Dr. Derek Maher  
**Class Meeting Time:** Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 – 12:15  
**Class location:** Bate 1032  
**Office:** Austin 325 C  
**Best way to contact me:** maherd@ecu.edu  
**Office Telephone:** 328-5332  
**Assistant:** Mrs. Susan Adams: 328-6193  
**Office hours:** Tues. 12:30 - 2:00 and Thurs. 12:30 – 4:00

**Course Description:**  
Buddhism has profoundly influenced nearly every aspect of Asian culture. We will survey this intriguing religion, focusing on the biography of the founder, its origins, meditative and visualization practices, methods for overcoming harmful emotions, and explanations of the path to enlightenment. We will examine Buddhist traditions in a variety of historical and social contexts, including lay and monastic traditions among both Theravada and Mahayana Buddhists. We will also explore Buddhist art and architecture. By way of these inquiries, the student should be able to:  
- Identify Buddhist beliefs, practices, myths, rituals, traditions, history, and art  
- Compare and contrast the assumptions, beliefs, and outlooks of different Buddhist traditions and the practices that result from those assumptions.

Students in this course will also:  
- Become familiar with various methodologies employed in the academic study of religion  
- Cultivate critical thinking and reading comprehension skills  
- Learn to communicate more effectively, verbally and in writing.  

These objectives will be attained through lectures, classroom discussions, and assignments. Challenging readings from a variety of disciplines will supplement these strategies.

**Grading (Total 500 points):**  
- Two exams with essays and short answers (25% each = 125 points each) *(February 14 and March 7)*
- Two quizzes (5% each = 25 points each) *(February 7 and April 4)*
- Two research papers (10% each = 50 points each)  
  - The first paper will be about a Buddhist figure *(due March 19)*  
  - The second paper will be on a particular Buddhist religious practice *(due April 23)*
- Final exam (20% = 100 points) *(May 7)*  
  
  A (100-93%) 500-465; A- (down to 90%) 464-450; B+ (down to 87%) 449-435; B (down to 83%) 434-415; B- (down to 80%) 414-400; C+ (down to 77%) 399-385; C (down to 73%) 384-365; C- (down to 70%) 364-350; D+ (down to 67%) 349-335; D (down to 63%) 334-315; D- (down to 60%) 314-300; F (below 60%) 299-0.

**Required Readings:**  
- Guy Newland, *Introduction to Emptiness*  
- David R. Loy, *Money, Sex, War, Karma: Notes for a Buddhist Revolution*
• Donald Mitchell, *Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience*
• Santideva, *Guide to the Bodhisattva’s Way of Life*

Additional readings will be available on the course Blackboard website. [http://ecu.blackboard.com/](http://ecu.blackboard.com/) Students are responsible for checking their email address linked to Blackboard system so that they are assured of remaining up-to-date with reading assignments, exam dates, and any other information relating to the course.

**Exams:** Exams will consist of essays and short questions. Generally, I will provide several essay questions from which the student may select two to answer. Short questions may be multiple choice, true and false, and simple identification. Check the ECU catalog in order to determine the date and time of the final exam. **Students who maintain at least a 94% average throughout the semester will be exempt from the final.**

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be brief and focused on a narrow body of information. One quiz will be on mapping the Buddhist world. There is a series of maps on the Blackboard webpage. **Students are expected to become familiar with these maps on their own time.**

**Classroom Participation and Attendance:**
Students are expected to attend all classes, read all assignments on time, and demonstrate that they are capable of being fully involved in all class discussions.

An absence for a legitimate university-sanctioned reason will be excused, and students will be able to make up the work. Students should consult the following site to become familiar with the relevant ECU policies: [http://core.ecu.edu/psyc/wuenschk/docs00/University-Excused-Absence.htm](http://core.ecu.edu/psyc/wuenschk/docs00/University-Excused-Absence.htm)

Quizzes, exams, and other assignments may be made-up only if the absence is officially excused by the University or is medically related (See Student Health for a note). **Documentation is required.**

Students who must be absent—excused or not—are responsible for obtaining notes from a peer. After they have done so, they may ask me for further clarification, but they should not ask me first.

**Unexcused absences will result in grade reduction.** After the 2nd unexcused absence, 3% will be deducted from the final grade. Each additional absence will result in a deduction of a further 3%. Please plan on attending our class regularly.

**Research Paper Standards:**
A research paper is a particular form of writing that articulates and then argues for a thesis. A thesis is a clear and unambiguous statement that a research paper proves; it has the form, “I will argue that X is true.” For example:

• This paper will demonstrate that in terms of the doctrines and religious practices he taught, the Buddha is best understood as an Upanishadic figure.
• Although the practices employed by Buddhists and Hindus overlap to a great extent, Buddhism sets forth a fundamentally different doctrinal system.

