

Course Syllabus
EMT 2629HS – Classic Buddhist Texts



Emmanuel College
Toronto School of Theology
Fall 2017

Instructor Information

Instructor: Cuilan Liu, PhD, Assistant Professor
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Course Identification

Course Number: EMT 2629HS
Course Name: Classic Buddhist Texts
Course Location: EM108, Emmanuel College
Class Times: Tuesdays, 6:30pm-8:30pm
Prerequisites: None

Course Description

Classic Buddhist scriptures have been traditionally classified in three major categories: Sūtra texts that record the teachings of the historical Buddha, Vinaya texts that narrate disciplinary rules for the Buddhist monastic community, and Śāstra texts that function as commentarial treatises on the Buddha's teachings. This course introduces students to classic Buddhist texts in each of these three categories to help students become familiar with literary discourse on foundational Buddhist doctrines, ethics, and thought. In this class, students will learn the history of the formation and the reception of a list of carefully selected canonical texts in each category and read English translations of the original text. When available, original editions of these texts in Sanskrit, Pāli, Chinese, or Tibetan will also be provided for those who are interested in exploring further.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts/Bibliography

- Readings will be available in PDF on Blackboard.

Course Website

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>.

Course Outcomes

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following outcomes. By the end of this course, students can expect to:

Content

- Name representative canonical Buddhist texts in three major categories;
- Describe the historical development of major canonical Buddhist texts;
- Identify English translations of classic Buddhist texts;
- Interpret key concepts in Buddhist doctrinal literature.

Practical Skills

- Interpret contemporary issues from a Buddhist perspective;
- Identify references on contemporary issues in classical Buddhist texts;
- Identify available tools and references about Buddhist doctrine, ethics, and thought.

Scholarly Tools and Skills

- Identify and utilize library sources for scholarly writing;
- Formulate research questions, and identify primary and secondary sources.

Policies

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. Students 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).

Evaluation

Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations of the following aspects. All written materials must use Times New Roman, Font size 12, double-spaced. The term paper may not exceed 20 pages, including bibliography. Citation, footnotes, and bibliography must follow the style sheet of *Journal of American Oriental Society* or in accordance with the convention in your field. On the due day, 1) submit a hardcopy to the instructor in class; AND 2) email copy in word to cuilan.liu@utoronto.ca by 5pm on the due day. The electronic version of your written assignments must be titled in the following format: Last Name, First Name_CBT_x. For instance, Liu, Cuilan_CBT_Paper Proposal; Liu, Cuilan_CBT_Final Paper. Unless approved in advance due to medical or family emergency, late submission of assignments will not be accepted.

1. Class participation (10%). Attendance is required. Students who cannot attend the class due to medical reasons must inform the instructor in advance.
2. 3-minute report (15%). Each student will only report once in this class. At the beginning of each class, one student will prepare a 3-minute report on a classic Buddhist text, or a story or a phrase from a classic Buddhist text. When it is your turn to report, you must email your topic (one sentence or just a keyword will be enough) to the instructor by 5 pm on the date before your report.
3. Term paper proposal (25%). A written paper proposal (max. 3 pages) is due on **October 31, 2017**. In this proposal, 1) identify your topic; 2) identify and summarize primary sources and secondary scholarship available on your topic; 3) explain your methodology (textual analysis, interview, survey, photo, and audio/video), and 4) include a timeline for your research. All four sections are required for grading.
4. Final paper (35%). The final paper shall not exceed 20 pages (double-spaced, Times New Roman

font, size 12), including bibliography. The proposal and the final paper will be graded according to a four-point rubric: grammar and style, clarity of thesis, structural organization, and appropriate use of textual quotations.

5. Oral presentation of term paper (15%).

Grading System

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

Course Schedule

Week 1

9/12

Introduction

- Donald S. Lopez. "Introduction: Digesting the Dharma." In *Buddhist Scriptures* (London: Penguin Books, 2004), pp. xi-xli.

