



HISTORY OF BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY

Fall 2021 Syllabus

PHILOSOPHY 302

Section 001

CRN: 12683

MWF 12:00-12:50 PM

Edith Kanaka'ole Hall 126

Dr. Timothy J. Freeman

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Edith Kanaka'ole Hall 212

PHONE: 932-7479; CELL: 345-5231

freeman@hawaii.edu

Office Hours: MWF 1:00 -1:50 PM and by appointment

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

Phil 302 History of Buddhist Philosophy

History of Buddhist philosophy and its cultural influence and intellectual development in Asia and Hawai'i. Recommended: previous work in philosophy or religious studies. (Attributes: DH, GAHP, HPP)

REQUIRED TEXT

Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience, 3rd ed. Donald W. Mitchell & Sarah H. Jacoby. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

COURSE WEB PAGE

<https://tfreeman.net/Philosophy/302/>

COURSE CONTENT

This course covers the history of Buddhist philosophy from its inception in ancient India to its modern day development in both Asia and the West. Part One of the course will focus on the development of Buddhism within India and Tibet. In Part Two of the course, we will follow the further development of East Asian Buddhism. We will examine development of Buddhism in China where the Mahāyāna teachings from India were combined with strains of Confucian and Daoist teachings from the classical Chinese tradition. We will then follow the development of the distinctly East Asian Buddhist schools. We will close with a consideration of the contemporary movement of Engaged Buddhism and its relevance in thinking about the ecological crisis.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

[Philosophy courses for GE purposes]: (As with all Philosophy courses) Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- respond clearly, logically and critically to examination questions and discussion questions about some important philosophical issues relevant to the course;
- read, comprehend, and discuss philosophical texts relevant to the course;
- compose effective written materials that assimilate, synthesize and reflect on course information;
- identify and describe in writing and in class discussion some important aspects of the cultural heritage and contributions of Buddhist philosophy.

COURSE FORMAT

This class is designated as a Hybrid Course. The course will start off online and will have face-to-face instruction later in the semester as conditions permit.

[UH Hilo Designation of Types of Courses](#)

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Students will be expected to tune in to the Zoom sessions with camera on.

GRADING POLICY

The final grade will be based on the following:

- 1) 10 % Attendance & Class Participation
- 2) 40 % Mid Term Exam
- 3) 50 % Final Exam Term Paper (6-10 pages)

Grading will be determined according to the following scale:

A 95-100 Excellent	C + 77-79
A - 90-94	C 74-76 Satisfactory
B + 87-89	C - 70-73 Poor
B 84-86 Good	D 60-70 Failure
B - 80-83	F below 60

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

[Short Link](#)

[Mobile link](#)

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART I: INDIAN AND TIBETAN BUDDHISM

Week 1: Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy

M 08/23	<i>Course Introduction and Orientation</i>	
W 08/25	The Life of Gautama Buddha	Mitchell & Jacoby (6-30)
F 08/27	Film: <i>The Buddha</i>	

Week 2: Teachings of the Buddha

M 08/30	Indian Philosophy Background	
W 09/01	Central Teachings: The Four Noble Truths	
F 09/03	Central Teachings: The Fire Sermon	Mitchell & Jacoby (31-64) Selections from <i>The Pali Canon</i>

** August 31: last day to completely withdraw from courses without owing tuition. **

Week 3: Development of Theravāda Buddhism

M 09/06	<i>*Holiday: Labor Day*</i>	
W 09/08	Early Buddhism	
F 09/10	<i>No Class: PACT Conference</i>	
		Mitchell & Jacoby (65-114) Selections from <i>The Pali Canon</i>

***September 10: last day to exercise Credit/No Credit and final deadline to apply for Fall 2021 Graduation.*

Week 4: Mahāyāna Buddhism—The Great Vehicle

M 09/13	The Bodhisattva and the Teaching of Emptiness	
W 09/15	The Great Journey of the Bodhisattva	
F 09/17	Celestial Buddhas and Bodhisattvas	Mitchell & Jacoby (115-148) Selections from <i>The Prajñāpāramitā Sūtras</i>

***September 14: last day to drop a class online without a “W” and last day to receive 50% refund for complete withdrawals*

Week 5: Indian Experiences of Buddhism

M 09/20	Nāgārjuna’s Mādhyamaka School	
W 09/22	Fundamental Verses of the Middle Way	
F 09/24	Fundamental Verses of the Middle Way	Mitchell & Jacoby (149-163) Selections from <i>The Mūlamadhyamakakārikā</i>

Week 6: Indian Experiences of Buddhism

M 09/27	The Tathāgata-garbha Literature	
W 09/29	The Yogācāra School	
F 10/01	Bodhicitta	Mitchell & Jacoby (163-176)

Week 7: Tibetan Experiences of Buddhism

M 10/04	Tantra and Vajrayāna Buddhism	
W 10/06	Tantra and Vajrayāna Buddhism	
F 10/08	Major Schools of Tibetan Buddhism	Mitchell & Jacoby (177-221) Selections from Tibetan Texts

Week 8: Tibetan Experiences of Buddhism

M 10/11	Film: <i>Kundun</i>	
W 10/13	Film: <i>Kundun</i>	
F 10/15	Film: <i>Kundun</i>	

PART II: EAST-ASIAN BUDDHISM

Week 9: Chinese Experiences of Buddhism

M 10/18	Background of Chinese Philosophy	
W 10/20	Buddhism comes to China	
F 10/22	The Heavenly Terrace School	Mitchell & Jacoby (222-237) Selections from <i>The Lotus Sūtra</i>

Week 10: Chinese Experiences of Buddhism

M 10/25	The Flower Garland School	
W 10/27	The Flower Garland School	
F 10/29	The Flower Garland School	Mitchell & Jacoby (237-243) Selections from <i>The Avataṃsaka Sūtra</i>

Week 11: Chinese Experiences of Buddhism

M 11/01	Chan Buddhism: Bodhidharma	
W 11/03	Chan Buddhism: <i>The Platform Sūtra</i>	
F 11/05	Chan Buddhism: Caodong and Linji Schools	Mitchell & Jacoby (243-250) Selections from Chan Texts

November 1: Last Day to Withdraw from Courses with "W"*

Week 12: Chinese Experiences of Buddhism

M 11/08	The Pure Land School	
W 11/10	Persecution and Decline and Later Developments	
F 11/12	Chinese Buddhism Today	Mitchell & Jacoby (250-274) Selections from <i>The Land of Bliss Sūtras</i>

Week 13: Japanese Experiences of Buddhism

M 11/15	The Six Schools of the Nara Period	
W 11/17	The Tendai and Shingon Schools of the Heian Period	
F 11/19	The Pure Land School of the Kamakura Period	Mitchell & Jacoby (309-329)

Week 14: Japanese Experiences of Buddhism

M 11/22 Zen Buddhism in the Kamakura Period
W 11/24 Later development of Zen
F 11/26 *Non-Instructional Day*

Mitchell & Jacoby (329-362)

Week 15: The Globalization of Buddhism

M 11/29 Selections from Gary Snyder
W 12/01 Albert Saijo's Poetry
F 12/03 Thich Nhat Hanh:

The Sun My Heart

Week 16: The Globalization of Buddhism

M 12/06 Robert Aitken
W 12/08 The Dalai Lama

The Dragon Never Sleeps
Hope for the Future

Final Exam

M 12/13 (11:50 am —1:50 pm)

schedule is subject to revision