

***Introduction to Buddhism***  
Religious Studies 2K03e  
McMaster University, Term 1 (Fall) 2019

*Lectures:* Tuesdays, 19:00–21:00; TSH B105    *Tutorials:* Tuesdays, [T01] 18:00–18:50 (KTH 109); [T02] 21:00–21:50 (KTH 109)  
*Instructor:* Shayne Clarke    *Teaching Assistant:* Aditya Harchand (harchana)  
*E-mail:* clarsha    *Phone:* 905.525.9140, ext. 23389  
*Office:* University Hall 118    *Office Hours:* Tuesdays, 17:00–18:00, or by appointment

***Course Website:*** <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>

This course uses Avenue to Learn to post the course outline, assignments, and other notices. Go to <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/> to find out how to log-on to the course's home page.

***Course Objective:***

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the academic study of Buddhism.

***Course Requirements and Grading***

**Attendance & Participation:**

Lectures and tutorials may cover material not in the required readings. Students are responsible for learning and understanding this material, and may be examined on it.

**Plagiarism Assignment:**

All students *must* complete and submit the following plagiarism test and certification:

<https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/test.html>

Until this is submitted to your TA, no written work will be accepted. **Due: Sep. 17, in class.**

**In-class Quizzes: 40%**

There will be two in-class quizzes, each worth 20% of the final grade. Students will be required to identify and/or explain key terms and concepts, and discuss the significance of selected passages/images. The tentative schedule for the quizzes is: **October 8 & November 5.**

**Reading Response Papers: 40%**

There will be two assigned response papers based on weekly readings (worth 20% each). To do well in these papers, students must show evidence of critical engagement with the readings. It is not sufficient simply to summarise the readings. The tentative schedule for the papers is: **October 22 & November 19.**

**Final Essay/Assignment: 20%** (due **December 3**; topic will be announced on **November 5**.)

## University Mandated Statements

### 1. Statement on Academic Dishonesty

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### 2. Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### 3. On-line Elements

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

### 4. Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University’s Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities policy.

### 5. Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work: McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) (Arts & Science students, see below)

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

#### For Arts & Science students only

In the event of an absence, students should review and follow the Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.” Please consult the MSAF statement on our website (<https://artsci.mcmaster.ca/forms-requests/>) and direct any questions or concerns to Shelley Anderson or Madeline Van Impe in the Arts & Science Program Office.

### 6. Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office (i.e. to Shelley Anderson or Madeline Van Impe in the Arts & Science Program Office **for Arts & Science students only**) normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar’s Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## 7. Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster e-mail.

## 8. Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

## 9. Note on Changes in the Course

At certain points in the course it may make good sense to modify the schedule. The instructor may modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly (in class, and on the course website [A2L]).

*End of University Mandated Statements*

### **Academic Dishonesty: Zero Tolerance**

**If in doubt, consult with your instructor before submitting any work. Under no circumstances should you submit work if you are unsure whether or not submission of said work constitutes academic dishonesty.**

All students are encouraged to complete the following:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/practice.html>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html>

## Paper Submission

Do not submit papers by e-mail (attachments, in-line, etc.); they will not be accepted. Please only submit hard copies of your papers. Submit these to your TA in class. Staff in the office of the Department of Religious Studies will not date-stamp or receive papers and other assignments.

## Written Work

All written work will be marked on grammar, clarity of writing, and organization, as well as content and analysis. Proofread and then proofread again. All work must be properly referenced, with footnotes and bibliography (where applicable). Students are encouraged to visit the Student Success Centre to improve their essay skills (Gilmour Hall 110). For information about the Writing Support Services, visit the Centre's website:

<https://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/academic-support/academicsupport/>.

## Sustainable Written Work Submission Guidelines

The written work submission guidelines have been chosen to support the more sustainable use of paper, energy, and toner, and meet the Gold standard of the Office of Sustainability; <https://asp.mcmaster.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Sustainable-Submission-Standard-Guidelines.pdf>. All written work should be submitted in the following format: double-sided printing; no title page; sans-serif font, reduced line spacing (use 1.75).

## Late and Missed Work/Quizzes

All written work must be submitted in class, on the due date. Do not submit essays by e-mail and do not slide them under the instructor's door. Late assignments will be penalized 5% a day (including weekends). Late penalties will not be waived unless your Faculty/Program Office advises the instructor that you have submitted to that office the appropriate documentation to support your inability to submit the work by the due date.

## Textbooks

- Gethin, Rupert, *The Foundations of Buddhism*. Oxford U.P. (Mills Library: Paper and e-book)
- Gethin, Rupert, *Sayings of the Buddha: New Translations from the Pali Nikayas*. Oxford U.P. (Mills Library: Paper)

## Tentative Schedule

**Week 1:** September 3: Introduction and overview. **No Tutorials this week.**

**Week 2:** September 10: **No Tutorials this week.**

**Required Reading:**

Gethin, *Foundations*, Introduction and Chapter 1: The Buddha: The Story of the Awakened One.

