**HR 2995   
The Radiance of Emptiness in Early Buddhism**

**Spring 2016 Syllabus[[1]](#footnote-1)**

The realization of Emptiness is integral to the worldview, practice, and soteriology taught in Early Indian Buddhism. This class will explore the different aspects of the teachings on Emptiness in the Pali discourses in relationship to some of the core concepts of the early Indian Buddhism, e.g., teachings on impermanence, not-self, dependent origination, meditation, and enlightenment.

**Class Meetings:** Tuesdays 9:30 am – 12:30 pm   
Institute of Buddhist Studies / Jodo Shinshu Center, 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, Rm 130

**Instructors:** Gil Fronsdal and Diana Clark

**Required Texts:** Reading material will be provided electronically by the instructors.

**Evaluation:** Class participation, reflection essays and final paper.

**Class Schedule**

**Part 1: Introduction**

Week 1: Feb 2 – Early Buddhist teachings and personal spiritual formation

Week 2: Feb 9 – Early Buddhist teachings in context

**Part 2: Empty**

Week 3: Feb 16 – Buddhist view on personhood: Five aggregates

Week 4: Feb 23 – Central Buddhist insight: Impermanence

Week 5: Mar 1 – Central Buddhist insight: Conditionality and dependent origination

Week 6: Mar 8 – Empty of projection and empty of doctrine: The Buddhist psychology of perception

Week 7: Mar 15 – Self and Not-self

Week 8: Mar 22 – Spring Break

Week 9: Mar 29 – Freedom from self: Empty of self

**Part 3: Emptying**

Week 10: April 5 – Personal transformation: Emptying of greed, hate and delusion

Week 11: Apr 12 – Praxis: Meditation and letting go

Week 12: April 19 – Meditation and emptying the mind

**Part 4 Emptiness**

Week 13: Apr 26 – Emptiness and Realization

Week 14: May 3 – Emptiness and Nirvana

Week 15: May 10 – Living emptiness radiantly

Week 16: May 17 - Conclusion

1. This represents the instructors’ current thinking. The syllabus may change. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)