

HR 1630: METHODS IN THE STUDY OF BUDDHISM—SPRING 2013

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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 faculty permission.

day of week: Wed., time: 9:40 to 12:30, location: IBS/JSC Room 130; special additional activity, Sat. April 13, JSC Kodo

CLASS PROJECTS:

- 1) research bibliography
- 2) presentation (dry run and final)
- 3) term paper or thesis proposal (for thesis proposal format, see IBS Catalogue)

TEXTS: WEEKLY READINGS

Listed in the calendar are two readings per week. Readings will be available for download from the class Moodle site. MA students will be assigned one of the two (some to each selection), doctoral students will read both. Class discussions will cover both readings. Students are expected to have made notes on the readings, identifying the main argument, and key supporting points, as well as other issues related to theory and method.

TEXTS—PROFESSIONALIZATION

Students are expected to acquire and familiarize themselves with the following tools, available through the GTU Amazon page [http://astore.amazon.com/gtuconboo-20?_encoding=UTF8&node=474]:

- 1) *The Craft of Research*; 2) Turabian; 3) Strunk & White; and 4) Weston, Anthony. *A Rulebook for Arguments*. Hackett.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

- for a primer on logic, see: <http://ethicalrealism.wordpress.com/2012/10/10/what-is-logic/>
- generate a partial bibliography based on research interests of items available online
- distinguishing what's good from the rest of the junk
- JGB, JBE, JJRS, JGB, Tibet Journal, GTU Library resources, WorldCat

PRESENTATIONS: PUBLIC SPEAKING

prepare an outline (see handout) and present for class a five minute summary of a topic of your choice; this will be video-taped and reviewed

COURSE CALENDAR

1. FEB. 6: INTRO TO COURSE

rationale for class
readings: prior to week for discussion
term paper/thesis proposal requirements
presentation outline form

2. FEB. 13: THEORY AND METHOD; REASON, LOGIC AND FALLACIES

define theory and method
reading: review Weston, *A Rulebook for Arguments*
class activity: first presentation: 5 minutes

3. FEB. 20: METHODOLOGICAL SURVEYS

readings: 1) Cabezón: "Buddhist Studies as a Discipline and the Role of Theory" *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 18.2 (Winter 1995): 231–268
2) Tweed: "Theory and Method in the Study of Buddhism: Toward 'Translocative' Analysis" *Journal of Global Buddhism* 12 (2011): 17–32
class activity: discussion of readings

4. FEB. 27: HISTORY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY: EVENTS, THEIR CONTEXTS & MEANINGS

readings: 1) Jackson: Sa skya paṇḍita's Account of the bSam yas Debate: History as Polemic," *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 5.1 (1982), 89–99
2) Brekke: "Bones of Contention: Buddhist Relics, Nationalism and the Politics of Archaeology," *Numen* 54 (2007): 270–303.
class activity: discussion of readings

5. MAR. 6: ARCHAEOLOGY & MATERIAL CULTURE

readings: 1) Schopen: "Archeology and Protestant Presuppositions in the Study of Indian Buddhism" *History of Religions* 31.1 (Aug. 1991): 1–23
2) Urubshurow: "Transformation of Religious Symbol in Indian Buddhism: Reflections on Method from a Reading of Mus's Barabudur" *Numen* 35.2 (Dec. 1988): 260–79.
class activity: discussion of readings

6. MAR. 13: GENDER STUDIES

readings: 1) Powers: "Gender and Virtue in Indian Buddhism" *Crosscurrents* Dec. 2011: 428–40
2) Child: "Subtle Bodies, Wrathful Deities and Men in Buddhist Tantric Traditions" *Religions of South Asia* 1.1 (2007): 29–45.
class activity: discussion of readings

7. MAR. 20: ECONOMICS

readings: 1) LeVine: "The Finances of a Twentieth Century Buddhist Mission: Building Support for the Theravāda Nuns' Order of Nepal" *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 24.2 (2001): 217–40

2) Michael J. Walsh: "The Economics of Salvation: Toward a Theory of Exchange in Chinese Buddhism," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 75.2 (June 2007): 353–82.

class activity: discussion of readings

8. MAR. 27: SPRING BREAK/NO CLASS

9. APR. 3: CLASS PRESENTATIONS

class activity: presentations and review

10. APR. 10: RITUAL STUDIES

readings: 1) Wallace: "A Generation of Power through Ritual Protection and Transformation of Identity in Indian Tantric Buddhism," *Journal of Ritual Studies* 19.1 (2005): 115–28.

2) Klima: "The Telegraphic Abject: Buddhist Meditation and the Redemption of Mechanical Reproduction," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 43.3 (July 2001): 552–82.

class activity: discussion of readings

SPECIAL ACTIVITY: ATTEND THE THIRD ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM AT IBS,
SATURDAY, 13 APRIL, AFTERNOON

make notes on presentations, pay attention to presentation styles

11. APR. 17: PSYCHOLOGY AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE

readings: 1) Drummond: "Conceptualizing the Efficacy of *Vipassanā* Meditation as Taught by S.N. Goenka" *Buddhist Studies Review* 23.1 (2006): 113–30

2) Federman: "What Buddhism Taught Cognitive Science about Self, Mind and Brain" *Enrahonar. Quaderns de Filosofia* 47 (2011): 39–62

class activity: discussion of readings

12. APR. 24: SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

readings: 1) Usarski: "The Last Missionary to Leave the Temple Should Turn Off the Light": Sociological Remarks on the Decline of Japanese 'Immigrant' Buddhism in Brazil" *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 35.1 (2008): 39–59

2) Wuthnow and Cadge: "Buddhists and Buddhism in the United States: The Scope of Influence" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 43.3 (2004): 363–80

class activity: discussion of readings

13. MAY 1: PHILOSOPHY

readings: 1) Ruegg: "Some Reflections on the Place of Philosophy in the Study of Buddhism" *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 18.2 (Winter 1995): 145–81

2) Rockwell: "Minds, Intrinsic Properties, and Madhyamaka Buddhism" *Zygon* 44.3 (Sept. 2009): 659–74

class activity: discussion of readings

14. MAY 8: BIOGRAPHY

readings: 1) Blum: "Biography as Scripture: *Ōjōden* in India, China, and Japan" *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* 34.2 (2007): 329–50

2) Miller: “The Vagrant Poet and the Reluctant Scholar: A Study of the Balance of Iconoclasm and Civility in the Biographical Accounts of two Founder of the ‘brug pa bka’ Lineages” *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 28.2 (2005): 369–410.

class activity: discussion of readings

15. MAY 15: PHILOLOGY: TEXTS AND CANONS

readings: 1) Gray “Disclosing the Empty Secret: Textuality and Embodiment in the Cakrasamvara Tantra” *Numen* 52.4 (2005): 417–44

2) Skilling: “Scriptural Authenticity and the Śrāvaka Schools: An Essay towards an Indian Perspective” *The Eastern Buddhist* 41.2 (2010): 1–47

class activity: discussion of readings

16. MAY 22: END OF CLASS

class activities: papers due, course evaluations