

## Appendix 17: Sample of A Syllabus and Its Tentative Schedule

### RELS-2360-*Introduction to Buddhism*

#### A Hybrid Course, Spring 2022, University of Houston

#### **I. Information about the instructor:** Dr. Trung Huynh (Rev. Thich Hang Dat).

1. **Instructor's bio:** [www.thichhangdat.com](http://www.thichhangdat.com).

-An adjunct professor at University of Houston, Indiana University Southeast, Indiana University Purdue University Columbus, Indiana University South Bend, and Indiana University Kokomo.

-Obtained a PhD degree in Religious Studies from University of the West, California.

2. **Contact information:** [thuynh32@uh.edu](mailto:thuynh32@uh.edu).

**-In an emergency situation, you may text me at 832-863-1861.**

3. **Office hour:** TBA

#### **II. Course information**

- **Hybrid Course:** RELS-2360, *Introduction to Buddhism*, 3 credit hours, Spring 2022.
- **Classroom:** TBD.
- **Date and Time:** 01/18-05/12: Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 PM.
- **Required text:** Trainor, Kevin. *Buddhism, the illustrated guide*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- **Official course description:** RELS 2360 *Introduction to Buddhism* (3 credits). This course provides a historical survey of Buddhism from its origins in India through its diffusion throughout Asia and the world in subsequent centuries. It also emphasizes on the practices (ritual, meditation, and ethics) and social groundings (including individual roles and institutional structures) as well as the doctrinal debates.

**III. General Statement:** The Instructor will adhere to all University policies pertaining to attendance, make-up tests, cheating/plagiarism, as well as withdrawal, incomplete, and final examination. Students are expected to be familiar with and follow to these policies.

#### **\*\*\*Important Note:**

Students are allowed but not required to describe their personal issues or

privacy experiences in their works.

Whenever you see the articles that I used from *Wikipedia/wikimedia*, please remember that they are secondary sources for references and learning aids only. The primary text you need to focus on your reading is the book “Kevin Trainor. *Buddhism: The Illustrated Guide.*”

#### IV. List of discussion/lecture topics

Week	Topic	Page #
1 (01/18-)	Part I, Chapter I. Ancient India: Belief and Society and Chapter 2. The Career of Siddhartha-I	12-34
2 (01/24-)	Part 1, Chapter 2. The Career of Siddhartha-II and Chapter 3. New Community I	36-50
3 (01/31-)	Part 1, Chapter 3. New Community II and Part 2, Chapter 1. The Human Condition	52-62
4 (02/07-)	Part 2, Chapter 2. The “Four Noble Truths” and Chapter 3. The Path of the Buddha	64-76
5 (02/14-)	Part 2, Chapter 4. Mental Cultivation	80-88
6 (02/21-)	Part 2, Chapter 5. The Buddhist Community.	90-104
7 (02/28-)	Part 2, Chapter 6. Buddhism in Practice.	106-118
8 (03/07-)	Part 3, Chapter 1. Assembling the Dharma.	176-182
9 (03/14-)	Spring Break	
10 (03/21-)	Part 3, Chapter 2. The Three Baskets.	186-194
11 (03/28-)	Part 2, Chapter 7. Theravada Buddhism	120-130
12 (04/04-)	Part 2, Chapter 8. Mahayana Buddhism; Part 3, Chapter 3. Mahayana Scriptures.	132-148; 196-208
13 (04/11-)	Part 2, Chapter 9. Chan and Zen-The Way of Meditation.	150-158
14 (04/18-)	Part II, Chapter 10. Tantra and Part IV, Chapter 1. The Expanding Community I.	162-172; 214-218

<b>15 (04/25-)</b>	Part IV, Chapter 1. The Expanding Community-II and Chapter 2. Society and Sangha	220-234
<b>16 (05/02-)</b>	Final Week	

#### V. Course requirements:

- **One (1) weekly Reading Response** (300-350 words; 10 points for each; 10x13= **130 points**). Please see the attached instruction and rubric.
- **One (1) weekly posting of your response to the weekly questions** (75-100 words; 3 points; 3x14 weeks = **42 points**). Please see the attached instructions and rubric.
- **One (1) weekly posting of your comment(s) on other students' response(s)** (75-100 words; 3 points; 3x14 weeks = **42 points**). Please see the attached guidelines and rubric.
- **A topic, an abstract, an introduction, a short conclusion, and an outline of your final presentation** (**26 points**). Please see the attached instructions and rubric.
- **Attend:**
  - Four (4) face-to-face meetings: Tuesdays (1:00-2:30 PM) (01/18) (10 points); 02/15 (10 points); 03/22 (10 points); and (05/03) (10 points). Total: 40 points.
  - **Eleven (11) Online Meetings:** Tuesdays (1:00-2:30 PM): 01/25 (10 points); 02/01 (10 points); 02/08 (10 points); 02/22 (10 points); 03/01(10 points); 03/08 (10 points); 03/29 (10 points); 04/05 (10 points); 04/12 (10 points); 04/19 (10 points); 04/26 (10 points); total: 110 points through www.zoom.us.
- **One (1) Online Group Presentation** (30 minutes for 2 students; **40 points**) or write an analysis paper about **Contributions of Buddhism To The World** (minimum 800 words, **40 points**). Please see the attached guidelines and rubric.
- **One (1) Field Trip with report or one Reflection Paper** (minimum 800 words, **40 points**). Please see the attached instructions and rubric.
- **A Final Online Presentation** (minimum 30 minutes, **70 points**). Please see the attached instructions and rubric.
- **A Syllabus Test (10 points).**

#### VI. Grading:

It will be based on a letter grade system. A substantial portion of grade is based on

students' writing Field Trip Report (or a reflection paper) as well as doing an online group presentation and a Final Presentation. I evaluate such writings and presentations on how well they meet the following criteria: (1) accuracy, (2) completeness, (3) organization, (4) good use of examples and details to back up general points, (5) creative synthesis, insight, or original reflection.

