

HRPS 8320: PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF BUDDHISM I: FOUNDATIONS IN BUDDHIST

PSYCHOLOGICAL THOUGHT —FALL 2016

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*FINAL version: Thursday, August 25, 2016*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An examination of the development of psychological theories in the abhidharma, Yogācāra and tathāgatagarbha systems of thought, particularly through the reading of primary sources in translation. May be repeated for credit when different primary texts are being studied. May be upgraded for doctoral students. Auditors with faculty permission only. Course will be run like a directed readings course—students read materials as per schedule, write a summary of each reading that will be posted for all class members, and write a term paper.

• *SCHEDULE*: online

• *LOCATION*: online

*Assigned readings* are to be done prior to the class meeting for which they are noted. Summaries of the reading constitutes the substance of the class meeting for which it is noted. *Supplemental readings* are to be done on your own, provide indepth background on topics relevant to the course, from the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP), online @ <<http://plato.stanford.edu/index.html>>, may be read online for free; w/ student membership (\$5/annum, <https://leibniz.stanford.edu/friends/info/about/>) articles may be downloaded

Textbooks:

Steven Collins: *Selfless Persons*

Mario D'Amato: *Maitreya's Distinguishing the Middle from Extremes*

Reb Anderson, *Third Turning of the Wheel*

John Keenan, tr., *Scripture on the Explication of Underlying Meaning*

Supplemental Readings (SEP):

Coseru, "Mind in Indian Buddhist Philosophy"

Ronkin, "Abhidharma"

Gold, "Vasubandhu"

CLASS PROJECTS:

summaries of readings outlining the main points and/or argument of reading, 250 to 500 words/summary, post by Friday of each week, to Moodle course page forum for week (40% of grade)—review of other class members summaries is expected, this will improve your ability to understand what is important in each reading.

term paper, 2,000 +/- 250 words, on a topic of student's choosing (60% of grade)—this will require additional research and reading beyond the reading list; it is mandatory that you follow Turabian, failure to do so will result in paper being returned to student for rewriting and resubmitted by 16 December

resources for research: GTU and UC Berkeley Libraries, online resources include those available through GRACE, JSTOR <<http://www.jstor.org/>>, Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (JIABS), Journal of Global Buddhism (JGB), Journal of Buddhist Ethics (JBE)

enrollment key: manas

COURSE CALENDAR: DATE AS OF WEDNESDAY OF WEEK  
post comments, discussion, questions by end of Friday of each week

1. Sept. 7: reading: Collins, *Selfless Persons*, Introduction and Pt. I
2. Sept. 14: reading: Collins, *Selfless Persons*, Pt. II
3. Sept. 21: reading: Collins, *Selfless Persons*, Pt. III  
inform instructor of your choice of topic for term paper, including additional reading and research
4. Sept. 28: reading: Collins, *Selfless Persons*, Pt. IV & Conclusion
5. Oct. 5: reading: Anderson, *Third Turning*, chs. 1–4  
determine term paper topic
6. Oct. 12: reading: Anderson, *Third Turning*, chs. 5–7
7. Oct. 19: reading: Anderson, *Third Turning*, chs. 8–9
8. Oct. 26: GTU READING WEEK, no class meeting
9. Nov. 2: reading: Keenan, *Underlying Meaning*, chs. I–V
10. Nov. 9: reading: Keenan, *Underlying Meaning*, chs. VI–VIII
11. Nov. 16: reading: D’Amato, *Maitreya’s Distinguishing the Middle from Extremes*, pp. 1–48
12. Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Break, no class meeting
13. Nov. 30: reading: D’Amato, *Maitreya’s Distinguishing the Middle from Extremes*, pp. 48–111
14. Dec. 7: reading: D’Amato, *Maitreya’s Distinguishing the Middle from Extremes*, pp. 115–192
15. Dec. 14: submit term paper

*Student outcomes:*

- students will develop substantive knowledge of Buddhist psychological thought, specifically the central concepts, categories and concerns of the abhidharma, Yogācāra and tathāgatagarbha schools of Indian Buddhist thought, such as, dharma, kusala/akusala, samskrta/asamskrta, ignorance/awakening, valid cognition (pramana), path structure, bijas, alayavijnana, tathagatagarbha
- students will demonstrate analytical skills by summarizing key issues and arguments of each weeks’ readings
- students will develop writing and research skills by producing a term paper