

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

Asst. Prof. Nicholas Witkowski

Email: nwitkowski@ntu.edu.sg

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Aims

Is Buddhism a philosophy? Is it a religion? Is it a set of rituals? This course will give you the tools to evaluate these and other questions you have about Buddhism. This course will cover Buddhist social and intellectual history, beginning with the emergence of the cult of the Buddha and the earliest monasteries in South Asia, then discuss medieval transitions in East and South East Asia, and end with a set of discussions on how to think about modern, post-modern and global Buddhisms. The course will engage the Buddhist experience from a wide range of thematic and cultural perspectives. Themes will include Buddhism and the family, the experience of meditation, death ritual, Buddhism and war, the body as an object of desire and repulsion, Buddhist medicine, and the structure of monastic life. Cultural contexts will include India, China, Japan, Cambodia, and Thailand, among others.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast conceptions of Buddhism across a wide range of Asian historical contexts.
2. Utilize methods in the study of religion to understand historical patterns of development across Indian, Chinese, and Southeast Asian contexts.
3. Distinguish between Buddhism as a set of doctrinal principles and culturally specific historical adaptations of these ideas.
4. Develop historical empathy for Buddhist communities across premodern and modern Asia.

Requirements and Expectations

Weekly Online Submissions and Discussion - 20%: Each week, you are to submit online a 500-word **summary** and **analysis** of at least one of the following week's readings. You will submit the summary 2 days before the class to give other students the opportunity to read through your discussion. In these discussions with other students, you will come together to **formulate evidence-based, well-reasoned arguments** for your **interpretations** of the case studies covered throughout the course.

Research Essay Proposal - 10%: You will write a proposal for the research essay containing the following elements:

1. Statement of the essay question (this is not the same as an essay topic or subject area and needs to take the form of a *question*).
2. Summary of background research conducted to date, noting: i) the key issues in the secondary source literature; ii) the available primary sources for the topic.
3. The theoretical approach or approaches you will take in the essay.

Primary Source Analysis - 30%: You will submit a 1500-word essay (due Week 7). You will select one primary source (from the South, East, or SE Asian Buddhist traditions) and discuss its historical/cultural context. Your primary source analysis will be the foundation of your final research paper.

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

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Final Research Essay – 40%: For your final research paper (3000 words), you will **develop a novel way of conceptualizing and explaining** the primary source text in the context of established scholarship on your chosen topic. You will present a clear research question and hypothesis, review the scholarly literature on the topic, **collect and synthesize** the data, and state a clear conclusion. The research paper can represent an introductory chapter to your final year project (FYP) or one of the chapters for your thesis.

Course Outline

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Week (1) | Course Introduction and Overview

<u>Readings:</u> Strong, Chapters 2 and 3 |
| Week (2) | Classic Scholarly Conceptions of Early Indian Buddhism: Conceptual Foundations and the Structure of the Early Monastic Community

<u>Readings:</u> Strong, Chapters 4, 5

<u>Primary Sources:</u> <i>Aśvaghoṣa's Buddhacarita</i> , selections |
| Week (3) | Challenging Classic Scholarly Conceptions of the Early Monastic Community

<u>Secondary Sources:</u> Clarke; Strong, Chapter 6

<u>Primary Sources:</u> <i>Vinaya</i> Selections on Blackboard |
| Week (4) | The Mahāyāna and Early Medieval Indian Buddhism: The Development of a Buddhist Paradise

<u>Secondary Sources:</u> Strong, Chapter 8; Osto

<u>Primary Sources:</u> Gomez, pp. 3-22 |
| Week (5) | Tantra and Late Medieval Indian Buddhism

<u>Secondary Sources:</u> Samuel, Chapters 9-12

<u>Primary Sources:</u> White, Selections on Blackboard |

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Week (6) *Buddhism on the Periphery of Chinese Culture: Early Chinese Philosophical and Social Adaptations of an Indian Religion*

Secondary Sources: Zürcher, Chapters 1-3

Primary Sources: Chinese Sutra Selections on Blackboard

Week (7) *Buddhism Moves to Center Stage in China: Material and Ritual Cultural Adaptations of Indian Buddhism*