Gethin, *Sayings*, pp. xiii–xlix.

**Week 3:** September 17: **Plagiarism assignment due in class.**

**Required Reading:**

Gethin, Chapter 2: The Word of the Buddha: Buddhist Scriptures and Schools.

Gethin, *Sayings*, pp. 5–36. **OR:** <https://suttacentral.net/dn2/en/sujato> (*Sāmaññaphala-sutta*)

**Tutorials start this week**

**Week 4:** September 24

Gethin, Chapter 3: Four Truths: The Disease, The Cause, The Cure, The Medicine.

Gethin, *Sayings*, pp. 37–97. **OR:** <https://suttacentral.net/dn16/en/anandajoti> (*Mahāparinibbāna-sutta*)

<https://suttacentral.net/vb6/en/anandajoti> (*Vibhaṅga: Paṭiccasamuppādavibhaṅga*)

**Week 5:** October 1

**Required Reading:**

Gethin, Chapter 4: The Buddhist Community: Monks, Nuns, and Lay Followers.

<https://suttacentral.net/mn82/en/horner> (*Raṭṭhapāla-sutta*)

<https://suttacentral.net/ud1.8/en/anandajoti> (*Saṅgāmajī-sutta*)

<https://suttacentral.net/pli-tv-bu-vb-pj1/en/brahmali> (First *Pārājika* rule)

**Week 6:** October 8: **Quiz no. 1 (20%).**

**Required Reading:**

Gethin, Chapter 5: The Buddhist Cosmos: The Thrice-Thousandfold World.

Gethin, *Sayings*, pp. 116–128; 129–138. **OR:**

<https://suttacentral.net/dn27/en/sujato> (*Aggañña-sutta*)

<https://suttacentral.net/dn31/en/sujato> (*Sigālovāda-sutta*)

**Week 7:** October 15: **Midterm recess**

**Week 8:** October 22: **Paper no. 1 (20%) due in class.**

**Required Reading:**

Gethin, Chapter 6: No Self: Personal Continuity and Dependent Arising.

Gethin, *Sayings*, pp. 205–246.

[https://suttacentral.net/mil3.1.1/en/tw\\_rhysdavids](https://suttacentral.net/mil3.1.1/en/tw_rhysdavids)

**Week 9:** October 29

**Required Reading:**

Gethin, Chapter 7: The Buddhist Path: The Way of Calm and Insight.

Gethin, *Sayings*, pp. 141–167. **OR:**

<https://suttacentral.net/mn10/en/sujato> (*Satipaṭṭhāna-sutta*)

<https://suttacentral.net/mn20/en/sujato> (*Vitakkasaṅṭhāna-sutta*)

<https://suttacentral.net/mn22/en/sujato> (*Alagaddūpama-sutta*)

**Week 10:** November 5: Final Essay/Assignment topic announced. **Quiz no. 2 (20%)**

**Required Reading:**

Gethin, Chapter 8: The Abhidharma: The Higher Teaching.

Gethin, *Sayings*, pp. 195–204. **OR:** <https://suttacentral.net/en/mn136> (*Mahākammavibhaṅga-sutta*)

<https://suttacentral.net/vb1/en/thittila> (*Vibhaṅga: Khandhavibhaṅga*)

**Week 11:** November 12

**Required Reading:**

Gethin, Chapter 9: The Mahāyāna: The Great Vehicle.

“The Sūtra on the Buddha of Infinite Life,” in Hisao Inagaki, trans., in collaboration with Harold Stewart, *The Three Pure Land Sutras*. Revised second ed. Berkeley: Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 2003, pp. 1–62.

[http://www.bdk.or.jp/document/dgtl-dl/dBET\\_ThreePureLandSutras\\_2003.pdf](http://www.bdk.or.jp/document/dgtl-dl/dBET_ThreePureLandSutras_2003.pdf) (accessed Aug. 13, 2018).

**Week 12:** November 19: **Paper no. 2 due (20%)**

**Required Reading:**

Gethin, Chapter 10: Evolving Traditions of Buddhism: South, East, North, and West.

**Week 13:** November 26

**Required Reading:**

Clarke, Shayne. “Locating Humour in Indian Buddhist Monastic Law Codes: A Comparative Approach,” *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 37, no. 4 (2009): 311–330.

Clarke, Shayne. “Monks Who Have Sex: *Pārājika* Penance in Indian Buddhist Monasticisms,” *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 37, no. 1 (2009): 1–43.

Schopen, Gregory. “The Learned Monk as a Comic Figure: On Reading a Buddhist Vinaya as Indian Literature,” *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 35.3 (2007): 201–226.

**Week 14:** December 3: Conclusions & Review. **Final essay/assignment due in class (20%).**