The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Chapters in Buddhist Philosophy - 24162

Last update 13-09-2021

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Comparative Religion

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Eviatar Shulman

Coordinator Email: eviatar.shulman@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesdat 12-13 upon reuqest by email

Teaching Staff:

Prof Eviatar Shulman

Course/Module description:
  The course will treat a number of central question in the development of Buddhist philosophy, from early Buddhism, through the rise of the Mahayana, and to a central focus on Madhyamaka and Yogacara thought.
Main issues will be metaphysics, the relation between philosophy, logic and meditation, and the nature of the mind.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
  1. To re-assess the nature of reality and question whether their consciousness is a reliable device.
2. To identify the historical processes behind the development of Buddhist philosophy in India.
3. To see things as they are ;)

Attendance requirements(%):
  100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures and discussion in class, including group discussions and presentations in class.

Course/Module Content:
  An elaborate list will be uploaded toward the beginning of the teaching term. The main themes are -
1. Early Buddhism (3-4 classes).
2. The rise of the Mahayana and the "Perfection of Wisdom" (2 classes).
3. Madhyamaka (4 classes).
4. Yogacara (3 classes)
5. Tatra and Zen (1-2 classes)

Required Reading:
 A full list will be uploaded toward the beginning of the semester. There will be primary source reading for each class and an article to prepare approximately for every other class.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 30 %
Project work 50 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
The course is designed as an advanced course in Buddhist philosophy for students who have studied Introduction to Buddhism or another relevant course. Other students can register but will have to complete preliminary reading.

The course is based on a heavier work load over the semester, while the final paper is relatively light and acts as a summary.