Assignment Due: Primary Source Analysis (submit on Blackboard by 23:59)

Secondary Sources: Copp, Chapters 1-3

Primary Sources: White, Selections on Blackboard

Week (8) *Buddhist Influence on State and Cosmology in Early Medieval Japan*

Assignment Due: Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography (submit on Blackboard by 23:59)

Secondary Sources: Abe, Chapters 1-4

Primary Sources: Hakeda (Kukai)

Week (9) *Medieval Japanese Buddhist Literature*

Secondary Sources: LeFleur, Chapters 1 and 2

Primary Sources: McKinney, Essays in Idleness

Week (10) *Monastic Education in Laos and Thailand*

Secondary Sources: McDaniel

Week (11) *Magic, Protection and Healing in Burmese Buddhism*

Secondary Sources: Patton

Week (12) *Buddhist Death Ritual in Contemporary Cambodia*

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

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Secondary Sources: Davis

Week (13)

Global Buddhist Modernities

Assignment Due: Research Paper (submit on Blackboard by 23:59)

Readings

Texts subject to changes

Abe, Ryuichi. *The Weaving of Mantra: Kūkai and the Construction of Esoteric Buddhist Discourse*. New York: Columbia University Press.

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

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Clarke, Shayne (2014). *Family Matters in Indian Buddhist Monasticisms*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Copp, Paul (2014). *The Body Incantatory: Spells and the Ritual Imagination in Medieval Chinese Buddhism*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Davis, Erik W. (2016). *Deathpower: Buddhism's Ritual Imagination in Cambodia*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Gifford, Julie A. (2011). *Buddhist Practice and Visual Culture: The Visual Rhetoric of Borobudur*. London: Routledge Press.

Gomez, Luis (1996). *The Land of Bliss: The Paradise of the Buddha of Measureless Light*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Hakeda, Yoshio (1972). *Kūkai: Major Works*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Harrison, Paul (ed.) (2018). *Setting Out on the Great Way: Essays on Early Mahayana Buddhism*. Sheffield: Equinox.

LaFleur, William R. (1986). *The Karma of Words: Buddhism and the Literary Arts in Medieval Japan*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

McDaniel, Justin (2008). *Gathering Leaves and Lifting Words: Histories of Buddhist Monastic Education in Laos and Thailand*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

McKinney, Meredith (2013). *Essays in Idleness and Hōjōki*. London: Penguin.

Olivelle, Patrick (2011). *Ascetics and Brahmins: Studies in Ideologies and Institutions*. London: Anthem Press.

Osto, Douglas (2019). "Altered States and the Origins of the Mahāyāna."

Patton, Thomas N. (2018). *The Buddha's Wizards: Magic, Protection and Healing in Burmese Buddhism*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Samuel, Geoffrey. (2009). *The Origins of Tantra and Yoga: Indian Religions to the Thirteenth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Strong, John S. (2015). *Buddhisms: An Introduction*. London: Bloomsbury Press.

Takakusu, Junjiro. (1896). *A Record of the Buddhist Religion as Practiced in India and the Malay Archipelago (A.D. 671-695)*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

White, David, ed. (2000). *Tantra in Practice*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

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Zurcher, Erik (2008). *The Buddhist Conquest of China: The Spread and Adaptation of Buddhism in Early Medieval China*. Leiden: Brill.

Course Policies

(1) General

You are expected to complete all assigned pre-class readings and activities, attend all lectures/tutorials punctually and take all scheduled assignments and tests by due dates. You are expected to take

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

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responsibility to follow up with course notes, assignments and course related announcements for seminar sessions you have missed. You are expected to participate in all seminar discussions and activities.

(2) Absenteeism

Absence from class without a valid reason can affect your overall course grade. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies.

If you miss a lecture, you must inform the course instructor via email prior to the start of the class.