Assessment	Points	Weights
11 Online Meetings	110	20%
4 In-class Meetings	40	7.2%
Syllabus Test	10	1.8%
Weekly Reading Response	130	23.6%
Posting to respond to weekly question	42	7.6%
Comment to another student's posting	42	7.6%
Topic and structure of Final Power Point Presentation	26	4.7%
One Online Group Presentation or One Analysis Paper	40	7.2%
One Field Trip with Report or One Reflection Paper	40	7.2%
Final Power Point Presentation	70	12.7%
Total	550	100%

Grade	Points Needed	Equivalent Percentage
A+	550-533	100%-97%
A	532-511	97%-93%
A-	510-495	93%-90%
B+	494-478	90%-87%
B	477-456	87%-83%
B-	455-440	83%-80%
C+	439-423	80%-77%
C	422-401	77%-73%
C-	400-385	73%-70%
D+	384-368	70%-67%
D	367-346	67%-63%
D-	345-330	63%-60%
F	>329	>60%

**\*Extra Credits:** Students can earn 15 extra points for attending one of the two special celebrations at the Enlightened Buddha Temple (10022 Gaines Rd., Sugar Land, TX 77498):

1/ *Lunar New Year Celebration:* Sunday, February 13, between 10:00AM-12:00PM.

2/ *Great Compassionate Bodhisattva Celebration:* Sunday, March 20, between 10:00AM-12:00PM.

## VII. Instructional Strategies:

### Learning Objectives

Learning objectives will be pointed out at the beginning of each week to help students direct their attention on the important features of the studied materials and to assist them to measure and identify what course's information they have comprehended and what materials they still need to study.

### Audio Lectures

Selected lectures focusing on the week's materials and related topics.

**Discussion Board Posts.** One (1) posting on the weekly questions (75-100 words) and one (1) posting of your comments on other students' postings (75-100 words).

This is a moderated and correspondent forum that provides an avenue for students to share their ideas and learn from one another. The instructor will moderate all the correspondents according to the school's policies.

## VIII. Plan for Assessment and Transfer of Learning:

### Self-assessment

Students are required to post one (1) reading response and one (1) response to the weekly questions on the Blackboard.

### Peer Assessments

Students are required to post one (1) comment on another student's posting.

### Authentic Assessments

Students are required to write one field trip report (or a reflection paper) as well as presenting a group presentation and a final presentation.

**IX. Methods of learning:** It includes reading responses, posting weekly response and comment on another student' posting, writing field trip report (or a reflection paper), and doing an online group presentation (or writing a paper of analysis) and a final presentation. Reading responses and the field trip (or a reflection paper) will enhance students to reflect on their own presuppositions and correct erroneous opinions by appealing to data and reasoned argumentation.

**\*Note:** During this semester, students could visit a Buddhist temple. The purposes of the field trip are to broaden the students' perspectives and to provide them the first-hand experiences

culturally and spiritually about the Buddhist tradition.

## X. Course Learning Outcomes:

- By the end of this course, you should be able to:
- Describe ancient Indian beliefs and society.
- Describe Buddhism and its historical role.
- Describe Buddhism, its historical role, and people.
- Examine Buddhist sects, branches, and divisions.
- Examine Buddhist sectarians and perspectives.
- Identify general Buddhist perspectives.
- Explain the formations of Buddhist tenets.
- Examine the Buddhist establishment.
- Discuss Buddhist spiritual approaches.
- Examine the Buddha's teachings orally and literately.
- Analyze the Buddha's literal teachings.
- Examine the Buddhist sectarians.
- Discuss the Buddhist sectarian literatures.
- Discuss the Buddhist diffusion.

<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>How I will Assess These Outcomes</b>
Describe ancient Indian beliefs and society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> </ul>
Describe Buddhism and its historical role.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> </ul>
Describe Buddhism, its historical role, and people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> </ul>
Examine Buddhist sects, branches, and divisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> </ul>
Examine Buddhist sectarians and perspectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> </ul>
Identify general Buddhist perspectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly</li> </ul>

	<p>question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> </ul>
Explain the formations of Buddhist tenets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> </ul>
Examine the Buddhist establishment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> </ul>
Discuss Buddhist spiritual approaches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> </ul>
Examine the Buddha's teachings orally and literately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> <li>• Write Analysis Paper or do an Online Group Presentation.</li> </ul>
Analyze the Buddha's literal teachings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> </ul>
Examine the Buddhist sectarians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> </ul>
Discuss the Buddhist sectarian literatures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> </ul>
Discuss the Buddhist diffusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Reading Response,</li> <li>• Post the Responding to weekly question.</li> <li>• Provide Comment on another student's posting.</li> <li>• Present a Final Power Point Presentation.</li> </ul>

**How will I know if you achieve these objectives?**

I use multiple methods to determine how well students achieve course learning objectives. Each student completes a pre-assessment, allowing me to see what you understand before taking the course. **The pre-assessment is due January 21, 2022, at 11:30 p.m.** Completing the pre-assessment will earn you **5 points extra credit**. The pre-assessment allows me to see what you know before beginning the course. The remaining course assignments allow me to assess your achievement of the course learning objectives. The same questions from your pre-assessment will be built into the quizzes, allowing me to have a pre-, post-measure of your success. As you work through the modules in this course, you will note some module-level learning objectives. These module-level learning objectives are simply more detailed versions of the course-level learning objectives.

## **XI. Course Organization**

The material for this course has been organized by week. Each week is focused on a specific topic. All assignments are due on **Sunday evening at 11:30 pm**. You can find detailed due dates on our Blackboard site. Secondary readings and all assignments may be provided for you in our Blackboard site.

## **XII. Course Assessment**

There are two types of assessment: Formative and summative. **Formative assessment is for you** to determine whether you are learning the material; essentially formative assessment consists of practice questions. There are no grades attached to formative assessment. You will notice that there are questions on the narrated slides built into this course to assist you in studying. **These questions are not graded**; Summative assessment is graded; summative assessment provides you a grade for the course. There are **multiple summative assignments** in this course.

