

Module Code	HPPH7019
Title	Buddhist Philosophy – Mahayana and Zen Approaches
Date	22/07/2021
Level	7
Credits	30
Pre-Requisites	N/A

AIM(S)

- To engage critically and systematically with central Chinese Mahayana and Zen texts and related commentaries.
- To reflect critically on the philosophical and religious ideas contained within the (Chinese) Diamond Sutra and their reception in both ancient and modern contexts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Critically and systematically engage with key texts from the Mahayana and Zen traditions;
- Critically and systematically reflect upon the value systems contained within a range of texts.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

This module will examine Buddhist texts such as the (Chinese) *Diamond Sutra* and related commentaries. 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) Mahayana Buddhism and the establishment of its Schools -- particularly Zen Buddhism;
- The value systems and philosophical ideas contained within the (Chinese) *Diamond Sutra* and other Mahayana/Zen texts;
- The comparative analysis of translations and annotations and commentaries on Mahayana/Zen texts (e.g., the (Chinese) *Diamond Sutra*);
- The influence of the *Diamond Sutra* in both ancient and modern Chinese Buddhist thought and social and cultural practices, particularly the importance of Chinese Mahayana Buddhism

Study Time Allocation

The study time for the module is divided as follows:

Activity type	Hours	Percentage
Scheduled learning	30	10%
Independent learning	270	90%
Placement learning		
TOTAL	300	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component 1

(Tick one)

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Portfolio	7,500-9000 words equivalent	100%

Assessment Component 2

(Tick one)

☐ Written exam ☐ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting

Assessment Summary

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

INDICATIVE READING LIST

Module Code		
Module Title	Buddhist Philosophy – Mahayana and Zen Approaches	
Classification	Reading List entry	Electronic*
Essential	Master Hsuan Hua, <i>The Diamond Sutra: A General Explanation of the Vajra Prajna Paramita Sutra</i> , The Buddhist Text Translation Society, 1974.	☐
Essential	Red Pine, <i>The Lankavatara Sutra: Translation and Commentary</i> , Counterpoint, 2013.	☐
Essential	Master Thich Nhat Hanh, <i>The Diamond That Cuts Through Illusion (English)</i> , Parallax Press, 2006.	☐
Essential	Mu Soeng, <i>The Diamond Sutra: Transforming the Way We Perceive the World</i> , Wisdom Publications, 2000.	☐
Essential	Burton, B. <i>Emptiness Appraised: A Critical Study on Nagarjuna's Philosophy</i> , Curzon Press, 1999.	☐

Essential	Williams, P. <i>Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations</i> . 2 nd ed. Abingdon: Routledge, 2009.	☒
Essential	Schlütter, Morten. <i>How Zen Became Zen: The Dispute over Enlightenment and the Formation of Chan Buddhism in Song Dynasty China</i> . Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2008.	☐
Further	Williams, P. <i>Some Aspects of Language and Construction in the Madhayamaka</i> , <i>Journal of Indian Philosophy</i> , 8/1 1980.	☒
Further	<i>Asian Philosophy</i>	☒
Further	<i>Journal of Indian Philosophy</i>	☒
Further	<i>Journal of Religious Ethics</i>	☒
Further	<i>Philosophy East and West</i>	☒
Further	<i>Religious Studies Review</i>	☒