(3) Late submission of assignments and extensions

Midterm essay assignments that are submitted past the due date will be deducted 10% off the mark assigned per day that the assignment is late, down to the pass mark (40%). That is, you will not be failed merely on late submission, but there is a significant penalty per day. If you receive 65% and your assignment is 1 day late, your mark will be 55% (a 10% penalty). If you receive 60% and your assignment is 4 days late, you will receive 40% (since I do not deduct below the pass mark).

Extensions: If you require an extension please email me **prior to day the assignment is due**. Extensions will only be given in cases of illness (in which a student presents a medical certificate) or in serious extenuating circumstances.

Appendix: Course Style Guide

1. Format of all written assignments

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

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1.A. Font

The essay should be in Times New Roman font. The body of paragraphs should be 12 point size. Headings should be 14 point size and footnotes 10 point size.

1.B. Spacing

The body of the essay (including block quotations) should be double spaced. However, footnotes may be single spaced.

2. Elements of style

2.A. Quotations

Double quotation marks should be used. Quotations within quotations should be indicated with single quotation marks. Place commas and full stops inside quotations and other punctuation marks (e.g. colons and semi-colons) outside the quotation, unless they are part of the quoted text.

Short quotes: Short quotations from other sources should be included in quotation marks within the body of the paragraph.

Block quotes: Quotations of four or more lines (before indenting) should be formatted as a block quote. In a block quote, the quoted text should be in a separate paragraph from the main text and indented from the margin. Neither italics nor quotation marks should be used in a block quote unless they appear in the original. The footnote to the quote should be included at the end of the quote, after the punctuation mark. The quoted text should be in double line spacing (like the main text).

2.B. Spelling

The essay should be in the English language. Students may use either American or British spelling, but should be consistent throughout. Quotations should follow the original text precisely, even if there are spelling or grammatical errors in the original. Students should insert “[sic]” after spelling and grammatical mistakes in quotations.

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

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2.C. Italics

Italics should be used for non-English language words. However, words of non-English language origin that are commonly used in English (such as “bazaar”) do not need to be in italics.

Moreover, foreign language proper nouns such as names, places, and organisations (for example, “Guomindang” or “Barisan Nasional”) should not be italicised.

2.D. References to titles in the text

References to the titles of books, pamphlets, films, etc. should follow the referencing style (see section 2 below). Thus, the following titles should be italicised: books; pamphlets; periodicals; plays; and films. The following should be enclosed in quotation marks: titles of articles; book chapters; unpublished works; and theses.

2.E. Brackets

Round brackets should be used in the main text (these are round brackets). Square brackets should be used for insertions in quotations, if an insertion is required so that the quoted sentence makes sense. For example: Washington stated in his 1796 Farewell Address, “The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you [the American people].”

2.F. Numbers and dates

Spell out numbers less than ten, except for page numbers and dates, and material in footnotes and bibliography (see section 2 below on referencing style).

For dates, use the following forms: 20 December 1875; 1875–77; nineteenth century; 1870s; 200 B.C. and A.D. 200. Including A.D. is only necessary if non-inclusion would cause confusion.

Abbreviations may be used in footnotes, e.g.: 20 Dec. 1875.

The following are examples of correct and incorrect references to decades:

The doctor gave up smoking back in the 1980’s. → Incorrect

The doctor gave up smoking back in the 1980s. → Correct

The doctor gave up smoking back in the ’80’s. → Incorrect

The doctor gave up smoking back in the ’80s. → Correct

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

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3. Footnote and bibliography referencing style

Students are required to use the 16th edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, which is available on-shelf in the NTU library. Below are examples of footnote and bibliography references taken from the Chicago style guide.

3.A. Footnotes

The first time a work is referenced in the footnotes, a full reference (including full author name, title and publication details) should be used. Subsequent references should be shortened to author's family name, short title and page number. When the same work is referenced in two consecutive footnotes, "Ibid., [page number]" should be used for the second footnote.

Book

One author

1. Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (New York: Penguin, 2006), 99–100.

[Short reference: Pollan, *Omnivore's Dilemma*, 3.]

Two or more authors

1. Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns, *The War: An Intimate History, 1941–1945* (New York: Knopf, 2007), 52.

