

MODULE CODE: SICH7005

TITLE: Chinese Buddhist Scriptural Studies: the Sutras

DATED: 17/03/2016

LEVEL: 7

CREDITS: 20

JACS CODE: T100

AIM(S)

- To engage critically and systematically with the (Chinese) Sutras and commentaries upon them.
- To reflect critically on the philosophical and religious ideas contained within the (Chinese) Sutras and their reception in both ancient and modern contexts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Critically and systematically engage with key texts from the Sutras;
- Exhibit high level knowledge and understanding of a range of critical commentaries and other reflections upon the Sutras;
- Exhibit high level knowledge and understanding key texts from the Sutras from different historical, cultural, and philosophical/ethical perspectives;
- Critically and systematically reflect upon the value systems contained within a range of texts from the Sutras.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

This module will examine the (Chinese) Sutras and commentaries upon them. It will consider their broader philosophical, religious and social contexts, particularly in relation to the challenges inherent in translating Classical Chinese texts and the ideas they contain. It will consider the following themes:

- The origins of (Chinese) Buddhism and the establishment of its Schools -- particularly Pure Land Buddhism;

- The value systems and philosophical ideas contained within the (Chinese) Buddhist Sutras;
- The comparative analysis of translations and annotations and commentaries on the (Chinese) Buddhist Sutras.

LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY

Lectures will introduce the students to the concepts, principles and practices. **Tutorials and seminars** will introduce practical examples which will be used to support the application, discussion, and critical evaluation of techniques learned. Case studies will also be used to develop understanding and application of the techniques.

Guided independent study allows students to further their independent learning skills with appropriate support provided by the module tutor(s) (e.g. preparation for lectures and seminars, follow-up work, background reading, revision, completion of assessment tasks).

The allocation of teaching to deliver the module is:

Activity type	Hours	Percentage
Scheduled learning	60	30%
Independent learning	140	70%
Placement learning		
TOTAL	200	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component 1 - 40% Presentation (30 mins)

Exemplar: students will present an Oral Presentation on cultural, pedagogical or social aspects of the *Infinite Life Sutra* and its written script. (In Chinese).

Assessment Component 2 - 60% Essay (3000 words)

Exemplar: Critically consider the concept of the 'happy' life as expounded in the *Infinite Life Sutra*. (In English).

Assessment Summary

Activity type	Percentage
Written exam	
Coursework	60%
Practical	40%
TOTAL	100%

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)

Does the module contribute to ESD?	Yes
	No
The module relates to issues of sustainability in terms of the awareness of ‘ancient wisdom’ contained with Buddhist scriptures and its possible applications not only historically but to current situations, and particularly those linked to questions of environmental impact. More generally the module meets 2 of UNESCO Five Essential Pedagogic Approaches: Critical and creative Thinking, and Systematic Thinking.	

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Students will study a selection of the following key texts:

Essential

《淨土五經讀本》（含《無量壽經》九種經本），臺灣：華藏淨宗學會，2000 年版。
黃念祖居士：《無量壽經講記》，臺灣：臺南市淨宗學會，2014 年版。
淨空法師和黃念祖居士：《佛說大乘無量壽莊嚴清淨平等覺經科註》，香港：香港佛陀教育協會，2011 年版。
[淨空法師](#)：《淨土大經解演義》，香港：中國新聞聯合出版社，2011 年版。

Recommended

《無量壽經註釋叢書》，日本：岡山淨宗學會，2013 年版。
黃念祖居士：《佛說大乘無量壽莊嚴清淨平等覺經解》，臺灣：佛陀教育基金會，2011 年版。
《淨土大經科註參考資料》，香港：香港佛陀教育協會，2013 年版。
淨宗學院：<http://new.jingzong.org/>