

Buddhist Studies

Overview

The Berkeley Group in Buddhist Studies offers an interdisciplinary program of study and research leading to a PhD 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 group also offers an undergraduate minor in Buddhist Studies.

Center for Buddhist Studies

The Center for Buddhist Studies oversees a variety of research programs, scholarly events, and outreach activities, often in collaboration with units on and off campus. Activities include a colloquium series, conferences, a visiting scholar program, a film series (with the PFA), the Numata Visiting Professorship, and the International Buddhist Film Festival (with the Buddhist Film Society).

Undergraduate Program

Buddhist Studies (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/buddhism/>): Minor

Graduate Program

Buddhist Studies (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/graduate/degree-programs/buddhist-studies/>): PhD

Buddhist Studies

BUDDSTD 50 Introduction to the Study of Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2024 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2023 Second 6 Week Session
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

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

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 C113 Buddhist Thought in India 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

This course is an advanced introduction to the major teachings of Indian Buddhism and their philosophical elaborations. We will cover the core tenets attributed to the Buddha, and the later doctrinal and scholastic developments that turned Buddhism into one of the principal philosophical traditions of India. For this we will read select primary sources—in principle, extracts of the scriptures and later treatises—and academic articles and book chapters. Rather than offering a broad introductory survey of Buddhist traditions across space and time, this class is geared towards students who are already familiar with the basics of Buddhism and want to deepen their understanding of the principal teachings of Buddhism originating in India.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students who have passed S ASIAN C113 will not get credit for SASIAN C113.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8-8 hours of lecture and 0-2 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: SASIAN C113

BUDDSTD 114 Tibetan Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2018 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2016 10 Week Session, Summer 2016 Second 6 Week Session

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

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2020

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.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students who have passed S ASIAN C114 will not get credit for SASIAN C114.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 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: SASIAN C114/TIBETAN C114

BUDDSTD C115 Buddhism and its Culture in Japan 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course provides a critical survey of prominent and other noteworthy expressions of Buddhist thought and culture in Japanese history. The Japanese experience of Buddhist teachings, practices and institutions, as well as aesthetic expressions in painting, sculpture, architecture, garden design, literature, and theatre will be examined against the backdrop of the transmission of all these forms of Buddhist culture from India to China to Korea to Japan. Special attention will also be given to the fusion of Buddhist and "native" Japanese sensibilities in theater (Noh, Kabuki, and Bunraku) and popular art such as ukiyo-e prints and manga.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 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.

Also listed as: JAPAN C115

BUDDSTD C116 Buddhism in China 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2019

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 C117 Mongolian Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

This course covers the history of Mongolian Buddhism from its inception in the Yuan dynasty to the present. The importance of Mongolian Buddhism to the greater dharma lies not only with the ways of its priests but also with the means of its patrons, the Mongol aristocracy, in forging a distinctive tradition in Inner Asia and disseminating it throughout the world. While maintaining a historical thread throughout, this course will examine in detail some of the tradition's many facets, including Mongolian-Buddhist politics, the politics of incarnation, the establishment of monasteries, economics, work in the sciences, astral science and medicine, ritual practice, literature, sculpture and painting, music and dance, and more.

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: MONGOLN C117

BUDDSTD C118 Buddhism in Modern China 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2020

Modern Chinese Buddhism emerged from a variety of reactions to the challenges posed by modernity. The course aims at introducing students to the ways in which Buddhists in China have engaged and continue to engage with a modern society and a globalized world. The course will follow the trends of Chinese Buddhism from the early twentieth century down to the most recent developments in the present. In exploring modern constructions of Buddhism in China, we will distinguish between modernism and modernity, and investigate how Chinese Buddhists introduced reforms and innovations, while also attempting to maintain continuity with traditional ideals and modes of practice.

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 C118

BUDDSTD C120 Buddhism on the Silk Road 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

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

Terms offered: Spring 2011, Fall 2009, Spring 2008

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

Terms offered: Summer 2015 10 Week Session, Summer 2015 First 6 Week Session

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

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

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

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2013, Spring 2010

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 - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours 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

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2019, Fall 2017

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 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, with common exam group.

Instructor: Blum

Also listed as: EA LANG C132

BUDDSTD C135 Tantric Traditions of Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2013, Spring 2010

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 137 Buddhist Art and Archaeology along the Maritime & Overland Silk Routes 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018

The main aim of this course is to provide a multi-disciplinary approach by exploring the origins, development and diffusion of Buddhist art and archaeology along the maritime and overland trade routes chronologically and geographically through the combined study of archaeological records (excavations, pottery, glass, seals, coins, etc.) and key religious texts and epigraphy. This course will attempt to show how the spread of Buddhism from South Asia to Southeast Asia is closely connected with the growth of the maritime and overland networks based on trade that facilitated the movement of Buddhist merchants, travelling monks and teachers.

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.