Part One: Sūtra: Teachings of the Buddha

Week 2

9/19

Heart Sūtra 心经

Jan Nattier. "The Heart Sūtra: A Chinese Apocryphal Text." *The Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 15.2 (1992): 153-223.

English Translations of the Heart Sūtra

- Red Pine. "The Heart Sutra." And "Introduction." In *The Heart Sutra* (Washington: Shoemaker & Noard, 2004), pp. 5-40.

Recommended Reading

Other English Translations

- Kazuaki Tanahashi. "A New Translation." In *The Heart Sutra: A Comprehensive Guide to the Classic of Mahayana Buddhism* (Boulder: Shambhala Publications, 2014), pp. 3-4.
- Edward Conze. "The Heart Sutra." In *Buddhist Wisdom: The Diamond Sutra and the Heart Sutra* (New York: Vintage, 2001), pp. 79-120.

Sanskrit Original

- Edward Conze. "The Heart Sutra." In *Buddhist Wisdom: The Diamond Sutra and the Heart Sutra* (New York: Vintage, 2001), pp. 79-120.

Chinese Translation

- Xuanzang 玄奘 (trans.). *Bore boluomiduo xinjing* 般若波羅蜜多心經 (T 251: 848c04-848c23).

Tibetan Translation

- *Bcom ldan 'das ma shes rab kyi pha rol tu phyin pa'i snying po*, in *Bka' 'gyur* (Dpe bsdur ma), pp. 402-405.

Week 3

9/26

Lotus Sūtra (Chapter 3)

Introduction

- Burton Watson. "Translator's Introduction." In *The Lotus Sutra* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1993), pp. 3-22.
- Donald S. Lopez. "Plot Summary." In *The Lotus Sūtra: A Bibliography* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016), pp. 12-20.

English Translations

- Burton Watson. "Simile and Parable." In *The Lotus Sutra* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1993), pp. 47-79.
- Gene Reeves. "A Parable." In *The Lotus Sutra: A Contemporary Translation of a Buddhist Classic* (Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2008), pp. 103-140.

Week 4

10/3

Pure Land Classic: **The Smaller Pure Land Sūtra**

- "Amitābhasūtra." In *Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*, pp. 867-868.
- "Sukhāvativyūhasūtra." In *Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*, pp. 867-868.
- Charles Patton. *The Smaller Pureland Sūtra*. [Online](#).

Recommended

- *Foshuo Amituo jing* 佛說阿彌陀經 (T366: 346b26-348b18).

Week 5

10/10

The Teachings of a Lay Buddhist: Vimalakīrti Sūtra

- John McRae. "Translator's Introduction." In *The Sūtra of Queen Śrīmālā of the Lion's Roar and the Vimalakīrti Sūtra*, 59-65. Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 2004.

- Chapter VII from the following English translations
Burton Watson (trans). "Regarding Living Being," in *The Vimalakīrti Sūtra* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997), pp. 83-92. [English translation of the Chinese version.]
Robert Thurman. "Goddess," In *The Holy Teaching of Vimalakīrti: A Mahayana Scripture* (Pennsylvania University Press, 2000), pp. 56-63. [English translation of the Tibetan version.]
John McRae. *The Sūtra of Queen Śrīmālā of the Lion's Roar and the Vimalakīrti Sūtra*. Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 2004.

Part Two: Vinaya: Buddhist Canon Law

Week 6

10/17

Overview: Buddhist Canon Law

- "Vinaya." In *Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*, pp. 974-975;
- "Vinayapiṭaka." In *Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*, pp. 975-976.
- Hirakawa Akira. "Introduction." In *Monastic Discipline for the Buddhist Nuns: An English Translation of the Chinese Text of the Mahasamghika Bhikṣuṇī-Vinaya* (Patna: Kashi Prasad Jayaswal Research Institute, 1999), pp. 1-44.

