

**RITUAL, PRACTICE AND CEREMONY IN BUDDHISM**  
**HR-1570**  
**Fall 2016 Syllabus - TENTATIVE**

**Instructor**

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Office hours: After class on Mondays or by appointment

**Course Description**

This course examines ritual and practice in the Buddhist tradition. Topics will include 1) the relationship between practice, doctrine, and ritual, 2) art, architecture, and music, and 3) historical and modern examples of ritual practice. Offered every other semester. Course format: Lecture & discussion. Evaluation: Written report, field trip and participation. No prerequisites.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation**

The following are required of all students:

Students must participate in class discussions (20% of the grade).

A field trip to observe an actual Buddhist ritual is also required. A list of potential sites will be distributed in class. An oral report on the trip will be delivered on Dec. 12 (35% of the grade). The trip may also be incorporated into the final paper if desired.

Students must also write a 10-15 page research paper, due on the last day of class, Monday, Dec. 12 (40% of the grade). Students will turn in a short (1-2 page) paper by Monday, Oct. 17, describing their proposed topic (5%).

Required Text: Lopez Jr., Donald S., editor. *Critical Terms for the Study of Buddhism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

## **Class Schedule**

Mondays, 9:40 AM -12:30 PM

CTB = *Critical Terms for the Study of Buddhism* (required text, see above)

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| 9/12  | <b>Week 1: Introduction</b><br>Structure of class, explanation of texts, requirements                            |
| 9/19  | <b>Week 2: Practice</b><br>“Practice,” Carl Bielefeld, CTB 229-244   |
| 9/26  | <b>Week 3: Meditation</b><br>“Indian Buddhist Meditation,” Paul J. Griffiths, 34-63                              |
| 10/3  | <b>Week 4: Ethics &amp; Gift</b><br>“Buddhist Morality,” Damien Keown, 3-20<br>“Gift,” Reiko Ohnuma, CTB 103-123 |
| 10/10 | <b>Week 5: Ritual</b><br>“Ritual,” Robert H. Sharf, CTB 245-270  |
| 10/17 | <b>Week 6: Word</b><br>“Word,” Ryuichi Abe, CTB 291-310  |
| 10/24 | <b>Week 7: Reading Week</b> – no class   |
| 10/31 | <b>Week 8: Text</b><br>“Materiality and Performativity of Sacred Texts,”<br>Fabio Rambelli, 88-128 (PDF)         |
| 11/7  | <b>Week 9: Institution</b><br>“Institution,” Timothy Brook, CTB 143-161  |
| 11/14 | <b>Week 10: Death</b><br>“Death,” Jacqueline I. Stone, CTB 56-76   |

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| 11/21 | Week 11: <b>Music</b><br>Reading to be assigned        |
| 11/28 | Week 12: <b>Art</b><br>Reading to be assigned          |
| 12/5  | Week 13: <b>Architecture</b><br>Reading to be assigned |
| 12/12 | Week 14: <b>Presentations / Final Paper Due</b>        |

Revised: August 24, 2016