BUDDSTD C140 Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2020, Spring 2016

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 Kanbun 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2018

Introductory reading class focusing on premodern texts written in Kanbun, the Japanese way of reading and writing Classical Chinese. The first half focuses on the orthography and syntax of Kanbun, primarily using examples from military texts from the medieval period. The second half focuses on writings considered artistic, religious (Buddhist), literary, historical, biographical, or ritualistic in nature, including snapshots of doctrinal statements by influential thinkers in the Buddhist tradition. In that Kanbun is Chinese in format but was nearly always read in Classical Japanese word order, this fulfills the Japanese-major requirement of a second semester of Classical 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. Final exam required.

Instructor: Blum

Also listed as: JAPAN C141

BUDDSTD C147 Introduction to Pali 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022

This seminar introduces Pali grammar, paleography, and basic canonical and commentarial genres for those with previous training in Sanskrit. Our focus will be on building reading skills with Roman-script texts as well as Pali manuscripts in several Southeast Asian scripts housed in campus library collections.

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.

Also listed as: SSEASN C147

BUDDSTD C150 The Origins and Development of Buddhist Art in South Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

Rather than offering a comprehensive survey, this course deals with select themes that shed light on the origins, development and diffusion of Buddhist art chronologically and geographically through a combined study that considers the archaeological record (excavations, coins, etc.), key religious texts and epigraphy. Typical themes will be the early notion of aniconism and the evolution of iconic art (Buddha and bodhisattva images); the depiction of Jatakas and other narratives in reliefs and painting; the cave sculptures of the Western Deccan; tantric art, temples and monasteries; the art, archaeology and architecture of South India and Sri Lanka; Indic Buddhist monuments in South-East Asia such as Bagan in Burma, Borobudur, and Angkor.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: 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. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: Buddhist Studies 150

Also listed as: SASIAN C150

BUDDSTD C152 Buddhist Astral Science 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course studies the purview of astral science under Buddhist dominion. Here it is at once promoted for promulgating Buddhist world order and repudiated for begetting the suffering-inducing physical universe, a warped vessel of ceaselessly turning stars that the Buddhist dharma must transcend. The course begins with the part astral science plays in genesis, the creation of Buddhist world order. It then covers the science's central aspects, celestial systems, spatial orientation, time reckoning, the making of a calendar, and publication of an almanac. Thereafter, it treats the science's outgrowth into interrelated forms of Buddhist propaganda manifest as divination, magic, medicine, ritual, scripture, and iconography.

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 C152

BUDDSTD 154 Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2013 First 6 Week Session

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

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2014

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.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students receiving credit for S ASIAN C154 will not get credit for SASIAN C154.

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: SASIAN C154/TIBETAN C154

BUDDSTD C158 Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023

This is an introduction to Buddhist philosophy, extending from its origins (as preserved in the early s#tra literature), down through its evolution into multiple competing philosophical traditions (Abhidharma, Madhyamaka, Yog#c#ra, Pram##av#da, and so on). We will explore Buddhist approaches to issues in epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, language, and ethics. One theme running through the course will be radical skepticism; we will explore how Buddhist philosophers questioned not only the existence of an enduring or essential self but also the existence of an external (mind-independent) world, and how their analyses impacted their understandings of meaning in language, their accounts of the nature and function of consciousness.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: There are no formal requirements, but a prior course in either philosophy or Buddhist studies is recommended

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for BUDDSTD C158 after completing BUDDSTD 158. A deficient grade in BUDDSTD C158 may be removed by taking BUDDSTD 158.

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.

Formerly known as: Philosophy C158/Buddhist Studies C158

Also listed as: PHILOS C158

BUDDSTD 190 Topics in the Study of Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session

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 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 200 Proseminar in Buddhist Studies 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

This seminar provides an opportunity for all students and faculty in the Group in Buddhist Studies to gather together on a regular basis to discuss recent theoretically significant works in the field of Buddhist Studies, as well as pertinent and important works in related disciplines (anthropology, art history, literature, history, philosophy, and religious studies). The content of the course will be adjusted from semester to semester so as to best accommodate the needs and interest of the students, but the focus will be on recent works representing the "state of the field."

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in the Buddhist Studies Ph.D. program or consent of instructor

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

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 5 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

BUDDSTD C214 Seminar in Tibetan Buddhism 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2012

This course provides a place for graduate-level seminars in Tibetan Buddhism that rely primarily on secondary sources and Tibetan texts in translation. Content will vary between semesters but will typically focus on a particular theme. Themes will be chosen according to student interests, with an eye toward introducing students to the breadth of available western scholarship on Tibet, from classics in the field to the latest publications.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students who have passed S ASIAN C214 will not get credit for SASIAN C214.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Dalton

Also listed as: SASIAN C214/TIBETAN C214

BUDDSTD C215 Readings in Indian Buddhist Texts 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024

