

HR 1630: METHODS IN THE STUDY OF BUDDHISM—FALL 2016
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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.

- **SCHEDULE:** day of week: Wed., time: 9:40 to 12:30
- **LOCATION:** IBS/JSC Room 130 (may be moved depending on class size)
- **TEXTBOOKS:** Lopez, *Critical Terms of the Study of Buddhism*, Univ. of Chicago—CTSB
Harding, *Studying Buddhism in Practice*, Routledge—SBP

Assigned readings are to be done prior to the class meeting for which they are noted. Readings from textbooks (SBP & CTSB) noted are in addition to the primary reading. Discussion of the reading constitutes the substance of the class meeting for which it is noted.

CLASS PROJECTS:

- 1) thesis (or dissertation) proposal (see IBS catalogue for format; 40% of grade);
- 2) presentation of analysis of primary reading and leading in-class discussion (see class handout regarding critical reading 40% of grade); includes handouts outlining reading and relating it to broader issues in the field of study
- 3) formal presentation of research topic (see class handout regarding organization, etc., 20% of grade)

enrollment key: citta

COURSE CALENDAR

1. Sept. 7: Introduction to Class: critical approaches to Buddhist studies
2. Sept. 14: introduction to methodology
reading: Cabezon: "Buddhist Studies as a Discipline and the Role of Theory" *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 18.2 (Winter 1995): 231–268; CTSB: Lopez, "Buddha"
3. Sept. 21: economics
reading: 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.
CTSB: Benavides, "Economy"
4. Sept. 28: ritual studies
reading: Jones, "Stages in the Religious Life," *JIAS*, 20.2 (1997): 113–139
SBP: Apple, "The Insides and Outsides of a Tibetan Buddhist Ritual." CTSB: Sharf, "Ritual"
5. Oct. 5: psychology and cognitive science
reading: Cozort: "Suffering made Sufferable," *Journal of Buddhist Ethics*: 20 (2013): 357–375.
SBP: Danely, "Encounters with Jizo-san"

6. Oct. 12: sociology and anthropology
 readings: Lewis: "Contributions to the Study of Popular Buddhism," *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 16.2 (Winter 1993): 309–354
 SBP: Fenn, "From Texts to People." CTSB: Brook, "Institution"
7. Oct. 19: history and historiography: events, their contexts & meanings
 reading: Hevia, "Lamas, Emperors, and Rituals," *JIAS* 16.2 (Winter 1993): 243–278
 SBP: Harding, "Shifting Signposts", CTSB: Barrett, "History"
8. Oct. 26: GTU READING WEEK, no class meeting
9. Nov. 2: biography
 reading: Miller: "The Vagrant Poet and the Reluctant Scholar" *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 28.2 (2005): 369–410; CTSB: Pietz, "Person"
10. Nov. 9: archaeology, material culture and art
 reading: Schopen: "Archeology and Protestant Presuppositions in the Study of Indian Buddhism" *History of Religions* 31.1 (Aug. 1991): 1–23
 SBP: Winfield, "Coronation at Koyasan"; CTSB: Lachman, "Art"
11. Nov. 16: philology: translations, texts and canons
 reading: Skilling: "Scriptural Authenticity and the Śrāvaka Schools" *Eastern Buddhist* 41.2 (2010): 1–47. CTSB: Abe, "Word," and Davidson, "Scriptural Authenticity" (supplemental)
12. Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Break, no class meeting
13. Nov. 30: gender
 reading: Gyatso: "One Plus One Makes Three" *History of Religions* 43.2 (Nov. 2003): 89–115.
 SBP: Soucy, "Voice and Gender"; CTSB: Gyatso, "Sex"
14. Dec. 7: philosophy
 reading: 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
15. Dec. 14: student presentations, papers due, class evaluations
 students will make short presentations of their thesis/dissertation work

Student Learning Outcomes

- students will develop substantive understanding of different specific topics in Buddhist studies (content) and different approaches to the study of Buddhism (methods)
- students will develop analytic skills by placing different studies into the broader perspective of the field they represent
- students will develop critical thinking and analytic skills through close and detailed examination of a variety of different studies
- students will develop research skills by looking for relevant sources for their own future research projects (e.g., compiling bibliography for thesis proposal)
- students will develop public speaking skills by both in-class summaries, leading class discussions, and presenting plans for own future research