A thesis must be controversial enough to raise interesting questions, a test that is failed by the statement, “ECU students are human beings.” However, it does not need to be something utterly revolutionary. A thesis is a statement about which the author could be wrong. A matter of taste, such as the statement, “Jimi Hendrix is the greatest guitarist in history,” does not count as a thesis. Also off limits would be an argument in favor of some normative posture, such as, “People throughout the world should practice democracy.”
In preparation for writing papers, each student will submit a two-page proposal for their paper on a date to be specified. The final papers should be 7 pages (excluding title page and bibliography). Please see the following website for helpful guidance on writing research papers: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/ResearchW/

Authors must employ a standardized style for footnotes and bibliography, such as the MLA or Chicago style. A paradigm, along with other helpful information relevant to writing papers is available on-line at: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-lib/Reference/refdesk/style.cfm

Both the ideas and the quoted words of others must be footnoted properly. Failure to do so could constitute plagiarism or some other form of academic dishonesty; the penalty for such offenses can include expulsion from ECU. While it is fine for you to share resources and references with your peers, each person must do their own work. If you are uncertain as to whether you might be crossing the line between helpfulness and cheating, please consult with me. On-line resources, such as web pages, can be extremely unreliable when it comes to religion. If you have doubts as to the authenticity of your sources, please ask for my advice. If you use material from the web, the particular URL of a referenced idea or passage must be footnoted just like any other source. Students may employ web page resources, but they should be used sparingly. In no case should they constitute more than 25% of the sources employed.

Based on the writing displayed in the paper or project proposal, some students will be directed to take a draft of their paper to the Writing Center. The final version of the paper will not be accepted and graded without a note from the Writing Center.

One of the most powerful resources available for the study of religion is the ATLA (American Theological Library Association) Religion Database. This valuable tool provides information from 1949 on many topics in religious studies and includes: more than one million bibliographic records covering the research literature of religion in 35 languages, more than 350,000 article citations from 600 journals, more than 200,000 essay citations from 15,500 multi-author works, and over 360,000 book review citations. In order to foster research skills, each student is required to use two resources found through the ATLA system. Please mark those resources in your bibliography by placing the acronym “ATLA” beside those sources. Access it at the bottom of this page: http://media.lib.ecu.edu/erdbs/index.cfm?letter=A

The theme of your paper should not be a mere repetition of the content of lectures or assigned class readings. While you may reference something like the eightfold path, please do not merely repeat in your paper our classroom discussion of that material.

Checklist for your paper:
- Arial font, 12 point, double space
- Page numbers
- Proper length as assigned (excludes title page and bibliography page)
- Include a properly formatted bibliography
- Use books and legitimate academic sources (articles, anthologies, etc), not web pages.
- NOTHING FROM WIKIPEDIA OR OTHER SUCH SOURCES!

Late papers will be severely penalized (10% per day). No late paper will be accepted without prior clearance.

Academic Integrity and Classroom Decorum: Academic integrity is a fundamental value of higher education and East Carolina University; therefore, we will not tolerate acts of cheating, plagiarism, falsification or attempts to cheat, plagiarize, or falsify. All students are expected to comply with the principles of Academic Integrity embodied in the ECU Honor Code. Since violations can result in expulsion from the University, suspension, or a grade of
“F” for the course, students should become familiar with what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, falsification, and other violations. Note also that according to ECU policy mere attempts to plagiarize, cheat, or falsify qualify as violations. Consult the ECU Clue Book for details: http://core.ecu.edu/econ/zing/Academic%20Integrity.htm

All university classrooms ought to be environments in which the free exchange of information and viewpoints is undertaken in an open, respectful, and civil atmosphere. This is particularly important in classes that touch on religion, since discussions of religion can raise controversial issues or concern deeply held personal opinions. It is natural and appropriate that people can disagree on various topics of discussion, and it is fine to explore these differences in a civil tone. Disruptive students will be asked to leave class and appropriate disciplinary measures will be pursued.

In order to minimize distractions in class, students may not consult, display, or use cell phones, pagers, iPods, or other such devices in class. Especially, during exams all such devices will be confiscated. Computers can be powerful classroom tools, enabling students to take notes, look up information relevant to class discussions, and the like. However, they should not be used to check email, instant message friends, or goof around while others are trying to get the most out of the learning environment. I reserve the right to rescind permission to use computers in my class if it becomes disruptive to me or others.

Please do not come to class late or leave early. Students may be counted absent if they are not in class during any part of the class period.