This graduate seminar focuses on reading a wide spectrum of Indian Buddhist texts in the Sanskrit (or Pali) original introducing the students to different genres, and different aspects of Indian Buddhism. The students taking the course for two units (rather than four) will be expected to prepare thoroughly every week for the reading of Buddhist texts in the original. They will also be expected to read all related secondary literature that is assigned to supplement the study of the primary source material. In contrast to the students taking the course for four units, they will not be expected to write a term paper or to prepare special presentations for class.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for S ASIAN C215 after completing S ASIAN 215A, or S ASIAN 215. A deficient grade in S ASIAN C215 may be removed by taking S ASIAN 215.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Rospatt

Formerly known as: South Asian C215/Buddhist Studies C215

Also listed as: SASIAN C215

BUDDSTD 220 Seminar in Buddhism and Buddhist Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2016, Spring 2016, Fall 2015

Content varies with student interest and needs. The course will normally focus on classical Buddhist texts that exist in multiple recensions and languages, including Chinese, Sanskrit, and Tibetan.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

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

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

BUDDSTD C220 Seminar in Buddhism and Buddhist Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022
Content varies with student interests. The course will normally focus on classical Buddhist texts that exist in multiple recensions and languages, including Chinese, Sanskrit, and Tibetan.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: EA LANG C220/S, SEASN C220

BUDDSTD C223 Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

This seminar is an intensive introduction to various genres of Buddhist literature in classical Chinese, including translations of Sanskrit and Central Asian scriptures. Chinese commentaries, philosophical treatises, hagiographies, and sectarian works. It is intended for graduate students who already have some facility in classical Chinese. It will also serve as a tools and methods course, covering the basic reference works and secondary scholarship in the field of East Asian Buddhism. The content of the course will be adjusted from semester to semester to best accommodate the needs and interests of students.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

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

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: CHINESE C223

BUDDSTD C224 Readings in Tibetan Buddhist Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

This seminar provides an introduction to a broad range of Tibetan Buddhist texts, including chronicles and histories, biographical literature, doctrinal treatises, canonical texts, ritual manuals, pilgrimage guides, and liturgical texts. It is intended for graduate students interested in premodern Tibet from any perspective. Students are required to do all of the readings in the original classical Tibetan. It will also serve as a tools and methods for the study of Tibetan Buddhist literature, including standard lexical and bibliographic references, digital resources, and secondary literature in modern languages. The content of the course will vary from semester to semester to account for the needs and interests of particular students.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Credit Restrictions: Students who have passed S ASIAN C224 will not get credit for SASIAN C224

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Dalton

Also listed as: SASIAN C224/TIBETAN C224

BUDDSTD C225 Readings in Japanese Buddhist Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This seminar serves as an introduction to a broad range of Japanese Buddhist literature belonging to different historical periods and genres, including liturgical texts; monastic records, rules, and ritual manuals; doctrinal treatises; biographies of monks; and histories of Buddhism in Japan. Students are required to do all the readings in the original languages, which are classical Chinese (Kanbun) and classical Japanese. It will also serve as a tools and methods course, covering basic reference works and secondary scholarship in the field of Japanese Buddhism. The content of the course will be adjusted from semester to semester to accommodate the needs and interests of the students.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: JAPAN C225

BUDDSTD 250 Art and Archaeology of Buddhism 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2017

This seminar offers a multidisciplinary approach to the origins, development, and diffusion of Buddhist art and archaeology in South, Central and Southeast Asia. Seminar content will vary from year to year depending on faculty and graduate student research interests. Topics may include the early archaeological and numismatic record, aniconic and figurative depictions of the Buddha and Buddhist deities, painted and sculpted narratives, studies of particular sites such as Polunaruva and Angkor, the caves of the Western Deccan, Buddhist Monasteries in the Himalayan region, and so on.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

BUDDSTD C275 Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha: History and Modernity in Theravada Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2022

This seminar introduces students to the recent scholarship on the history and genealogy of Theravada Buddhism in modern Burma, Cambodia, Lanna, Thailand, Southwest China and Sri Lanka. Introductory readings consider the origins of the field and question the very category of Theravada. Module One: Buddha, considers folk, visual, scriptural and literary narratives as ways of telling history through past lives of the Buddha. Module Two: Dhamma, explores diverse interpretations and delivery of the teachings of Buddha across and between different schools. Module Three: Sangha, examines the role of monks and other spiritual leaders in mediating the trauma of colonialism and navigating modernity by protecting the sasana and offering sanctuary.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Edwards

Also listed as: SSEASN C275

BUDDSTD 298 Directed Study for Graduate Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2021

Special tutorial or seminar on selected topics not covered by available courses or seminars.

Rules & Requirements

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

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-20 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-15 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

BUDDSTD 299 Thesis Preparation and Related Research 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of thesis supervisor and graduate adviser

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

BUDDSTD 601 Individual Study for Master's Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Individual study for the comprehensive or language requirements in consultation with the graduate adviser. Units may not be used to meet either unit or residence requirements for a master's degree.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of graduate adviser

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

BUDDSTD 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Individual study in consultation with the major field adviser, intended to provide an opportunity for qualified students to prepare for various examinations required of candidates for the Ph.D.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Buddhist Studies/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.