[Short reference: Ward and Burns, *War*, 59–61.]

Four or more authors: List all of the authors in the bibliography; in the note, list only the first author, followed by *et al.* ("and others"):

1. Dana Barnes et al., *Plastics: Essays on American Corporate Ascendance in the 1960s . . .*

Editor, translator, or compiler instead of author

1. Richmond Lattimore, trans., *The Iliad of Homer* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951), 91–92.

[Short reference: Lattimore, *Iliad*, 24.]

Editor, translator, or compiler in addition to author

1. Gabriel García Márquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, trans. Edith Grossman (London: Cape, 1988), 242–55.

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

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Office Hours: By appointment

[Short reference: García Márquez, *Cholera*, 33.]

Chapter or other part of a book

Book chapter:

1. John D. Kelly, "Seeing Red: Mao Fetishism, Pax Americana, and the Moral Economy of War," in *Anthropology and Global Counterinsurgency*, ed. John D. Kelly et al. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 77.

[Short reference: Kelly, "Seeing Red," 81–82.]

Preface, foreword, introduction, or similar part of a book

1. James Rieger, introduction to *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982), xx–xxi.

[Short reference: Rieger, introduction, xxxiii.]

Book published electronically

If a book is available in more than one format, cite the version you consulted. For books consulted online, list a URL. Include the year that the book was published, not the date it was put online, or the date you accessed it. If no fixed page numbers are available, you can include a section title or chapter number.

1. Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2007), Kindle edition.

2. Philip B. Kurland and Ralph Lerner, eds., *The Founders' Constitution* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987), <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/>.

3. Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*. [Short reference]

4. Kurland and Lerner, *Founder's Constitution*, chap. 10, doc. 19. [Short reference]

Periodical

Article in a print journal

In a note, list the specific page numbers consulted, if any. In the bibliography, list the page range for the whole article. If you access a print journal electronically, you do not need to include the URL or DOI (Digital Object Identifier). A DOI is a permanent ID that, when appended to

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<http://dx.doi.org/> in the address bar of an Internet browser, will lead to the source. URL's and DOI's are only necessary for journals which are published in electronic format only (see below).

1. Joshua I. Weinstein, "The Market in Plato's *Republic*," *Classical Philology* 104 (2009): 440.

[Short reference: Weinstein, "Plato's *Republic*," 452–53.]

Article in an online journal

Include a DOI if the journal lists one. If no DOI is available, list a URL. Do not include an access date.

1. Gueorgi Kossinets and Duncan J. Watts, "Origins of Homophily in an Evolving Social Network," *American Journal of Sociology* 115 (2009): 411, accessed February 28, 2010, doi:10.1086/599247.

[Short reference: Kossinets and Watts, "Origins of Homophily," 439.]

Article in a newspaper or popular magazine

If you consulted the article online, include a URL; an access date is not necessary. If no author is identified, begin the citation with the article title.

1. Daniel Mendelsohn, "But Enough about Me," *New Yorker*, January 25, 2010, 68.

2. Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Robert Pear, "Wary Centrists Posing Challenge in Health Care Vote," *New York Times*, February 27, 2010, accessed February 28, 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/28/us/politics/28health.html>.

3. Mendelsohn, "But Enough about Me," 69. [Short reference]

4. Stolberg and Pear, "Wary Centrists." [Short reference]

Book review

1. David Kamp, "Deconstructing Dinner," review of *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by Michael Pollan, *New York Times*, April 23, 2006, Sunday Book Review, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/23/books/review/23kamp.html>.

[Short reference: Kamp, "Deconstructing Dinner."]

Unpublished source

Essay or dissertation

1. Mihwa Choi, "Contesting *Imaginaires* in Death Rituals during the Northern Song Dynasty" (PhD diss., University of Chicago, 2008).

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

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[Short reference: Choi, “Contesting *Imaginaires*.”]

Paper presented at a meeting or conference

1. Rachel Adelman, “‘Such Stuff as Dreams Are Made On’: God’s Footstool in the Aramaic Targumim and Midrashic Tradition” (paper presented at the annual meeting for the Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 21–24, 2009).