**You will be graded in several ways:** Reading Responses, Discussions, Analysis Paper, Field Trip Report, and Final Power Point Presentation. Grades will be posted on Gradebook. Please submit all assignments, discussions, and papers through Blackboard; do not send anything to my email address for grading. As you progress through the class, I may contact you through email if I see you are having difficulties. Please ensure that you are checking your university email and your course page in Blackboard daily. You should be able to complete all work required in this course by devoting **2-3 hours each day** to the class. Of course, you know yourself best and are aware if you need additional time for reading and writing.

- **Reading Responses:** Be careful to read through each assignment thoroughly so you know what is expected of you; most assignments provide you several options, allowing you to choose. I would advise you to **read through all Questions at the beginning of the course** so you can plan your schedule as some assignments may take more time than others. **If you are unsure what is expected or how I will be grading your work, please email me before you begin work so I can address your concerns.**
- **Discussions:** There are 14 discussions for this class. Discussions typically consist of an initial response and then having a response to the postings of fellow students. **Hint: Post your initial response early so that your fellow students have sufficient time to post a response.** Discussions allow you a chance to communicate and learn from your fellow students, similar to a small group discussion in a F2F class. Discussions will take place in the Blackboard Discussion Tool; explicit instructions and grading criteria for each discussion are provided for you on Blackboard; read carefully and feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Please note that your grade for Discussions is based **both on your initial response and the comment you make to your classmate's posting.**

**XIII. Students with disabilities:** Students with Disabilities: The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, per 504/ADA guidelines, is committed to providing reasonable academic

accommodations to students who request them. Students seeking accommodation must register with the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center at 713-743-5400 and present approved documentation to me as soon as possible. For more information, see their website: <https://uh.edu/accessibility/>

**XIV. Writing Center:** The University of Houston Writing Center provides individual consultations for students working on all types of writing. Whether it is your first semester or your last, meeting with a trained writing consultant can provide another perspective on your paper or project that aids you in navigating the writing process from brainstorming to perfecting a final draft and any stage in between. You can make an appointment by visiting [writingcenter.uh.edu](http://writingcenter.uh.edu) or by calling (713) 743-3016.

**XV. Withdrawals- Six “W” policy:**

The University of Houston policy limits students to 6 “no questions asked” W’s. **When a student drops a class before the 12th class day (Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>), it does not count as a W.** Students can drop classes online until the final drop deadline (**Tuesday, Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**) and receive a W up to six times. Students may not exceed six W’s; they cannot be dropped from a class after their sixth W. Once their 6 Ws are exhausted, a student must complete the course, and professor must assign them a grade. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of their W’s. (PeopleSoft warns students who are not eligible for a W when they attempt to drop a course).

**All “NR” notations automatically convert to F’s after 90 days. NR is not a way of dropping a ‘no show’ student.** If you ask for leniency after the fact, based on extraordinary medical or personal circumstances, you should go to the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs in the Provost’s Office—(713) 743-9112 or [uaa@central.uh.edu](mailto:uaa@central.uh.edu). **Please remember the importance of making decisions about dropping or staying in classes before the 12th class day.**

**XVI. Student Code of Conduct:** Academic Misconduct may result in disciplinary action according to University’s policy. Academic misconduct includes Plagiarism, as well as Interference and Violation of the Course Rules. CLASS students are expected to abide the University of Houston’s Code of Student Conduct: <http://www.uh.edu/dos/behavior-conduct/student-code-of-conduct/>.

**XVII. Academic Honesty:** To cultivate an environment of academic integrity, the University of Houston expects students to abide the University’s Undergraduate Academic Honesty Policy, found in the Undergraduate Catalog. <http://www.uh.edu/academic-honesty-undergraduate>

Complicity in Academic Dishonesty” is also covered by the academic honesty policy: “Failing to report to the instructor or departmental hearing officer an incident which the student believes to be a violation of the academic honesty policy.”

Honor Code Statement:

- Students may be asked to sign an honor code statement as part of their submission of any graded work including but not limited to projects, quizzes, and exams: *“I understand and agree to abide by the provisions in the (select: [University of Houston Undergraduate Academic Honesty Policy](#) and [Policy Guidelines for Honesty](#)). I understand that academic honesty is taken very seriously and, in the cases of violations, penalties may include suspension or expulsion from the University of Houston and a violation notation on their permanent record.”*
- The Academic Honesty policy extends to student behavior on social media, texting, email, and unauthorized collaboration on assignments using apps like GroupMe. “Complicity in Academic Dishonesty” is also covered by the academic honesty policy, which is defined as “Failing to report to the instructor or departmental hearing officer an incident which the student believes to be a violation of the academic honesty policy.”

**Note:**

-Plagiarism “is the violation of academic expectation about using and citing sources.”

**Definition:** In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common- knowledge) material without acknowledging its source” (WPAplagiarism.pdf, from <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>). More detailed explanations of plagiarism and how to avoid it can be found at Purdue University’s OWL [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/research/r\\_plagiar.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/research/r_plagiar.html), which also offers guidelines for note-taking, citing, and quoting.

A diverting set of tutorials on identifying and avoiding plagiarism is available at [http://www.fairfield.edu/library/lib\\_plagiarismcourt.html](http://www.fairfield.edu/library/lib_plagiarismcourt.html).

*The Three Principles of Academic Honesty:*

- a. When you say you did the work yourself, you actually did it.
- b. When you rely on others’ works, you cite them. When you use others’ words, you quote them openly and accurately, and you cite them too.
- c. When you present research materials, you present them fairly and truthfully. That’s true whether the research involves data, documents, or writings of other scholars.

**XVIII. Counseling and Psychological Services:** Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)—[www.uh.edu/caps](http://www.uh.edu/caps)—are available for students having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or somebody you know is in crisis. The “Let’s Talk” program provides a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. <https://uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets-talk/index.php#hours>.

**XIX. Excused Absence Policy:**

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston [Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy](#) and [Graduate Excused Absence Policy](#) for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to [military service](#), [religious holy days](#), [pregnancy and related conditions](#), and [disability](#).

