

***The Buddhist Tradition in India***  
**Religious Studies 2BT3**  
**McMaster University, Term 1 (Fall), 2017–2018**  
**syllabus draft; subject to change**

*Lectures:* Fridays, 11:30–1:20 pm; BSB 120  
*Tutorials:* Wednesdays, 10:30–11:20; KTH B132  
*Instructor:* Shayne Clarke  
*Email:* clarsha at mcmaster  
*Phone:* 905.525.9140, ext. 23389  
*Office:* University Hall 118  
*Office Hours:* Tuesdays, 16:45–17:45, or by appointment

*Teaching Assistant:* TBA  
*Office:* TBA

*Email:*  
*Office hours:* by appointment

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

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

***Course Objectives***

This course is designed to provide an overview of key issues in Indian Buddhism. Each week we will explore themes such as the lifestory of the Buddha, the Mahāyāna, meditation, and death—to name but a few—by first seeing how these have been portrayed by modern scholars (our textbooks). We will then see what primary texts—Indian Buddhism as told by Indian Buddhists—have to say. Students will acquire not only an understanding of some of the most central concepts in Indian Buddhism, but also a good knowledge of how Indian Buddhism has been studied and romanticized in the West.

***Course Prerequisites:*** None.

***Course Requirements and Grading***

**Attendance & participation: 10%**

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.

**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 explain key terms and concepts, and discuss the significance of selected passages. The tentative quiz dates are **October 6 & November 10**.

**Reading response papers: 30%**

There will be two assigned response papers (each between 1–2 pages) based on weekly readings (worth 15% 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 dates for the papers are: **October 26 & November 24**.

**Final Essay/Assignment: 20%** (due December 6; topic will be announced on **November 10**)

To do well in the final essay/assignment, students must show evidence of critical engagement with the readings. It is not sufficient simply to summarise the readings.

## University Mandated Statements

### 1. On-line Course Components

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.

### 2. Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service ([Turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### 3. McMaster Student Absence Form

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”. Please note these regulations have changed beginning Spring/Summer 2015. The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days. The upper limit for which an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from ‘less than 30%’ to ‘less than 25%’ of the course weight. As per the policy, students must immediately follow up with their instructors to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Failure to do so may negate their relief. If you have any questions about the MSAF, please contact your Associate Dean’s office.

### 4. Note on Changes in the Course

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check her/his McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

### 5. 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.

### 6. 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: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

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

*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>

### Special Consideration

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. 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 Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities. Student Accessibility Services may be found at: <http://sas.mcmaster.ca>.

### 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:

<http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/students/academic-skills/writing-support-services.html>.

### Late and Missed Work/Quizzes

All written work must be submitted in lecture, on the due date. Do not submit essays by email 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

#### Required:

John Strong, *Buddhisms: An Introduction*. OneWorld Publications, 2015.

**Available at the Campus Store & on Reserve in Mills Library**

NOTE: Primary texts (translated from Sanskrit & Tibetan by G. Schopen and others and used with permission) have been posted to Avenue to Learn. For a full list of readings, see the final syllabus on Avenue.