[Short reference: Adelman, “Such Stuff as Dreams.”]

Website

Because website content is subject to change, include an access date or, if available, a date that the site was last modified.

1. “Google Privacy Policy,” last modified March 11, 2009, <http://www.google.com/intl/en/privacypolicy.html>.
2. “McDonald’s Happy Meal Toy Safety Facts,” McDonald’s Corporation, accessed July 19, 2008, <http://www.mcdonalds.com/corp/about/factsheets.html>.
3. “Google Privacy Policy.” [Short reference]
4. “Toy Safety Facts.” [Short reference]

3.B. Bibliography

The bibliography below contains examples of each of the source types listed above. **The source type is included in square brackets after the example. You obviously should not include this in your bibliography.** The sources should be listed in the bibliography according to alphabetical order (as below).

For journal articles and book chapters, include the page number range of the article/chapter in the bibliography. For other types of books, it is not necessary to include the pages or chapters you consulted.

Bibliography entries should be indented from the margin from the second line (as below).

Adelman, Rachel. “‘Such Stuff as Dreams Are Made On’: God’s Footstool in the Aramaic Targumim and Midrashic Tradition.” Paper presented at the annual meeting for the Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 21–24, 2009. [Paper presented at a meeting or conference]

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

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Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2007. Kindle edition. [Book published electronically]

Choi, Mihwa. "Contesting *Imaginares* in Death Rituals during the Northern Song Dynasty." PhD diss., University of Chicago, 2008. [Essay or dissertation]

García Márquez, Gabriel. *Love in the Time of Cholera*. Translated by Edith Grossman. London: Cape, 1988. [Editor, translator, or compiler in addition to author]

Google. "Google Privacy Policy." Last modified March 11, 2009. <http://www.google.com/intl/en/privacypolicy.html>. [Website]

Kamp, David. "Deconstructing Dinner." Review of *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by Michael Pollan. *New York Times*, April 23, 2006, Sunday Book Review. <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/23/books/review/23kamp.html>. [Book review]

Kelly, John D. "Seeing Red: Mao Fetishism, Pax Americana, and the Moral Economy of War." In *Anthropology and Global Counterinsurgency*, edited by John D. Kelly, Beatrice Jauregui, Sean T. Mitchell, and Jeremy Walton, 67–83. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. [Book chapter]

Kossinets, Gueorgi, and Duncan J. Watts. "Origins of Homophily in an Evolving Social Network." *American Journal of Sociology* 115 (2009): 405–50. Accessed February 28, 2010. doi:10.1086/599247. [Article in an online journal.]

Kurland, Philip B., and Ralph Lerner, eds. *The Founders' Constitution*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987. <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/>. [Book published electronically]

Lattimore, Richmond, trans. *The Iliad of Homer*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951. [Editor, translator, or compiler instead of author]

McDonald's Corporation. "McDonald's Happy Meal Toy Safety Facts." Accessed July 19, 2008. <http://www.mcdonalds.com/corp/about/factsheets.html>. [Website]

Mendelsohn, Daniel. "But Enough about Me." *New Yorker*, January 25, 2010. [Article in a newspaper or popular magazine]

Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York: Penguin, 2006. [Single author book]

Rieger, James. Introduction to *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, xi–xxxvii. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982. [Preface, foreword, introduction, or similar part of a book]

Stolberg, Sheryl Gay, and Robert Pear. "Wary Centrists Posing Challenge in Health Care Vote." *New York Times*, February 27, 2010. Accessed February 28, 2010.

HH 3033 *Buddhism: An Intellectual and Social History*

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<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/28/us/politics/28health.html>. [Article in a newspaper or popular magazine]

Ward, Geoffrey C., and Ken Burns. *The War: An Intimate History, 1941–1945*. New York: Knopf, 2007. [Book with two authors]

Weinstein, Joshua I. "The Market in Plato's *Republic*." *Classical Philology* 104 (2009): 439–58. [Article in a print journal]