**XX. Sexual Misconduct Policy:** Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

**XXI. Information Age:** To undertake this course you must have an active UH email account. And a word to the wise: ultimately, you are responsible for all activities on your computer account.

**XXII. Email:** Your official email system is now “considered an appropriate mechanism for official communication by University with students unless otherwise prohibited by law.” I’ll expect you (and you should expect me) to read and respond to University’s

account emails in a timely fashion. In particular, I expect you to have your account set up and active by the end of the first week of class. Any problem? Ask me. I will assist, or find assistance, as needed.

**XXIII. Diversity:** In our classroom, we will accept and respect individual differences, seeking to foster the appreciation of diversity. Students are expected to respect other students and their opinions regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, or sexual orientation.

**XXIV. Incomplete:** A grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be assigned by an instructor when exceptional circumstances, such as illness, prevent students from finishing all work required in a course. The grade of “I” will be awarded only if the work is mostly complete, and of passing quality. The Incomplete Grade Contract must be completed by the faculty member and the student prior to issuing an “I” grade. The Incomplete Grade Contract may be obtained by the instructor from the Office of the Registrar.

**XXV. End of the Interim Grade Policy:** Please be aware, the Interim Grade Policy ended, and the university has returned to our standard grading policies. You can find more information on UH Grade Policy here: <http://publications.uh.edu/content.php?catoid=36&navoid=12929>

**XXVI. Syllabus Changes:**

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through school’s official email.

**XXVII. Webcams:**

Access to a webcam is required for students participating remotely in this course. Webcams must be turned on (*state when webcams are required to be on and the academic basis for requiring them to be on*). (Example: Webcams must be turned on during exams to ensure the academic integrity of exam administration.)

**XXVIII. Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids**

The University of Houston complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for disabled students. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UH strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact [the Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#)

(formerly the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with DisABILITIES).

### **XXIX. Recording of Class:**

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

### **XXX. Resources for Online Learning**

The University of Houston is committed to student success, and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through our [Power-On](#) website. Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips including: obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH, and Blackboard; requesting a laptop through the Laptop Loaner Program; using your smartphone as a webcam; and downloading Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance contact [UHOnline@uh.edu](mailto:UHOnline@uh.edu).

**XXXI. Class cancellation procedures:** In case of the cancellation of a class session, the instructor will modify the course's syllabus to cover relevant topics. Canceled classes will not be made up.

**XXXII. Weather Emergencies:** Weather emergencies may result in class cancellation.

### **XXXIII. University Email Policy:**

Please check and use your CougarNet email for communications related to this course. To access this email, [login](#) to your Microsoft 365 account with your CougarNet credentials.

**XXXIV. Forwarding of Email:** Students, who choose to have their email forwarded to a private (unofficial) email address outside the official university network address, do so at their own risk. The University is not responsible for any difficulties that may occur in the proper or timely transmission or access of email forwarded to any unofficial email address; any such

problems will not absolve students of their responsibility to know and comply with the content of official communications sent to students' official UH email addresses.

**XXXV. Course Related Use of Email:** Faculty may assume that a student's official university email is a valid mechanism for communication with them. This policy will ensure that all students will be able to comply with course requirements communicated to them by email from their course instructors.

### **XXXVI. Health Concern**

#### Face Covering Policy

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the University strongly encourages everyone (vaccinated or not) to wear face coverings indoors on campus including classrooms for both faculty and students.

#### Presence in Class

Your presence in class each session means that you:

- Are NOT exhibiting any Coronavirus Symptoms that makes you think that you may have COVID-19
- Have NOT tested positive or been diagnosed for COVID-19
- Have NOT knowingly been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or suspected/presumed COVID-19

If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms that are not clearly related to a pre-existing medical condition, do not come to class. Please see Student Protocols for what to do if you experience symptoms and Potential Exposure to Coronavirus for what to do if you have potentially been exposed to COVID-19.

Consult the (select: Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy or Graduate Excused Absence Policy) for information regarding excused absences due to medical reasons.

#### COVID-19 Information

Students are encouraged to visit the University's COVID-19 website for important information including on-campus testing, vaccines, diagnosis and symptom protocols, campus cleaning and safety practices, report forms, and positive cases on campus. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates.

#### Vaccinations

Data suggests that vaccination remains the best intervention for reliable protection against COVID-19. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with pertinent [vaccine information](#), consult with their health care provider. The University strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated.

### Helpful Information

**Coogs Care:** <https://www.uh.edu/dsaes/coogsicare/>

**Student Health Center:** <https://www.uh.edu/healthcenter/>

**UH CAPS Statement:** Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)—[www.uh.edu/caps](http://www.uh.edu/caps)—are available for students having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or somebody you know is in crisis. The “Let’s Talk” program provides a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. <https://uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets-talk/index.php#hours>

### Graduate/Professional Colleges:

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS ([www.uh.edu/caps](http://www.uh.edu/caps)) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. [http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets\\_talk.html](http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html)

### UH Sugar Land:

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (<http://www.uh.edu/dsaes/uhsugarland/>) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. [http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets\\_talk.html](http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html)  
<http://www.uh.edu/dsaes/uhsugarland/>

### Online Students:

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS ([www.uh.edu/caps](http://www.uh.edu/caps)) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let's Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. <https://legacy.central.uh.edu/owa/redirect.aspx?REF=13JLItcJPzrRfUs23nLajNUZJozBVkQURrJtRxTM6NPjLzgoGMPUCAFodHRwOi8vd3d3LnVoLmVkdS9jYXBzL291dHJIYWNoL2xldHNfdGFsay5o dG1s>  
[http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets\\_talk.html](http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html) <http://www.uh.edu/dsaes/uhsugarland/>

# Tentative list of assignments and due dates

## *Part 1: Origins*

Week 1 (01/18-):

### **1<sup>st</sup> Face-to-face Meeting (10 points)**

- **Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 01/18.
- **Purpose:** Introduce yourself to other classmates and review the requirements stated in the syllabus.  
**Venue:** TBD.
- **Reading:** Read pages 12-34.
- **Learning Objective:**
  1. A brief review of Ancient India, including: India's geographical setting, Indus Valley civilization, the first matrilineal society, the great bath, the migration of the Aryan invaders, the new Aryan ideas of government and social status, the new language, the Vedic system, the new education system, the new marriage tradition, and the development of Hinduism including its deities, its fundamental beliefs, its Vedic literatures, its ideas of rebirth cycle, karma, etc.
  2. An introduction to the life of the Buddha, including:
  3. Siddhartha's kingdom & parents;
  4. his wondrous birth;
  5. how he was considered as a wheel turner;
  6. his youth and marriage;
  7. the four sights that change his outlook on life;
  8. his determination of going forth;
  9. his practice of self-mortification for 6 years;

10. how a young maid's food offering helps him to regain his strength;
11. his determination for spiritual enlightenment; and
12. his final awakening.

