

Buddhism

Minor

The Group in Buddhist Studies offers a minor in Buddhism. There is no major program in Buddhism.

Declaring the Minor

To declare the minor, please visit 3414 Dwinelle Hall.

Students who have a strong interest in an area of study outside their major often decide to complete a minor program. These programs have set requirements and are noted officially on the transcript in the memoranda section, but are not noted on diplomas.

General Guidelines

1. All courses taken to fulfill the minor requirements below must be taken for graded credit.
2. A minimum of three of the upper-division courses taken to fulfill the minor requirements must be completed at UC Berkeley.
3. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 is required for courses used to fulfill the minor requirements.
4. Courses used to fulfill the minor requirements may be applied toward the Seven-Course Breadth Requirement, for Letters and Science students.
5. No more than one upper-division course may be used to simultaneously fulfill requirements for a student's major and minor programs.
6. All minor requirements must be completed prior to the last day of finals during the semester in which you plan to graduate. If you cannot finish all courses required for the minor by that time, please see a College of Letters and Science adviser.
7. All minor requirements must be completed within the unit ceiling. (For further information regarding the unit ceiling, please see the College Requirements tab.)

Requirements

Language Training ¹

Select one of the following: ²

CHINESE 10B Intermediate Chinese (or equivalent)

JAPAN 10B Intermediate Japanese (or equivalent)

Upper-division (5 courses) ^{3, 4}

Select three courses in Buddhist Studies

Select two additional courses from Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tibetan, East Asian Languages and Cultures course, or Buddhist Studies courses from other departments ⁵

- ¹ Students with previous language experience will be required to take a placement exam with Department language coordinators.
- ² Other Asian languages may be substituted with adviser approval.
- ³ All courses require adviser approval.
- ⁴ BUDDSTD 50 Introduction to the Study of Buddhism or BUDDSTD C50 Introduction to the Study of Buddhism may be substituted for one of the five courses.

- ⁵ EAP course(s) may be used to satisfy one of the electives; however, not all EAP courses will be approved for the minor. Please check with the advisor in advance.

Buddhism

BUDDSTD 50 Introduction to the Study of Buddhism 4 Units

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.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

BUDDSTD C50 Introduction to the Study of Buddhism 4 Units

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.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: EA LANG C50/S, SEASN C52

BUDDSTD 114 Tibetan Buddhism 4 Units

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.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

BUDDSTD C114 Tibetan Buddhism 4 Units

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.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: S ASIAN C114/TIBETAN C114

BUDDSTD C115 Japanese Buddhism 4 Units

A critical survey of the main themes in the history of Japanese Buddhism as they are treated in modern scholarship. The course covers the transmission of Buddhism from China and Korea to Japan; the subsequent evolution in Japan of the Tendai, Shingon, Pure Land, Nichiren, and Zen schools of Buddhism; the organization and function of Buddhist institutions (monastic and lay) in Japanese society; the interaction between Buddhism and other modes of religious belief and practice prevalent in Japan, notably those that go under the headings of "Shinto" and "folk religion."

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: JAPAN C115

BUDDSTD C116 Buddhism in China 4 Units

This course is an introduction to the history of Buddhism in China from its beginnings in the early centuries CE to the present day. Through engagement with historical scholarship, primary sources in translation, and Chinese Buddhist art, we will explore the intellectual history and cultural impact of Buddhism in China. Students will also be introduced to major issues in the institutional history of Buddhism, the interactions between Buddhism and indigenous Chinese religions, and the relationship between Buddhism and the state. Previous study of Buddhism is helpful but not required.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: CHINESE C116

BUDDSTD C120 Buddhism on the Silk Road 4 Units

This course will discuss the social, economic, and cultural aspects of Buddhism as it moved along the ancient Eurasian trading network referred to as the "Silk Road". Instead of relying solely on textual sources, the course will focus on material culture as it offers evidence concerning the spread of Buddhism. Through an examination of the Buddhist archaeological remains of the Silk Road, the course will address specific topics, such as the symbiotic relationship between Buddhism and commerce; doctrinal divergence; ideological shifts in the iconography of the Buddha; patronage (royal, religious and lay); Buddhism and political power; and art and conversion. All readings will be in English.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Also listed as: EA LANG C120

BUDDSTD C126 Buddhism and the Environment 4 Units

A thematic course on Buddhist perspectives on nature and Buddhist responses to environmental issues. The first half of the course focuses on East Asian Buddhist cosmological and doctrinal perspectives on the place of the human in nature and the relationship between the salvific goals of Buddhism and nature. The second half of the course examines Buddhist ethics, economics, and activism in relation to environmental issues in contemporary Southeast Asia, East Asia, and America.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One lower-division course in Buddhist Studies or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: EA LANG C126

BUDDSTD 128 Buddhism in Contemporary Society 4 Units

A study of the Buddhist tradition as it is found today in Asia. The course will focus on specific living traditions of East, South, and/or Southeast Asia. Themes to be addressed may include contemporary Buddhist ritual practices; funerary and mortuary customs; the relationship between Buddhism and other local religious traditions; the relationship between Buddhist institutions and the state; Buddhist monasticism and its relationship to the laity; Buddhist ethics; Buddhist "modernism," and so on.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: von Rospatt

