

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy - 35123

Last update 15-10-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Asian Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Eviatar Shulman

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

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday 12-13, upon appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Eviatar Shulman

Course/Module description:

Introduction to the main principles of Buddhist thought and to their historical development, with special focus on the relation between theory and practice. Main focuses are on the thought of the historical Buddha, Nagarjuna, Vasubandhu and Zen Buddhism.

Course/Module aims:

To understand the main Buddhist philosophical ideas and their historical development in India and Asia

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. understand the fundamental philosophical principles of Buddhism and see how they challenge basic intuitions of human life.
2. To analyze the relation between philosophy and practice, and use this analysis to inform their approach to the practice of any philosophy whether Buddhist or other.

Attendance requirements(%):

80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and discussion based on powerpoints and textual readings.

Course/Module Content:

1. introduction - Buddha's life story. Did the Buddha deny philosophy?
2. The Four Noble Truths.
3. Selflessness.
4. Dependent-origination and Karma.
5. Compassion and ethics, mindfulness and meditation.
6. Professional Buddhist philosophy: Abhidharma. 7. Summarizing early Buddhism, and moving to the rise of the Mahayana.
8. Emptiness and the perfection of wisdom.
9. Nagarjuna and the Middle-way.
10. 11. Vasubandhu and "mind-only".
12. Dharmakirti and the epistemological tradition.
13. "Buddha-nature", tantra, and the nature of mind in Tibet.
14. Zen (Ch'an)-Buddhism.

Required Reading:

Primary sources will be assigned for each lesson from the following list. Secondary literature will be recommended, and for certain lessons required, from the list in the next section.

Dhammacakkappavattana-sutta

"הדרשה הקצרה לראהולה" (*sutta-rahulovāda-Cūḷa*)

"הדרשה על לילה מופלא אחד" (*sutta-ratta-eka-Bhadd*)

"הדרשה לקצ'צ'אנה-גותה"

Kaccaanagottasutta

"משל החץ"

CULaRahulovaada-sutta

"הדרשה לוצ'צ'אהגותה"

"אודות האש"

Aggivacchagotta-sutta

"הדרשה לאנשי קאלאמה"

Kaalaamaasutta

"מתוך "פרק השמיניות"

"הספר על המעבר מעבר"

Atthakavagga, PaaraayaNavagga

"הדרשה על הפחד והיראה" (*sutta-bherava-Bhaya*)

"הדרשה על ביסוס העירנות" (*sutta-paṭṭhāna-Sati*)

"הדרשה על מצבי (התודעה) העוקבים" (*sutta-Anupada*)

"הדרשה אודות פירות הפרישות" (*sutta-Sāmaññaaphala*)

מסיפורי הלידות הקודמות של הבודהה (*Jaataka*)

"אסופת האביהדממה" (*Samgaha-Abhidhamma*)

"סוטרת הלב" (*Suutra Heart*)

"הדרשה על ארץ האושר" (*Sukhavatīvyūha*)

"Muulamadhyamakakaarika"

שירת השורש של דרך האמצע, פרקים 1,15

"ששים ההגיונות" (*ṣaṣṭikā-Yukti*).

"שירת השורש", בדגש על פרקים 2,5,13,24,25

"עשרים פסוקים" (*Viṃśatikā*)

"האבחנה בין האמצע והקצה" (*vibhāga-Madhyānta*)

Platform suutra

מתוך "מסירת המנורה"

"התעוררות האמונה במהאיאנה"

סוטרת הבמה"

שירת הייקו

Additional Reading Material:

- גתין, ר., (2014). בודהיזם: היסטוריה, דת, תרגול. ישראל: אלטרנטיבות, פרק 1 (במיוחד 35-46).
- Gethin, Rupert, (1998). *The Foundations of Buddhism*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, ch. 3, pp. 59-84.
- Hadot, P., (1995). *Philosophy as a Way of Life*. Oxford, UK, and Cambridge, USA: Blackwell, ch. 3 ("spiritual exercises").
- Gethin, Rupert, (1998). *The Foundations of Buddhism*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, ch. 6, pp. 133-162.
- Collins, S., (1982). *Selfless Persons: Imagery and Thought in Theravāda Buddhism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ch. 3 (esp. pp. 95-112).
- Collins, S., (1982). *Selfless Persons: Imagery and Thought in Theravāda Buddhism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ch. 4 (esp. pp. 127-138).
- Gomez, L., (1976). "Proto-Mādhyamika in the Pāli canon." *Philosophy East & West* 26 (2): 137-165.
- Griffiths, P., (1981). "Concentration or Insight: The Problematic of Theravāda Buddhist Meditation Theory." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 49.4: 605-624.
- Shulman, E., (2010). "Mindful Wisdom: The Sati-paṭṭhāna-sutta on Mindfulness, Memory and Liberation." *History of Religions* 49.4: 393-420.
- Strong, J. S., (2001). *The Buddha: A Beginner's Guide*. Oxford: Oneworld, ch. 2.
- Williams, P., (1989). *Mahāyāna Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations*. New York: Routledge, ch. 1.
- נאגארג'ונה, (2010). שירת השורש של דרך האמצע: תרגום, הקדמים ובאר אביתר שולמן. כרמל. הקדמה, עמ' 43-59.
- Carpenter, A. D., (2014). *Indian Buddhist Philosophy*. Durham: Acumen, ch. 4.
- Huntington, C. W., (2007). "The Nature of the Madhyamaka Trick." *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 35: 103-131.
- Garfield, J. L., (2008). "Turning a Madhyamaka Trick: Reply to Huntington." *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 36: 507-527.
- Shulman, E., (2007 [2009]). "Creative Ignorance: Nāgārjuna on the Ontological Significance of Consciousness." *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* 30.1-2: 139-173.
- Nagao, Gadjin, (1991). "From Madhyamika to Yogācāra." In *Mādhyamika and Yogācāra*, New York: SUNY, 189-199.
- Kochumuttom, Thomas, A., (1999 [1982]). *A Buddhist Doctrine of Experience: A New Translation of the Works of Vasubandhu the Yogācārin*. Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass Publishers, ch. 1.

Williams, P., (1989). Mahāyāna Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations. New York: Routledge, ch. 5.

"

McRae, John R., (2003). Seeing through Zen: Encounter, Transformation and Genealogy in Chinese Chan Buddhism. Berkeley: University of California Press, ch. 2.

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 60 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 30 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

Additional information: