

**MODULE CODE:** HPPD7007  
**TITLE:** Buddhism: Texts and Traditions  
**DATED:** 13/07/2017  
  
**LEVEL:** 7  
**CREDITS:** 30  
  
**JACS CODE:** V627

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#### **AIM(S)**

- To examine the earliest Buddhist doctrine and practice against the background of the early Upanishads.
- To assess the teachings of the Buddha in light of the relationship to other religions.
- To create understanding of intra-faith and interfaith issues in Buddhism from a variety of national and global perspectives.

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- critically discuss and undertake textual analysis of early Buddhism and its scripture within its historical context;
- examine Buddhism's place in world history;
- assess the place of Buddhism in today's world;
- understand the dynamic and diverse Buddhist approaches towards religious perspectives outside of Buddhism;
- articulate concepts in the context of Buddhist encounters with other faiths.

#### **INDICATIVE CONTENT**

- The story of the Buddha's life and its significance for followers of the Buddhist path; Siddhartha Gautama in his social and religious context.
- The core tenets of the Buddhist dhamma (i.e. the Buddha's teaching).
- Early developments within Buddhism; the growth and spread of Buddhism during the reign of Ashoka; schisms within the Sangha.
- Theravada Buddhism and the development of the Pali canon.
- The rise of Mahayana Buddhism; nature of the Mahayana and its attitude to earlier schools; the Mahayana canon.
- The bodhisattva ideal.

- Mahayana cosmology and buddhology.
- The major traditions of Mahayana Buddhism.
- Tibetan Buddhism and the Vajrayana; the Tibetan Buddhist canon.
- The role of key Buddhist concepts in the context of intra-faith and interfaith encounters.
- Buddhist perspectives on inter-faith relations.

## LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY

Lectures will introduce the students to the key aspects of Buddhism and its main scriptures. Seminars will introduce key texts which will be used to support the discussion and critical evaluation of approaches learned.

The allocation of teaching to deliver the module is:

| Activity type        | Hours      | Percentage  |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|
| Scheduled learning   | 30         | 10          |
| Independent learning | 270        | 90          |
| Placement learning   |            |             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>300</b> | <b>100%</b> |

## ASSESSMENT

**Assessment Component 1 – 100%**

**Coursework: Essay (7500 words)**

Example of the type of question or task that could be used:

How may Buddhism call into question pre-conceived ideas about what a religion is? Discuss this question with reference to interfaith and interreligious engagement.

### Assessment Summary

| Activity type | Percentage  |
|---------------|-------------|
| Written exam  |             |
| Coursework    | 100         |
| Practical     |             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>100%</b> |

## EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Does the module contribute to ESD?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Yes</b> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | No         |
| <p>If yes please provide brief details (no more than 100 words):</p> <p>The module contributes to the sustainability agenda in its broadest sense by encouraging students to think about the skills they require to solve their academic questions. These are transferable skills which assist in nurturing critical and creative thinking. As such the module is focused on meeting the immediate academic needs of the students while also equipping them to think critically and solve problems in an unknown future. These include skills which relate specifically to issues associated with interfaith and intra-faith dialogues, which are built through a process of analysis and reflection, including during the assessment process for this module, along with in-seminar discussions.</p> |            |

## READING LIST

| Module Code    | HPPD7007                                                                                                                                 |                          |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Module Title   | Buddhism: Texts and Traditions                                                                                                           |                          |
| Classification | Reading List entry                                                                                                                       | Electronic*              |
| Essential      | Abe, M., <i>Buddhism and Interfaith Dialogue</i> (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1995).                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Essential      | Gethin, R., <i>The Foundations of Buddhism</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998).                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Essential      | Harvey, P., <i>An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, History and Practices</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998).          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Essential      | Kuznetsova, I., J. Ganeri and Ch. Ram-Prasad, <i>Hindu and Buddhist Ideas in Dialogue</i> (London: Routledge, 2012).                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Essential      | Lopez, D., <i>Buddhist Scriptures</i> (London: Penguin Books, 2004).                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Essential      | Schmidt-Leukel, P. (ed.), <i>Buddhism and Christianity in Dialogue: The Gerald Weisfeld Lectures 2004</i> (London: SCM, 2005).           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended    | Batchelor, S., <i>The Awakening of the West: The Encounter of Buddhism and Western Culture</i> (London: Aquarian, 1994).                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended    | Cobb, John B., <i>Beyond Dialogue: Toward a Mutual Transformation of Christianity and Buddhism</i> (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982). | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended    | Cobb, J. and C. Ives (eds.), <i>The Emptying God: a Buddhist-Jewish-Christian Conversation</i> (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1990).                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                          |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Recommended | Cornille, C., <i>The Im-Possibility of Interreligious Dialogue</i> (New York: Crossroads, 2008).                                                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Gombrich, R., <i>How Buddhism Began: The Conditioned Genesis of the Early Teaching</i> (London: Athlone Press, 1996).                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Hamilton, S., <i>Early Buddhism: A New Approach</i> (London: Curzon, 2000).                                                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Harris, E. and P. Hedges, <i>Twenty-First Century Theology of Religions: Retrospection and Future Prospects</i> (Leiden: Brill, 2016).                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Harris, E., <i>Thervada Buddhism and the British Encounter: Religious, Missionary and Colonial Experience in Nineteenth Century Sri Lanka</i> (London: Routledge, 2006). | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Keown, D., <i>Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996).                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Keown, D., <i>The Nature of Buddhist Ethics</i> (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1992).                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Lai, W. and M. von Bruck, <i>Christianity and Buddhism: A Multicultural History of their Dialogue</i> (Maryknoll: Orbis, 2001).                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Lefebure, L.D., <i>The Buddha and the Christ</i> (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1993).                                                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Rahula, W., <i>What the Buddha Taught</i> (Bedford: Gordon Fraser, 1967).                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Sangharakshita, <i>The Bodhisattva Ideal: Wisdom and Compassion in Buddhism</i> (Cambridge: Windhorse Publications, 1999).                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Shin, K., <i>The Concept of Self in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity and its Implication for Interfaith Relations</i> (Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2017). | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Snelling, J., <i>The Buddhist Handbook</i> (London: Rider, 1987).                                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Williams, P., <i>Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations</i> (London: Routledge, 1989).                                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recommended | Wijayaratna, M., <i>Buddhist Monastic Life: According to the Texts of the Theravada Tradition</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990).                         | <input type="checkbox"/> |