**Topic:** Part I, Chapter I. Ancient India: Belief and Society and Chapter 2. The Career of Siddhartha-I.

- **Lecture:** Listen and watch either to my previous lectures or other selected lectures.
- **Assignment:** **Go to the Content of Week 1 to select the question, write its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (01/23) (300-350 words; 10 points).**

*\*Note: The grade of your Reading Response essentially will be based on the quality of your response, the adequate sources of references, and the correctness of grammar.*

- **Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:**
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, Sunday (01/23) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**
  2. One (1) posting of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, Sunday (01/23) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**

**Week 2 (01/24-):**

**1st Online Meeting (10 points)**

1. **Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 01/25.
2. **Purpose:** Review learning materials.
3. **Venue:** 15 minutes before the online meeting, I will send out an email ([thichhangdat66@gmail.com](mailto:thichhangdat66@gmail.com)) with a link and an invitation from the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Please make sure to check your UH email

for following the link to login this online meeting.

**Note:**

-Student will earn **5 points for login** the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) room and they will receive another **5 points for their participations** in the online discussion.

-Please have your webcam ready and turn it on during our online meeting all the time so that we can communicate with each other lively and properly.

**Otherwise, I will deduct five (5) points from your grade.**

-Regarding your microphone, please make sure to turn it on only if it is your turn to talk. Otherwise, please turn it off to prevent from having background noises that may affect others in our class.

-In case you might not have received my email and that link by 1:30 PM on that day, please let me know by texting me at 832-863-1861.

- **Topic:** Part 1, Chapter 2. The Career of Siddhartha-II and Chapter 3. New Community I.
- **Reading:** Read pages 36-50.
- **Learning Objective:**
  1. Describe the story of Siddhartha becoming Buddha and his formation of Buddhist community as it applies to the early formation of Buddhism. The Buddha's missionary works include:
  2. Buddha's daily activities;
  3. Buddha's miracles;
  4. two of his primary disciples;
  5. his great monastic disciples;
  6. his important lay supporters;
  7. his important royal supporters;
  8. his main opponent;
  9. his first Buddhist nun follower;

10. his last meal;
11. the division of his relics; and
12. how people through many centuries depict him.
13. the continuity and the spread of his newly established religious community after his death.
14. the creation of the Buddhist councils;
15. structure of the Buddhist monastic function;
16. regulation of the sangha (monastic community);
17. early Buddhist lay community;

Also, students will learn about the lay supporters of early Buddhism, including:

1. early Buddhist emperors;
2. the conversion of Emperor Asoka;
3. Asoka's devotion to the cause and the spread of Buddhism; and
4. Asoka's death and legacy.

- **Lecture:** Watch the selected video clips.
- **Assignment:** **Go to the Content of Week 2 to select the question, write its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (01/30) (300-350 words; 10 points).**

*\*Note: The grade of your Reading Response essentially will be based on the quality of your response, the adequate sources of references, and the correctness of grammar.*

- **Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:**
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, **Sunday (01/30) (75-100 words; 3 points).**
  2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, **Sunday (01/30) (75-100 words; 3 points).**

### Week 3 (01/31-):

#### 2nd Online Meeting (10 points)

1. **Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 02/01.
2. **Purpose:** Review learning materials.
3. **Venue:** 15 minutes before the online meeting, I will send out an email ([thichhangdat66@gmail.com](mailto:thichhangdat66@gmail.com)) with a link and an invitation from the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Please make sure to check your UH email for following the link to login this online meeting.

#### Note:

-Student will earn **5 points for login** the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) room and they will receive another **5 points for their participations** in the online discussion.

-Please have your webcam ready and turn it on during our online meeting all the time so that we can communicate with each other lively and properly.

**Otherwise, I will deduct five (5) points from your grade**

-Regarding your microphone, please make sure to turn it on only if it is your turn to talk. Otherwise, please turn it off to prevent from having background noises that may affect others in our class.

-In case you might not have received my email and that link by 1:30 PM on that day, please let me know by texting me at 832-863-1861.

- **Topic:** Part 1, Chapter 3. New Community II and Part 2, Chapter 1. The Human Condition.
- **Reading:** Read pages 52-62.
- **Learning objectives:** Discuss the new establishment of Buddhist community and the Buddhist views about human conditions, including:
  1. The most eminent Buddhist Emperor, Asoka:
  2. How Asoka converted to Buddhism;

3. Asoka's contributions to global spread of Buddhism;
4. Asoka's edicts and pillars around India;
5. Asoka the righteous king; and
6. Constructions in art and literature credited to Asoka.

Besides, students will learn Buddhist perspectives on:

1. the cycle of rebirth;
2. the meaning of a "Soul";
3. karma and its types;
4. humanity;
5. God(s)/ celestial realm;
6. animals;
7. ghost/paranormal state;
8. hell; and
9. the factors to be reborn in the six realms.

- **Lecture:** Watch the selected video clips.
- **Assignment:** **Go to the Content of Week 3 to select the question, write its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/06) (300-350 words; 10 points).**

*\*Note: The grade of your Reading Response essentially will be based on the quality of your response, the adequate sources of references, and the correctness of grammar.*

- **Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:**
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/06) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**
  2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/06) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**

- **Upload:** Topic and its structure for your final presentation, including an abstract, introduction, outline, and a brief conclusion to the blackboard by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/06, 16 points). Please read the guidelines and rubrics.

