

Buddhist Studies

College of Letters and Science (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

Group Office: 3413 Dwinelle Hall, (510) 642-3480

Director: Alexander von Rospatt, PhD
(Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies)

Group Website: Buddhist Studies (<http://buddhiststudies.berkeley.edu>)

Undergraduate Program

There is currently no undergraduate degree in Buddhist Studies. However, the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (http://sis.berkeley.edu/catalog/gcc_view_req?p_dept_cd=EA+LANG) offers a minor in Buddhism, and the Group in Religious Studies (http://sis.berkeley.edu/catalog/gcc_view_req?p_dept_cd=RELIGST) offers an emphasis in Buddhism. Undergraduate courses with a Buddhism emphasis can also be found in the Departments of History of Art (http://sis.berkeley.edu/catalog/gcc_view_req?p_dept_cd=HISTART) and South and Southeast Asian Studies (http://sis.berkeley.edu/catalog/gcc_view_req?p_dept_cd=S.SEASN).

Graduate Program

The Berkeley Group in Buddhist Studies offers an interdisciplinary program of study and research leading to a PhD degree in Buddhist Studies. The group, which cooperates closely with the Departments of South and Southeast Asian Studies (SSEAS) and East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC), emphasizes the study of Buddhism in its many forms within its Asian historical and cultural context.

The ability to read and analyze Buddhist texts in their original languages is an indispensable skill for research in the field. Accordingly, the study of classical Asian languages constitutes a core element of the doctoral program. The specific combination of Asian languages required for the PhD will depend on each student's area of research, but all students will be expected to gain facility in a minimum of two Asian languages, at least one of which will be Classical Chinese, Classical Japanese, Pali, Sanskrit, or Classical Tibetan.

While linguistic competence is crucial, it is not considered an end in itself. Students are expected to acquire a sophisticated appreciation of the historical, social, and cultural milieu from which the Buddhist textual legacy emerged. All students in the PhD program are encouraged to broaden and deepen their understanding of Buddhist phenomena through incorporating archaeological, ethnographic, and visual materials and perspectives. Because of UC Berkeley's particular strength in the area of Buddhist visual culture (three of the group's faculty are specialists in Buddhist art), all students in the program are expected to take at least one course in art history. In addition, depending on their research interests, students are encouraged to do additional work in fields such as anthropology, critical theory, history, literature or philosophy. The goal of our program is not only to provide students with the linguistic, methodological, and conceptual skills to produce significant new research on Buddhist phenomena, but also to have students bring their research

into dialogue with ongoing issues and concerns in the humanities writ large.

The PhD program in Buddhist studies is designed for students who intend to become scholars and teachers at the university level. Students wishing to enter the Ph.D. program must have a master's degree in a relevant field, typically East Asian, South Asian, or Southeast Asian studies. A master's degree in religion is deemed relevant only if it includes significant training in an Asian language relevant to their intended area of research at the time of admission.

For application procedures, financial support, and program requirements, please refer to the Buddhist studies website. (<http://buddhiststudies.berkeley.edu>)

BUDDSTD 50 Introduction to the Study of Buddhism 4 Units

Department: Group in Buddhist Studies

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture and 1 hour of Discussion per week for 15 weeks. 8 hours of Lecture and 2 hours of Discussion per week for 6 weeks.

This course will consider materials drawn from various Buddhist traditions of Asia, from ancient times to the present day. However, it is not intended to be a comprehensive or systematic survey; rather than aiming at breadth, it is designed around key themes such as ritual, image veneration, mysticism, meditation, and death. The overarching emphasis throughout the course will be on the hermeneutic difficulties attendant upon the study of religion in general, and Buddhism in particular.

BUDDSTD C50/EA LANG C50/S,SEASN C52 Introduction to the Study of Buddhism 4 Units

Department: Buddhist Studies; East Asian Languages and Cultures; Group in Buddhist Studies; South and Southeast Asian Studies

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture and 1 hour of Discussion per week for 15 weeks. 8 hours of Lecture and 2 hours of Discussion per week for 6 weeks.

This introduction to the study of Buddhism will consider materials drawn from various Buddhist traditions of Asia, from ancient times down to the present day. However, the course is not intended to be a comprehensive or systematic survey; rather than aiming at breadth, the course is designed around key themes such as ritual, image veneration, mysticism, meditation, and death. The overarching emphasis throughout the course will be on the hermeneutic difficulties attendant upon the study of religion in general, and Buddhism in particular.

BUDDSTD 114 Tibetan Buddhism 4 Units

Department: Group in Buddhist Studies

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture per week for 15 weeks. 8 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks.

This course is a broad introduction to the history, doctrine, and culture of the Buddhism of Tibet. We will begin with the introduction of Buddhism to Tibet in the eighth century and move on to the evolution of the major schools of Tibetan Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhist literature, ritual and monastic practice, the place of Buddhism in Tibetan political history and the contemporary situation of Tibetan Buddhism both inside and outside Tibet.

BUDDSTD C114/S ASIAN C114/TIBETAN C114 Tibetan Buddhism 4 Units

Department: Buddhist Studies; Group in Buddhist Studies; South Asian; Tibetan

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture per week for 15 weeks.

This course is a broad introduction to the history, doctrine, and culture of the Buddhism of Tibet. We will begin with the introduction of Buddhism to Tibet in the eighth century and move on to the evolution of the major schools of Tibetan Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhist literature, ritual and monastic practice, the place of Buddhism in Tibetan political history, and the contemporary situation of Tibetan Buddhism both inside and outside of Tibet.

BUDDSTD C115/JAPAN C115 Japanese Buddhism 4 Units