date. This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the last day of classes. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = "standing deferred") beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Instruction on a petition for an extension from the Registrar's office at Emmanuel College:

“All students (basic degree or graduate) who cannot submit the final assignment by the due date listed in the course syllabus must petition for an extension. For medical reasons, a UofT verification of illness form is required. A doctor’s note is invalid.”

### **Back-up copies**

Please make back-up copies of written assignments before handing them in.

### **Obligation to check email**

At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered into the ACORN system. Information is available at [www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. Students should check utoronto email regularly for messages about the course. Forwarding your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or another type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

### **Email communication with the course instructor**

The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. All email communications from students should be sent from a utoronto email address. Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to an email from non-utoronto addresses.

### ***Course Outcomes***

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#### **Knowledge Outcomes**

As a result of successfully completing this course, student should be able to

- articulate the historical development of Buddhism.
- tell the life story of the historical Buddha and his contribution to the establishment of Buddhism as a religious tradition.
- show evidence of a broad understanding of the core Buddhist teachings.
- be able to articulate and interpret major Buddhist philosophical concepts (karma, rebirth, the middle way, etc...).
- show familiarity with the historical development, organization, and characteristics of the Buddhist monastic community.

## Skills Outcomes

As a result of successfully completing this course, student should be able to

- become familiar with research sources for analyzing Buddhist issues and problems at the University of Toronto and beyond by attending a tailored workshop with an Emmanuel College librarian.
- employ basic research skills to access and critically evaluate information on a chosen topic for the 5-minute report in class and the term paper from scholarly and popular sources, including primary texts, secondary scholarly writings, web sources, video, audios, and visual materials.
- demonstrate ability in critical thinking by formulating original research questions and defend arguments with evidences in the two written assignments (term paper proposal and term paper).
- exhibit skills in academic writing and apply such skills to analyze Buddhist problems and issues.
- orally communicating knowledge on Buddhist tenets and practices to the public audience by practicing presenting research in their final term papers to the entire class.

## *Evaluation*

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### Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in the following areas.

1. Attendance (5%).

Emmanuel Attendance Policy: Academic credit for a course requires regular class attendance, unless otherwise indicated in the course syllabus (e.g. for intensive courses, attendance is mandatory). Attendance means being present in the class for the entire scheduled class meeting, not just part of it. In the event of absence for any reason, students are expected to inform the professor prior to class, and are responsible for course materials missed. If attendance is poor due to extenuating circumstances, students are recommended to drop the course before the last day to withdraw without academic penalty. For students who miss three regular classes, or 25% of an intensive course, this may result in a lower grade or even a failing grade for the course. If attendance is poor due to extenuating circumstances, students may petition the Basic Degree Committee to drop a course without academic or financial penalty. Each student is allowed to miss one class for any reason without informing the instructor in advance so use your opportunity wisely. Students expecting additional absence from class must inform the instructor in advance with officially approved reasons.

2. Class participation (10%).

Your participation grade will reply heavily on your familiarity with the readings, your critical and insightful engagement with them in the classroom. When you disagree during class discussion, we invite you to express your disagreements respectfully to your interlocutors.

3. Weekly 3-sentence summary of one reading (20%).

Summaries must be posted on the course website by 5pm the day before class. In your three-sentence summary, describe what the reading is about, discuss contents that you resonate with or disagree with, and raise a question for discussion in class.

4. Course evaluation. (5%).

5. Term Project (60%).

- 1) a written proposal; (15%)

In the proposal, articulate what you will do, what why are you doing it, and how your project can be shared.

- 2) completion of the project; (35%)

- 3) presentation & exhibition of the project. (10%)

6. Goal of the Term Project: based on what we are learning about Buddhism in this class, design a project to serve a wider community (this community can be on campus, at an institution, the public, private clients and et cetera).

7. Grading rubric of the term project: 1) Have you used what we have covered in this course in your project? 2) Do you have a clear rationale in your designing of this project? 3) How can others benefit from your project/Whom can your project serve? 4) Is your project feasible for implementation?

8. Examples of Term Project.

A written project (max. 15 pages, double spaced, font size 12);

A fashion project;

A game;

An exercise;

An Art project;

Cuisine project;

Or other projects that you would like to propose. You must discuss with your instructor to get approval.

9. Submission of Written Assignments

- A WORD document of your written assignment must be emailed to the instructor at [cuilan.liu@utoronto.ca](mailto:cuilan.liu@utoronto.ca) by 5 pm on the due day. Your word document must be formatted using the following format: Last Name, First Name\_Course Title\_Term Paper Proposal/Term Paper.
- A hard copy of your written assignment must be submitted to the instructor in class on the due day. Double-sided printing only. No cover page, please. On the first page of your paper, write the following before the main text:  
Fall 2018\_EMT 1631HF\_Foundational Tenets and Practices of Buddhism  
Last Name, First Name (Student ID)  
Title of Your Project

Note: All written materials must use Times New Roman, Font size 12, double-spaced. For writing project, footnotes and bibliography must follow the style sheet of *Journal of American Oriental Society* or in accordance with the convention in your field (students using other styles must specify the style followed in the writings).

### TST Grading Scale

- A+ (90-100)
- A (85-89)
- A- (80-84)
- B+ (77-79)
- B (73-76)
- B- (70-72)
- Failure

### Course Schedule

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Week 1  
9/12

#### Introduction

- Gombrich, Richard. "Introduction." In *The World of Buddhism* (London: Thames & Hudson, 1984), pp. 9-14.
- Hirakawa Akira. "Introduction." In *A History of Indian Buddhism: From Śākyamuni to Early Mahāyāna* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1990), pp. 1-9.