University Resources:
The Writing Center offers students in-person and on-line assistance in learning writing skills. Contact the Writing Center for hours and locations at Bate (GCB) 2026 (328-2820). http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/writing/writingcenter/index.cfm

In addition to providing students with personal counseling, the Counseling and Student Development Center in Wright Building 316 (328-6661) offers various resources to assist students in their academic development. These include training in time management, test taking, overcoming test anxiety, and academic motivation. http://www.ecu.edu/studentlife/counselingcenter/

East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 (252) 737-1016 (Voice/TTY).

Meeting With Me:
I have 5 hours of scheduled office hours a week. Aside from those hours, I can often be found in my office. If the times I have indicated are not practical, students are encouraged to see me before or after class. If students need to meet at another time, I am sure I can be accommodating. I encourage all students to come and see me as they begin to formulate their research papers. This will insure that the selected paper topic is appropriate and relevant.

Library: All students at ECU should become proficient in using library resources. The Joyner Library at ECU (accessible on-line at http://www.lib.ecu.edu/) has many valuable resources on Buddhism. There are hundreds of books on religion in the stacks of Joyner Library. See the following website for help in navigating your way around the Library. Books on Philosophy, Psychology, and Religion have call numbers beginning with the letter B. Books on Buddhism have call numbers beginning with BQ. Navigate your way
around the library with the following source: http://geography.miningco.com/library/congress/blb.htm

Additionally, you can find information on religious traditions in books in other sections of the library, including anthropology, art, geography, history, literature, philosophy, and psychology. You may also explore the film and music resources the library collects. One of the best resources available is the library's collection of journals. Not only does the library have numerous religion journals in paper and bound forms, but it is also possible to access a very large number of journals on-line. (http://media.lib.ecu.edu/erdbs/) The library staff can be extremely helpful in learning to use all of these resources. Don't be shy about asking for their help.

As a student of East Carolina University, you also have free use of the Library system at University of North Carolina — Chapel Hill (www.lib.unc.edu). Moreover, you can access just about any book, journal or other resource in the world through the Inter-Library Loan. Many resources can be obtained within a matter of days. Often, journal articles can be delivered electronically within a day or two. The Joyner Library has a special office for Inter-Library Loan services, located to the left of the front desk. You can access these resources on-line at: http://jill.lib.ecu.edu/illiad/logon.html

OUTLINE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

January 15 – Introduction to class and syllabus

January 17 and 22 – Pre-Buddhist context
  • “Introduction” And “Suffering of Self” from Loy, Money, Sex, War, Karma
  • Mitchell, Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience up through p. 7

January 24 and 29 – Buddha’s Biography
  • Mitchell, Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience Chapter 1

January 31 and February 5 – Buddhist Religious Life and the Path to Liberation
  • “Lack of Money,” “The Great Seduction,” “Trapped in Time,” “The Second Buddha,” “How to Drive Your Karma,” “What’s Wrong with Sex?” from Loy, Money, Sex, War, Karma

February 7 and 12 – Ethics and Cosmology
  • Bhikkhu Bodhi, In the Buddha’s Words, Chapter 4 and 5
  • Mitchell, Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience Chapter 2
  • MAP QUIZ (February 7)

February 14 – EXAM

February 19 – Meditation
  • “What Would the Buddha Do?” “The Three Poisons, Institutionalized,” and “Consciousness Commodified” from Loy, Money, Sex, War, Karma
  • On Blackboard

February 21 and 26 – Monastic Life and Theravada
  • Mitchell, Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience Chapter 3
  • PAPER PROPOSAL DUE IN CLASS

February 28 and March 5 – Wisdom and Awakening
  • Newland, Introduction to Emptiness

March 7 – EXAM
March 10-17 – SPRING BREAK!

March 19 and 21 – Buddhism in India and Thailand
- Mitchell, *Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience* Chapter 4 and 5
- First paper due on March 19

March 26 and 28 – Buddhism in East Asia
- Mitchell, *Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience* Chapter 7 and 9

April 2 and 4 – Buddhism in Tibet
- Mitchell, *Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience* Chapter 6
- QUIZ on Buddhisms (April 4)

April 9 – Socially Engaged Buddhism
- On Blackboard
- “Healing Ecology” and “The Karma of Food” from Loy, *Money, Sex, War, Karma*

April 11 and 16 – Buddhism in the Modern World
- Mitchell, *Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience* Chapter 11
- “Why We Love War” and “Notes for a Buddhist Revolution” from Loy, *Money, Sex, War, Karma*

April 16 and 18 – Santideva’s *Guide*
- Santideva, *Guide to the Bodhisattva’s Way of Life*

April 23 and 25 – Tantra
- On Blackboard
- First paper due on April 23

READING DAY – May 1
FINAL EXAM May 7 – 11:00 - 1:30