Recommended Reading

- Karma Lekshe Tsomo. *Sisters in Solitude: Two Traditions of Buddhist Monastic Ethics for Women*. New York: State University of New York, 1996.

Week 7

10/24

Reading Week (No Class)

Week 8

10/31

Term paper proposal due

Root Transgression: Killing A Human Being

- I. B. Horner. "Defeat (Pārājika) III." In *The Book of the Discipline* (London: The Pali Text Society, 1949) vol. 1, pp. 116-150.
- Hirakawa Akira. "Pārājika Dharma III: Killing a Human Being." In *Monastic Discipline for the Buddhist Nuns: An English Translation of the Chinese Text of the Mahasamghika Bhikṣuṇī-Vinaya* (Patna: Kashi Prasad Jayaswal Research Institute, 1999), pp. 110.

- Ann Heirman. "The Eight Pārājika Rules." In *The Discipline in Four Parts: Rules for Nuns according to the Dharmaguptakavinaya* (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 2002), pp. 248-249.

Week 9

11/7

Root Transgression: Taking What is Not Given

- Hirakawa Akira. "Pārājika Dharma II: Taking Things which Are Not Given." In *Monastic Discipline for the Buddhist Nuns: An English Translation of the Chinese Text of the Mahasamghika Bhikusni-Vinaya* (Patna: Kashi Prasad Jayaswal Research Institute, 1999), pp. 109-110.
- Ann Heirman. "The Eight Pārājika Rules." In *The Discipline in Four Parts: Rules for Nuns according to the Dharmaguptakavinaya* (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 2002), pp. 248.
- I. B. Horner. "Defeat (Pārājika) II." In *The Book of the Discipline* (London: The Pali Text Society, 1949) vol. 1, pp. 64-115.

Week 10

11/14

Root Transgression: Sexual Intercourse

- Hirakawa Akira. "Pārājika Dharma 1: Sexual Intercourse." In *Monastic Discipline for the Buddhist Nuns: An English Translation of the Chinese Text of the Mahasamghika Bhikusni-Vinaya* (Patna: Kashi Prasad Jayaswal Research Institute, 1999), pp. 101-109.
- Ann Heirman. "The Eight Pārājika Rules." In *The Discipline in Four Parts: Rules for Nuns according to the Dharmaguptakavinaya* (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 2002), pp. 243-248.
- I. B. Horner. "Defeat (Pārājika) I." In *The Book of the Discipline* (London: The Pali Text Society, 1949) vol. 1, pp. 1-63.

Recommended

Shayne Clarke. "Monks Who Have Sex: Pārājika Penance in Indian Buddhist Monasticisms." *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 37. 1 (2009): 1-43.

Part Three: Śāstras: Treatises

Week 11

11/21

Abhidharmakośa

- "śastra." In *Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*, pp. 784-785;
- "Śastrapīṭaka." In *Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*, pp. 785;
- "Abhdharmakośabhāṣya." In *Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*, pp. 5-6.

Week 12

11/28

Birth in *Abhidharmakosa*

- Kritzer, Robert. "Childbirth and the Mother's Body in the Abhidharmakośa and Related Texts." In *インド哲学佛教思想論集: 神子上恵生教授頌寿記念論集 Mikogami Eshō Kyōju kinen ronshū kankōkai* (Kyoto: Nagata bunshodō, 2004), pp. 1085-1109.
- "Chapter Three: The World, The Four Types of Birth." In *Abhidharmakosabhasyam of Vasubandhu* (Berkeley: Asian Humanities Press, 1990), vol. II, translated into French by Louis de la Vallée and into English by Leo M. Pruden, pp. 380-383.

Recommended

- "分別世品第三." In *Apidamo jushe lun* 阿毘達磨俱舍論 (T1558: 43c21-44b06).

Week 13

12/5

***Term paper due in class**

Oral Presentation of Term Paper