BUDDSTD C128 Buddhism in Contemporary Society 4 Units

A study of the Buddhist tradition as it is found today in Asia. The course will focus on specific living traditions of East, South, and/or Southeast Asia. Themes to be addressed may include contemporary Buddhist ritual practices; funerary and mortuary customs; the relationship between Buddhism and other local religious traditions; the relationship between Buddhist institutions and the state; Buddhist monasticism and its relationship to the laity; Buddhist ethics; Buddhist "modernism," and so on.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: von Rospatt

Also listed as: EA LANG C128/S, SEASN C145

BUDDSTD C130 Zen Buddhism 4 Units

This course will introduce students to the Zen Buddhist traditions of China and Japan, drawing on a variety of disciplinary perspectives (history, anthropology, philosophy, and so on). The course will also explore a range of hermeneutic problems (problems involved in interpretation) entailed in understanding a sophisticated religious tradition that emerged in a time and culture very different from our own.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One lower division course in Asian religion recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Sharf

Also listed as: EA LANG C130

BUDDSTD C132 Pure Land Buddhism 4 Units

This course will discuss the historical development of the Pure Land school of East Asian Buddhism, the largest form of Buddhism practiced today in China and Japan. The curriculum is divided into India, China, and Japan sections, with the second half of the course focusing exclusively on Japan where this form of religious culture blossomed most dramatically, covering the ancient, medieval, and modern periods. The curriculum will begin with a reading of the core scriptures that form the basis of the belief system and then move into areas of cultural expression. The course will follow two basic trajectories over the centuries: doctrine/philosophy and culture/society.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Blum

Also listed as: EA LANG C132

BUDDSTD C135 Tantric Traditions of Asia 4 Units

The emergence of the tantras in seventh and eighth-century India marked a watershed for religious practice throughout Asia. These esoteric scriptures introduced complex new ritual technologies that transformed the religious traditions of India, from Brahmanism to Jainism and Buddhism, as well as those of Southeast Asia, Tibet, Mongolia, China, Korea, and Japan. This course provides an overview of tantric religion across these regions.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Dalton

Also listed as: EA LANG C135/S, SEASN C135

BUDDSTD C140 Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts 4 Units

This course is an introduction to the study of medieval Buddhist literature written in classical Chinese. We will read samples from a variety of genres, including early Chinese translations of Sanskrit and Central Asian Buddhist scriptures, indigenous Chinese commentaries, philosophical treatises, and sectarian works, including Chan (Zen koans). The course will also serve as an introduction to resource materials used in the study of Chinese Buddhist texts, and students will be expected to make use of a variety of reference tools in preparation for class. Readings in Chinese will be supplemented by a range of secondary readings in English on Mahayana doctrine and Chinese Buddhist history.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: CHINESE 110A; or one semester of classical Chinese. Prior background in Buddhist history and thought is helpful, but not required

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: CHINESE C140

BUDDSTD C141 Introductory Readings in Japanese Buddhist Texts 4 Units

This course is an introduction to the study of medieval Buddhist literature written in Classical Japanese in its wabun (aka bungo) and kanbun forms (including kakikudashi). The class will read samples from a variety of genres, including material written in China that are read in an idiosyncratic way in Japan. Reading materials will include Chinese translations of Sanskrit and Central Asian Buddhist scriptures, scriptural commentaries written in China and Korea, Japanese subcommentaries on influential Chinese and Korean commentaries, philosophical treatises, hagiography, apologetics, histories, doctrinal letters, preaching texts, and setsuwa literature. This course is intended for students who already have some facility in literary Japanese.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 120. One semester of classical Japanese. Prior background in Buddhist history and thought is helpful, but not required

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Blum

Also listed as: JAPAN C141

BUDDSTD 154 Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism 4 Units
Tibetan Buddhists view the moment of death as a rare opportunity for transformation. This course examines how Tibetans have used death and dying in the path to enlightenment. Readings will address how Tibetan funerary rituals work to assist the dying toward this end, and how Buddhist practitioners prepare for this crucial moment through tantric meditation, imaginative rehearsals, and explorations of the dream state.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Dalton

BUDDSTD C154 Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism 4 Units

Tibetan Buddhists view the moment of death as a rare opportunity for transformation. This course examines how Tibetans have used death and dying in the path to enlightenment. Readings will address how Tibetan funerary rituals work to assist the dying toward this end, and how Buddhist practitioners prepare for this crucial moment through tantric meditation, imaginative rehearsals, and explorations of the dream state.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Dalton

Also listed as: S ASIAN C154/TIBETAN C154

BUDDSTD 190 Topics in the Study of Buddhism 4 Units

This course will focus on specific themes, developments, and issues in the study of Buddhism. The course is intended to supplement our regular curricular offerings, and the content will change from semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Some prior study of Buddhism or Asian culture is recommended

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

BUDDSTD 198 Directed Group Study 1 - 4 Units

Small group instruction not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing

Credit Restrictions: Enrollment is restricted; see the Introduction to Courses and Curricula section of this catalog.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

BUDDSTD 199 Independent Study 1 - 4 Units

Independent study in topics not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing

Credit Restrictions: Enrollment is restricted; see the Introduction to Courses and Curricula section of this catalog.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.