#### Week 4 (02/07-):

#### **3rd Online Meeting (10 points)**

1. **Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 02/08.
2. **Purpose:** Review learning materials.
3. **Venue:** 15 minutes before the online meeting, I will send out an email ([thichhangdat66@gmail.com](mailto:thichhangdat66@gmail.com)) with a link and an invitation from the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Please make sure to check your UH email for following the link to login this online meeting.

#### **Note:**

-Student will earn **5 points for login** the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) room and they will receive another **5 points for their participations** in the online discussion.

-Please have your webcam ready and turn it on during our online meeting all the time so that we can communicate with each other lively and properly.

**Otherwise, I will deduct five (5) points from your grade.**

-Regarding your microphone, please make sure to turn it on only if it is your turn to talk. Otherwise, please turn it off to prevent from having background noises that may affect others in our class.

-In case you might not have received my email and that link by 1:30 PM on that day, please let me know by texting me at 832-863-1861.

- Topic: Part 2, Chapter 2. The “Four Noble Truths” and Chapter 3. The

## Path of the Buddha.

- **Reading:** p.64-76.
- **Learning Objective:** Explain the provision of the Buddha's teachings and spiritual tools in dealing with humanity's problems. They include:
  1. The Four Noble Truths: the truth of sufferings, the cause of sufferings, the end of sufferings, and the path to end the sufferings.
  2. The Eightfold Paths: Right Understanding of life, Right Intention, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right concentration, and Right mindfulness.
- **Lecture:** Watch the selected video clips.
- **Assignment:** **Go to the Content of Week 4 to select the question, write its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/13) (300-350 words; 10 points).**

*\*Note: The grade of your Reading Response essentially will be based on the quality of your response, the adequate sources of references, and the correctness of grammar.*

- **Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:**
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/13) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**
  2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/13) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**

## Week 5 (02/14-):

**2<sup>nd</sup> Face-to-face Meeting (10 points)**

- **Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 02/15.
  1. **Purpose:** Review learning materials.
  2. **Venue: TBD.**
  
- Topic: Part 2, Chapter 4. Mental Cultivation.
- Reading: p.80-88.
- Learning Objectives:
 

In this week, you will learn the mental cultivation through meditation, chanting, and visualizations.
- Lecture: Watch the selected video clips.
- Assignment: **Go to the Content of Week 5 to select the question, write its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/20) (300-350 words; 10 points).**

*\*Note: The grade of your Reading Response essentially will be based on the quality of your response, the adequate sources of references, and the correctness of grammar.*

- Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/20) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**
  2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/20) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**

**\*Note: Please indicate clearly the name of the student(s) you make comment(s) about. Otherwise, I will subtract a half-point (0.5) from yours.**

- **Upload:** The recorded video of the Online **Group Presentation** (30 minutes, 40 points) **or** write *an Analysis Paper* (minimum 800 words, 40 points) on Sunday (02/20) to the blackboard. Please read the

guidelines and rubrics.

### Week 6 (02/21-):

#### 4th Online Meeting (10 points)

1. **Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 02/22.
2. **Purpose:** Review learning materials.
3. **Venue:** 15 minutes before the online meeting, I will send out an email ([thichhangdat66@gmail.com](mailto:thichhangdat66@gmail.com)) with a link and an invitation from the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Please make sure to check your UH email for following the link to login this online meeting.

#### Note:

-Student will earn **5 points for login** the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) room and they will receive another **5 points for their participations** in the online discussion.

-Please have your webcam ready and turn it on during our online meeting all the time so that we can communicate with each other lively and properly.

**Otherwise, I will deduct five (5) points from your grade.**

-Regarding your microphone, please make sure to turn it on only if it is your turn to talk. Otherwise, please turn it off to prevent from having background noises that may affect others in our class.

-In case you might not have received my email and that link by 1:30 PM on that day, please let me know by texting me at 832-863-1861.

- **Topic: Part 2, Chapter 5. The Buddhist Community.**
- **Reading: P. 90-104**
- **Learning Objective:** Explicate the development of Buddhist monastic and lay communities.

- **Lecture:** Watch the selected video clips
- **Assignment:** Go to the Content of Week 6 to select the question, write its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/27) (300-350 words; 10 points).

*\*Note: The grade of your Reading Response essentially will be based on the quality of your response, the adequate sources of references, and the correctness of grammar.*

- **Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:**
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/27) (75-100 words; 3 points).
  2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, Sunday (02/27) (75-100 words; 3 points).

### **Week 7 (02/28-):**

#### **5th Online Meeting (10 points)**

1. **Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 03/01.
2. **Purpose:** Review learning materials.
3. **Venue:** 15 minutes before the online meeting, I will send out an email ([thichhangdat66@gmail.com](mailto:thichhangdat66@gmail.com)) with a link and an invitation from the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Please make sure to check your UH email for following the link to login this online meeting.

#### **Note:**

-Student will earn **5 points for login** the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) room and they will receive another **5 points for their participations** in the online discussion.

-Please have your webcam ready and turn it on during our online meeting all the time so that we can communicate with each other lively and properly.

**Otherwise, I will deduct five (5) points from your grade.**

-Regarding your microphone, please make sure to turn it on only if it is your turn to talk. Otherwise, please turn it off to prevent from having background noises that may affect others in our class.

-In case you might not have received my email and that link by 1:30 PM on that day, please let me know by texting me at 832-863-1861.

