Chinese Buddhism (REL 3344)  
Fall 2013  
Instructor: Yu-Jing Chen  
Department of Religion, University of Florida

**Class Time & Location**  
Mon, Wed, Fri: 1:55-2:45 pm; LIT. 219

**Office Hours & Contact Information**  
Wed: 11:45 am--1:45 pm, and by appointment.  
132 Anderson Hall, (352)273-2937  
Email: yujingche@ufl.edu

**Course Description**  
The course aims at comprehensive study of beliefs, doctrines, and practices of Chinese Buddhism. The reading materials and the class discussions not only focus on historical aspects but also cover religious, cultural, and artistic issues related to Buddhist tradition. The course is basically divided into three main sections: 1) historical development and doctrinal foundation, 2) essential texts and schools, and 3) Chinese Buddhism in modern society. Students will become acquainted with the overall image of Chinese Buddhism.

**Prerequisites**  
No previous knowledge of the Chinese language is required, although some understanding of Chinese religious history might be helpful.

**Course Format**  
This course is a combination of lectures and discussions based on the assigned readings. Students are encouraged to engage in analysis and discussion of the relevant materials.

**Requirements**  
1. Reading assigned texts and articles before the class, class attendance, and participation (see note on attendance below).
2. One presentation for the summary of the weekly readings. The student who is responsible to present should summarize the assigned readings, highlight key issues, and bring up at least 3 questions for discussion. Each student has 10-15 minutes. (10% of the final grade.)
3. Two exams based on lectures, the assigned readings, videos, and course discussions (each 45%of the final grade).

**Required Textbooks**


**Additional Readings**


**Encyclopedia Articles**


- Kawamura, “Bodhisattva(s)”: 58–60;
- Jorgensen, “Chan School”: 130-137;
- Cohen, “India”: 352–60;
- Stone, “Lotus Sūtra”: 471–77;
- Tweed, “United States”: 864–70;
- Getz, “Pure Land Buddhism”: 698-703;
- Chu, “Yingshun”: 913.

**Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

1. To provide students the framework and the main features of the Buddhism in Chinese culture and tradition.

2. To survey the historical development of the Chinese Buddhist tradition and understand how a variety of elements reshape the contemporary ideas of Chinese Buddhism in the United States.

3. To broaden students’ understanding of the Chinese Buddhist tradition from doctrinal, political, cultural, historical, institutional, literary, and artistic perspectives.

4. To help student survey the Chinese Buddhist tradition with critical reading and thinking.
Lecture Topics and Course Schedule (Tentative and subject to change)

[Historical Background]

**W 1:** 8/21, 23 —— Introduction to the Course
EB: “India”

**W 2:** 8/26, 28, 30 —— Early Buddhist History and Teachings
Poceski, “Buddhism: The Beginnings”; EB: “Bodhisattva(s)”

**W 3:** 9/4, 6 —— Spread and Flourishing of Buddhism in China
Poceski, *Introducing Chinese Religions*, Ch. 5
(9/2 Labor Day, no class)

**W 4:** 9/9, 11, 13 —— Schools and Practices of Chinese Buddhism
Poceski, *Introducing Chinese Religions*, Ch. 6

[Significant Schools and Scriptures]

**W 5:** 9/16, 18, 20 —— Pure Land Buddhism
EB: “Pure Land Buddhism”; Video: *To the Land of Bliss*

**W 6:** 9/23, 25, 27 —— *Lotus Sutra* (I)

**W 7:** 9/30, 10/2, 4 —— *Lotus Sutra* (II)

**W 8:** 10/7 (Monday) —— Exam (I)

**W 8:** 10/9, 11 —— Chan History and Doctrines
Cheng Chien, 3–56

**W 9:** 10/14, 16, 18 —— Chan Records of Sayings
Cheng Chien, 59-94

**W 10:** 10/21, 23, 25 —— Chan Practices
EB: “Chan School”; Cheng Chien, 97-116; Video: *Alms*
[Contemporary Buddhism]

**W 11:** 10/28, 30, 11/1 —— Buddhism in Modern Chinese Society
Poceski, *Introducing Chinese Religions*, Ch. 10; EB: “Yingshun”

**W 12:** 11/4, 6 —— Contemporary Taiwanese Buddhism (I)
Madsen 1–50
(11/8 Homecoming, no class)

**W 13:** 11/13, 15 —— Contemporary Taiwanese Buddhism (II)
Madsen 51–103
(11/11 Veterans Day, no class)

**W 14:** 11/18, 20, 22 —— Chinese Buddhism in America (I)
Chandler, “Chinese Buddhism in America”; EB: “United States”

**W 15:** 11/25 —— Chinese Buddhism in America (II)
Video: *Becoming the Buddha in LA*
(11/27, 29 Thanksgiving, no class)

**W 16:** 12/2 —— Review

**W 16:** 12/4 (Wed.) —— Exam (II)

**Online e-Learning System**
The syllabus and other course materials are posted online via UF’s e-Learning system. To access it, go to the e-Learning Support Systems homepage [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/).

**Grading**
The final grade will be based on the course requirements. Grades will be computed on this scale:

- **A** = 100–93%; **A-** = 92.5–90%; **B+** = 89.5–87%;
- **B** = 86.5–83%; **B-** = 82.5–80%; **C+** = 79.5–77%;
- **C** = 76.5–73%; **C-** = 72.5–70%; **D+** = 69.5–67%;
- **D** = 66.5–63%; **D-** = 62.5–60%; **E** = 59.5% or less.

**Attendance**
- Students are expected to **read all** the assigned materials **before** coming to class.
- Attendance is **mandatory** for all students, starting with the first day of classes. Absences from class will have adverse effect on the final grade. A student may fail the course due to a poor attendance.
record. After missing 2 hours of instruction (unexcused), each subsequent hour of absence will lead to an automatic **1% reduction of the final grade**; there is no limit to this kind of grade deduction.

- Valid excuses for missed classes must be submitted *in writing* and in a timely manner, along with pertinent legitimate documentation.
- Please attend the class **on time**. Coming late, leaving early and any disruptive behavior can be counted as unexcused absences.
- **No cell phones, iPads, or laptops in class**, except for taking notes. Using cell phones, texting messages, or browsing online are prohibited in class.
- For more on the university’s attendance policies, see [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences)

**Exams**

- **No make-up exams** will be given, except of illness or other emergency. If a student has a valid reason to reschedule the exam, he/she must present proper and legitimate written documentation to justify the inability to take the exam on schedule.
- Students should prepare for all exams seriously. There will be no opportunity to do additional work for extra credit or better grade.
- The exams are **closed book** tests. Cell phones and any other electronic devices are not allowed during the exams.

**Plagiarism and Cheating**

Students are expected to adhere to university codes of academic integrity. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses that will result in a failing grade and severe penalties. Any suspected plagiarizing and cheating will be directly reported to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution at Dean of Students’ Office and be rigorously investigated. For more information on the policy of academic honesty, see [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx)

**Student Disability Services**

Student with a disability must first register with **the Disability Resource Center** at the Dean of Students Office via [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) and get accommodation letter. The student should consult with the instructor and the Disability Resource Center at **the beginning of the semester**. Official documentation from the Dean of Students Office is required before requesting classroom, reading, or testing accommodation.