

# BUDDHISM

REL3340: Summer A



## Instructor Contact

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## Course Information

<b>Course Name</b>	Buddhism
<b>Course ID &amp; Section</b>	REL 3340-AW59
<b>Credit Hours</b>	3
<b>Semester/Year</b>	Summer A 2022
<b>Location</b>	Virtual

## Course Description

This course is an introduction to Buddhist thought, practices, cultures and history. Beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> BCE India, we will trace the development of Buddhism through South-East Asia, East Asia, Tibet and its recent flourishing in North America examining a diversity of Buddhist traditions such as Theravada, Mahayana, and American Buddhism. Focusing on a variety of Buddhist ideas and practices within their particular socio-historic context we will explore how Buddhism has interacted with local cultures and discover the new forms of Buddhism that have arisen from this interaction.

Catalogue Description: Teachings of Buddhism and their contemporary applications.

PR: HUM 2230 or REL 2300 or C.I.

### Course Objectives

- The primary aim of this course is to facilitate a solid grasp of Buddhist thought and practices aided by a familiarity with the socio-historic context in which they developed.
- To be able to identify commonalities and differences between three major forms of Buddhism: Theravada, Mahayana and Western Buddhism
- To understand how Buddhism has interacted with, shaped and been shaped by the different cultures and religions it has come into contact with during its historic development.

## Required Text

Charles Prebish and Damien Keown, *Introducing Buddhism 2nd Edition*

## Supplemental Texts

- I will provide a number of additional texts, most as email links, which must be read.

## Course Requirements

There are four categories of **graded** assignments: (1) Introduction (2) You're the Professor: Exam Preparation (3) Module exams and (4) Powerpoint Buddhist Site Visit / Presentation

**Introduction:** Understanding the course structure and what is needed from you to succeed is essential particularly in intensive summer classes. Your introduction assignments -- [introduction post](#) and [course orientation](#) contract--make up 2% of your overall grade so be sure to do them properly.

**Exam Preparation:** There is a lot of material covered in this class and it is essential that you keep up with the daily review terms for exam success. To help you prepare for the exams, you will do an exam preparation activity called "You're the Professor," in small groups. Instructions for this are provided but essentially it involves writing and answering multi-choice question exams from the exam review terms to help you study and think about the material for the exams. You will have 4 of these activities over the course of the semester, one for each exam. In total, they will make up 8% of your final grade. Details are here: [You're the Professor: Exam Preparation](#)

**Module Exams:** This course is structured around four modules and at the end of each module, there will be a Module Exam. Each exam consists of 45 multi-choice or True/False questions. Exams are open booked but will be timed at 60 minutes. Exams are timed strictly to restrict cheating by looking up things on the Internet. The questions on this exam will all be drawn from the class review terms. Exams are designed to test your retention and understanding of the unit material. Each exam is worth 20% so, in total, the exams make up 60% of your final grade. Details are here: [Exam Guidelines](#)

**Powerpoint Site Visit Presentation:** Instead of a final paper, you will be required to complete a powerpoint of a visit to a local Buddhist center. This project can be done in groups of up to 4 or alone as you prefer. If you want to do in groups you will be responsible for self-organization. It will involve three main aspects: academic research, a description of your site visit, and a reflection on the difference between the textual analysis and lived experience of a religion. This will make up 10% of your final grade. [Details](#) and a [sample model](#) are found here:

**Ungraded Assignments:** At the end of each class, you will find a list of review terms from that day. These will make-up your review posts at the end of each unit so I highly recommend you do them daily instead of waiting until the end of the unit. These will not be graded. However, if you wait until the end of the module, it will be an overwhelming amount of material.

**Extra Credit:**

There is one extra credit assignment offered in this class: "What the Buddha Didn't Say: Types of Source Material and Why they Matter." This is an informal writing assignment to prepare you for the research component of your final project. It must be completed by the end of the third week of the course and has the possibility of adding 1-2 points on to your final class grade. E.g. If your class grade was 88% (B+) and you earned 2 points from this assignment, your final grade would be 90% (A-). **There will be absolutely no time extension given for extra credit so please don't ask.**

Instructions and rubrics for the assignments can be accessed here: [ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES AND RUBRICS](#)

## Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

The exams will be timed and available only over a two day period (see under exam rubric for specific dates) If you foresee an issue or if an emergency occurs, you must provide documentation or no accommodation will be made.

There will be one extra credit assignment available on Vajrayana Buddhism (2%). Please see the course introduction on day one for information about this.

## Evaluation and Grading

Letter Grade	Points
A	94 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C-	70 – 72 points

D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below



## Attendance Policy

Attendance will be determined through exam/discussion posts. See specific instructions under assignment posts.

## Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the [Office of Student Conduct](#)[Links to an external site.](#) for further action. See the [UCF Golden Rule](#) for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

## Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services <https://sas.sdes.ucf.edu>[Links to an external site.](#) Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

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## Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.