**Topic: Part 2, Chapter 6. Buddhism in Practice.**

- **Reading:** p. 106-118.
- **Learning Objective:** Examine various Buddhist practices, including spiritual engagement, devotion, donation, pilgrimage, ethics, as well as the relations between the monastics and monarchs.
- **Lecture:** Watch the selected video clips.
- **Assignment:** **Go to the Content of Week 7 to select the question, write its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (03/06) (300-350 words; 10 points).**

**\*Note:** *The grade of your Reading Response essentially will be based on the quality of your response, the adequate sources of references, and the correctness of grammar.*

- **Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:**
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, **Sunday (03/06) (75-100 words; 3 points).**
  2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, **Sunday ((03/06) (75-100 words; 3 points).**

## Week 8 (03/07-):

### 6th Online Meeting (10 points)

1. **Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 03/08.
2. **Purpose:** Review learning materials.
3. **Venue:** 15 minutes before the online meeting, I will send out an email ([thichhangdat66@gmail.com](mailto:thichhangdat66@gmail.com)) with a link and an invitation from the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Please make sure to check your UH email for following the link to login this online meeting.

### Note:

-Student will earn **5 points for login** the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) room and they will receive another **5 points for their participations** in the online discussion.

-Please have your webcam ready and turn it on during our online meeting all the time so that we can communicate with each other lively and properly.

**Otherwise, I will deduct five (5) points from your grade.**

-Regarding your microphone, please make sure to turn it on only if it is your turn to talk. Otherwise, please turn it off to prevent from having background noises that may affect others in our class.

-In case you might not have received my email and that link by 1:30 PM on that day, please let me know by texting me at 832-863-1861.

- **Topic:** Part 3, Chapter 1. Assembling the Dharma.
- **Reading:** p. 176-182.
- **Learning objectives:** Explain the compilations of the Buddha's teachings, including their languages, translations, forms, media, and literature arts.
- **Lecture:** Watch the selected video clips.

- Assignment: **Go to the Content of Week 8 to select the question, write its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (03/13) (300-350 words; 10 points).**

***\*Note:*** *The grade of your Reading Response essentially will be based on the quality of your response, the adequate sources of references, and the correctness of grammar.*

- Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, Sunday (03/13) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**
  2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, Sunday (03/13) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**

### **Week 9 (03/14-): Spring Break.**

### **Week 10 (03/21-):**

#### **3rd Face-to-face Meeting (10 points)**

- **Time:** *1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 03/22.*
  - Purpose:** Review learning materials.
  - Venue:** **TBD.**
- **Topic:** Part 3, Chapter 2. The Three Baskets.
- **Reading:** 186-194.
- **Learning Objective:** Describe the categorization of the Buddha's teachings in three essential formations, i.e., principles (sutta), moral codes (vinaya), and commentary (Abhidhamma).
- **Lecture:** Watch the selected video clips.
- Assignment: **Go to the Content of Week 10 to select the question, write**

its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (03/27) (300-350 words; 10 points).

*\*Note: The grade of your Reading Response essentially will be based on the quality of your response, the adequate sources of references, and the correctness of grammar.*

- Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, Sunday (03/27) (75-100 words; 3 points).
  2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, Sunday (03/27) (75-100 words; 3 points).

#### Week 11 (03/28-):

##### **7th Online Meeting (10 points)**

1. **Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 03/29.
2. **Purpose:** Review learning materials.
3. **Venue:** 15 minutes before the online meeting, I will send out an email ([thichhangdat66@gmail.com](mailto:thichhangdat66@gmail.com)) with a link and an invitation from the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Please make sure to check your UH email for following the link to login this online meeting.

#### **Note:**

-Student will earn **5 points for login** the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) room and they will receive another **5 points for their participations** in the online discussion.

-Please have your webcam ready and turn it on during our online meeting all the time so that we can communicate with each other lively and properly.

**Otherwise, I will deduct five (5) points from your grade.**

-Regarding your microphone, please make sure to turn it on only if it is your turn to talk. Otherwise, please turn it off to prevent from having background noises that may affect others in our class.

-In case you might not have received my email and that link by 1:30 PM on that day, please let me know by texting me at 832-863-1861.

- **Topic:** Part 2, Chapter 7. Theravada Buddhism.
- **Reading:** p.120-130.
- **Learning objective:** Expound the Theravada Buddhist tradition, including its doctrines, beliefs, practices, and localities.
- **Lecture:** Watch the selected video clips.
- **Assignment:** **Go to the Content of Week 11 to select the question (RR11), write its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (04/03) (300-350 words; 10 points).**

*\*Note: The grade of your Reading Response essentially will be based on the quality of your response, the adequate sources of references, and the correctness of grammar.*

- **Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:**
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, Sunday (04/03) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**
  2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, Sunday (04/03) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**

**Upload: Field trip report** (double-spaced with 12 pts, Times New Roman, *Minimum 800 words; 40 points*) by 11:30 PM, Sunday (04/03). Please read the guidelines and rubrics.

Alternatively, students can write a **Reflection Paper** (double-spaced with 12 pts, Times New Roman, *Minimum 800 words; 40 points*) by 11:30 PM, Sunday (04/03). Please read the guidelines and rubrics.

### Week 12 (04/04-):

#### 8th Online Meeting (10 points)

1. **Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 04/05.
2. **Purpose:** Review learning materials.
3. **Venue:** 15 minutes before the online meeting, I will send out an email ([thichhangdat66@gmail.com](mailto:thichhangdat66@gmail.com)) with a link and an invitation from the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Please make sure to check your UH email for following the link to login this online meeting.

#### Note:

-Student will earn **5 points for login** the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) room and they will receive another **5 points for their participations** in the online discussion.

-Please have your webcam ready and turn it on during our online meeting all the time so that we can communicate with each other lively and properly.

**Otherwise, I will deduct five (5) points from your grade.**

-Regarding your microphone, please make sure to turn it on only if it is your turn to talk. Otherwise, please turn it off to prevent from having background noises that may affect others in our class.

-In case you might not have received my email and that link by 1:30 PM on that day, please let me know by texting me at 832-863-1861.

- Topic: Part 2, Chapter 8. Mahayana Buddhism; Part 3, Chapter 3. Mahayana Scriptures.