#### Part One: Foundation of Buddhism

Week 2  
9/19

#### The Buddha

- Olivelle, Patrick. "The Birth of the Lord." In *The Life of the Buddha by Aśvaghoṣa* (New York: New York University Press, 2008), pp. 1-33.
- Hirakawa Akira. "The Life of the Buddha." In *A History of Indian Buddhism: From Śākyamuni to Early Mahāyāna* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1990), pp. 20-37.
- Bsod nams rgyal mtshan. "The Creation of the Universe, the Dharma-kings of India, and the life of Buddha Shakyamuni." In *The Clear Mirror: A Traditional Account of Tibet's Golden Age* (Ithaca: Snow Lion Publications, 1996), pp. 30-37.
- Mitchell, Donald W. and Sarah Jacob. "1. The Life of Gautama Buddha." In *Introducing Buddhist Experiences* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), pp. 1-30;

Week 3  
9/26

#### Workshop on Buddhist Resources with Librarian

Week 4  
10/3

#### The Doctrine: The Four Noble Truths

- Hirakawa Akira. "Early Buddhist Doctrine." In *A History of Indian Buddhism: From Śākyamuni to Early Mahāyāna* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1990), pp. 38-59.

- Mitchell, Donald W. and Sarah Jacob. "2. The Teachings of the Buddha." In *Introducing Buddhist Experiences* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), pp. 31-64;
- Cantwell, Cathy. "2. The Dharma." In *Buddhism: The Basics* (New York: Routledge, 2010), pp. 56-92.

Week 5  
10/10

### **The Community: Saṃgha**

- Hirakawa Akira. "The Organization of the Buddhist Order." In *A History of Indian Buddhism: From Śākyamuni to Early Mahāyāna* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1990), pp. 60-68.
- Cantwell, Cathy. "4. The Sangha." In *Buddhism: The Basics* (New York: Routledge, 2010), pp. 107-140;
- Gethin, Rupert. "4. The Buddhist Community: Monks, Nuns, and Lay Followers." In *The Foundations of Buddhism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), pp. 85-111.

### **Part Two: Essence of Buddhist Philosophy**

#### **Term Project Proposal Due**

#### **Karma and Rebirth**

- Hirakawa Akira. "Buddhist Cosmology and the Theory of Karma." In *A History of Indian Buddhism: From Śākyamuni to Early Mahāyāna* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1990), pp. 170-184.
- Harvey, Peter. "Early Buddhist Teachings: Rebirth and Karma." In *An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, History, and Practices* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), pp. 32-49;
- Lopez, Donald (ed.). "The Realms of Rebirth" and "Karma Tales." In *Buddhist Scriptures* (London: Penguin, 2004), pp. 3-18; 24-33.

Week 6  
10/17

Week 7  
10/24

### **Reading Week (No Class)**

Week 8  
10/31

#### **Emptiness, Dependent Origination, and The Middle Way**

- Harvey, Peter. "Mahāyāna Philosophies: The Varieties of Emptiness." In *An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, History, and Practices* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), pp. 114-150;
- Buswell, Robert E. and Donald S. Lopez. "Madhyamaka." In *The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014), p. 487;
- Siderits, Mark and Shōryū Katsura. "Introduction." In *Nāgārjuna's Middle Way Mūlamadhyamakakārikā* (Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2013), pp. 1-10.

Week 9  
11/7

### **Enlightenment**



- Hirakawa Akira. "The Elimination of Defilements and the Path to Enlightenment." In *A History of Indian Buddhism: From Śākyamuni to Early Mahāyāna* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1990), pp. 197-222.
- Lopez, Donald (ed.). "The Direct Path to Enlightenment." In *Buddhist Scriptures* (London: Penguin, 2004), pp. 343-349.

### Part Three: Buddhist Practices

Week 10  
11/14

#### Mindfulness, Meditation

- Sharf, Robert. "Is Mindfulness Buddhist? (And Why It Matters)," *Transcultural Psychiatry* 52.4 (2015): 470-484.
- Sharf, Robert. "Mindfulness and Mindlessness in Early Chan," *Philosophy East & West* 64.4(2014): 933-964.
- Lopez, Donald (ed.). "On the Relation of Study and Meditation." In *Buddhist Scriptures* (London: Penguin, 2004), pp. 370-374.
- Wilson, Jeff. "Introduction", "How Does Mindfulness Reach America?" in *Mindful America* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), 1-42.

Week 11  
11/21

#### Performing Arts

- Liu, Cuilan. "Reciting, Chanting, and Singing: The Codification of Vocal Music in Buddhist Canon Law." *Journal of Indian Philosophy* (2018). In Press.
- Marsh, Jenni. "Ani Choying Drolma: Nepal's Rock Star Nun." *CNN* June 22, 2017. <https://www.cnn.com/2017/06/22/asia/her---ani-choying-drolma-2/index.html>
- **Recommended:** Choying Drolma. *Singing for Freedom*. Kathmandu: Publication Nepa-laya, 2013. 240 pages.

Week 12  
11/28

#### Visual Arts

- Leidy, Denise Patry. Chapters 1-3, in *The Art of Buddhism: Introduction to Its History & Meaning* (Boston: Shambala, 2008), pp. 9-80.
- Bryant, Barry. "The Sand Mandala as a Cultural Offering." In *The Wheel of Time: Sand Mandala: Visual Scripture of Tibetan Buddhism* (xx), 27-37.
- Video, documentary film *Sugar Mandala*, recording a Sand Mandala Ritual performed at Harvard University.

Week 13  
12/5

#### Term Project Presentation