- **Reading:** p.132-148; 196-208.
- **Lecture:** Watch the selected video clips.
- **Learning Objective:** Explain the developments of Mahayana Buddhism, including the Bodhisattva path, doctrines, beliefs, practices, sects, arts, and architecture. Also, describe the preservations and the studies of Mahayana scriptures in various sects, including the Perfection of Wisdom sutra, the Lotus sutra, the Pure Land sutras, the Yogachara sutras, nirvana sutra, and Tantric writings.
- **Assignment:** **Go to the Content of Week 12 to select the question (RR11), write its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (04/10) (300-350 words; 10 points).**
- **Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:**
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, **Sunday (04/10) (75-100 words; 3 points).**
  2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, **Sunday (04/10) (75-100 words; 3 points).**

### **Week 13 (04/11-):**

#### **9th Online Meeting (10 points)**

1. **Time:** *1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 04/12.*
2. **Purpose:** Review learning materials.
3. **Venue:** 15 minutes before the online meeting, I will send out an email ([thichhangdat66@gmail.com](mailto:thichhangdat66@gmail.com)) with a link and an invitation from the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Please make sure to check your UH email

for following the link to login this online meeting.

**Note:**

-Student will earn **5 points for login** the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) room and they will receive another **5 points for their participations** in the online discussion.

-Please have your webcam ready and turn it on during our online meeting all the time so that we can communicate with each other lively and properly.

**Otherwise, I will deduct five (5) points from your grade.**

-Regarding your microphone, please make sure to turn it on only if it is your turn to talk. Otherwise, please turn it off to prevent from having background noises that may affect others in our class.

-In case you might not have received my email and that link by 1:30 PM on that day, please let me know by texting me at 832-863-1861.

- **Topic: Part 2, Chapter 9. Chan and Zen-The Way of Meditation.**
- **Reading:** p.150-158.
- **Learning Objective:** In this week, students will learn about the self-help techniques through Zen/meditation, Zen in the East, Rinzai and Soto sects, Zen monastic life, and Zen and the Arts.
- **Lecture:** Listen and watch either my previous lectures or other selected lectures.
- **Assignment: Go to the Content of Week 13 to select the question (RR12), write its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (04/17) (300-350 words; 10 points).**
- **Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:**
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, Sunday (04/17) (75-100

words; 3 points).

2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, Sunday (04/17) (75-100 words; 3 points).

#### Week 14 (04/18-):

##### 10th Online Meeting (10 points)

1. **Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 04/19.
2. **Purpose:** Review learning materials.
3. **Venue:** 15 minutes before the online meeting, I will send out an email ([thichhangdat66@gmail.com](mailto:thichhangdat66@gmail.com)) with a link and an invitation from the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Please make sure to check your UH email for following the link to login this online meeting.

#### Note:

-Student will earn **5 points for login** the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) room and they will receive another **5 points for their participations** in the online discussion.

-Please have your webcam ready and turn it on during our online meeting all the time so that we can communicate with each other lively and properly. **Otherwise, I will deduct five (5) points from your grade.**

-Regarding your microphone, please make sure to turn it on only if it is your turn to talk. Otherwise, please turn it off to prevent from having background noises that may affect others in our class.

-In case you might not have received my email and that link by 1:30 PM on that day, please let me know by texting me at 832-863-1861.

- Topic: Part II, Chapter 10. Tantra and Part IV, Chapter 1. The Expanding Community I.
- Reading: p.162-172 and p.214-218.
- Learning Objective: Expound the evolution of Tantric school in the Mahayana tradition, including its developments, methodologies, connection with the original meditation technique, denominations, monastic practices, and art and architecture as well as the techniques, deities, and leaders. Explain the dissemination's process of Buddhism from India to the East and from the East to the West, including its modification and adaptation through new Buddhist movements and the involvements of scholars and practitioners.
- Lecture: Watch the selected video clips.
- Assignment: **Go to the Content of Week 14 to select the question (RR13), write its response, and submit it by 11:30 PM, Sunday (04/24) (300-350 words; 10 points).**

*\*Note: The grade of your Reading Response essentially will be based on the quality of your response, the adequate sources of references, and the correctness of grammar.*

- Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, Sunday (04/24) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**
  2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, Sunday (04/24) **(75-100 words; 3 points).**

## Week 15 (04/25-):

### 11th Online Meeting (10 points)

1. **Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 04/26.
2. **Purpose:** Review learning materials.
3. **Venue:** 15 minutes before the online meeting, I will send out an email ([thichhangdat66@gmail.com](mailto:thichhangdat66@gmail.com)) with a link and an invitation from the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Please make sure to check your UH email for following the link to login this online meeting.

### Note:

-Student will earn **5 points for login** the [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) room and they will receive another **5 points for their participations** in the discussion.

-Please have your webcam ready and turn it on during our online meeting all the time so that we can communicate with each other lively and properly.

**Otherwise, I will deduct five (5) points from your grade.**

-Regarding your microphone, please make sure to turn it on only if it is your turn to talk. Otherwise, please turn it off to prevent from having background noises that may affect others in our class.

-In case you might not have received my email and that link by 1:30 PM on that day, please let me know by texting me at 832-863-1861.

- Topic: Part IV, Chapter 1. The Expanding Community-II and Chapter 2. Society and Sangha.
- Reading: p.220-234.
- Learning Objective: Explain the dissemination's process of Buddhism from India to the East and from the East to the West, including its modification and adaptation in India and diaspora, its newly converted

westerners. It also discusses Buddhist relationships with politics, sciences, technology, and worldly engagement.

- **Lecture:** Watch the selected video clips.
- **Activity on the Forum Discussion Board:**
  1. One (1) posting of your response to the weekly questions by 11:30 PM, **Sunday (05/01) (75-100 words; 3 points).**
  2. One (1) postings of your comments on the postings of other students by 11:30 PM, **Sunday (05/01) (75-100 words; 3 points).**

#### **Week 16 (05/02-): Final Week.**

##### **4<sup>th</sup> Face-to-face meeting (10 points)**

- **Time:** *1:00-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 05/03.*
- **Purpose:** Final Presentation ***and*** Final Online Presentation (30 minutes; *70 points*). Please read the guidelines and rubrics.
- **Venue:** TBD.