

**University of Alabama Fall 2003
Tibetan Buddhism (Religion 324)
Manly Hall 207 Mondays 2:00-4:40**

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About the Course

This course is a selective survey of the philosophical, cultural, and historical aspects of Tibetan Buddhism. We initially consider the Indian Buddhist doctrines and practices that are often essentialized as "Buddhism," which nevertheless are necessary for understanding "Buddhism" as it developed in Tibet. The course then surveys the history of Buddhism in Tibet, from Buddhism's introduction into this country up to the predominance of Tibet's four principal Buddhist traditions. We then focus upon selected thematic topics such as the gradual stages to awakening (*lam rim*) literature, mind training (*blo sbyong*), buddha-nature, tantra, women in Tibetan Buddhism, life and institution of the Dalai Lama, along with the issues of orientalism and the modern interpretation of Tibetan Buddhism.

Requirements

- 1 *Think*, preferably about the readings and lectures.
- 2 *Inquire*, preferably into the topics at hand. Your questions and comments in class will indicate the depth of your inquiries. Attendance/Participation (10%)
- 3 *Express* your thoughts and inquiries in writing. Here, you will be aided by the following:
 - 3.1 A "take-home" midterm exam distributed on October 20 and due in class on October 27. (30%)
 - 3.2 A final paper, at least 2000 words in length, on a topic to be chosen in collaboration with the instructor. (30%)
 - 3.3 A final exam similar in style to the midterm. (30%)

Schedule of Exams and Essays	Evaluation
1. Midterm in class on October 20 3. Final paper due December 5, 2003 by 5 pm. 4. Take-home Final Exam due on December 5, 2003 by 5 pm.	Midterm (30%) Final (30%) Final Paper (30%) Attendance/Participation (10%)

Required Texts

Dalai Lama (1991) *Freedom in Exile: the autobiography of the Dalai Lama*. San Francisco, HarperCollins.

Dalai Lama. (1994) *The Path to Enlightenment*. Trans. and ed. by Glenn H. Mullin. Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.

Khedrup, Tashi. (1998) *Adventures of a Tibetan Fighting Monk*. Compiled by Hugh Richardson. Edited by Tadeusz Skorupski. 2nd edition. Bangkok: Orchid Press.

Lama Yeshe. (2001) *Introduction to Tantra: The Transformation of Desire*. Edited by Jonathan Landaw. Forward by Philip Glass. Boston: Wisdom Publications.

Williams, Paul and Anthony Tribe. (2000) *Buddhist Thought: A Complete Introduction to the Indian Tradition*. London: Routledge.

Handouts and Web readings:

Handouts will be periodically distributed for an upcoming class or during a class as a guide or supplement to a particularly lecture. You are expected to retain these handouts for future reference and for preparation for tests. **Numerous readings are posted on the electronic course reserves within the Gorgas library webpage at <http://library.ua.edu/>.** These readings require **Adobe Acrobat Reader** which is on all campus computers and available for free on the web at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>. Class handouts will also be posted at the **REL 324 web page** on the Department of Religious Studies website (<http://www.as.ua.edu/rel/>).

*****Note***: ER= Electronic Reserve in Gorgas Course Reserves**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS

August 25 Introduction to the Course, Buddhist History and its Practices

- Session 1: Pettit (1999): 41-45. Williams: Chapter 1.
- Session 2: Williams: Chapters 2 & 3.

Sept 1 No Class Labor Day Please read assigned readings for Buddhist Philosophy in “India” (I)

- Williams: Chapter 4.
- *Abhidharmakośa* 6:4. (Readings on Course web page)

Sept 8 Buddhist Philosophy in “India” (II)

- Session 1: Madhyamaka: Williams: 131-152. Nāgārjuna, *Wisdom*: selections. (Web)
- Session 2: Yogācāra: Williams: 152-166. *Madhyāntavibhāga (Discriminating the Middle and the Extremes)*: Chapter 1.vv1-5 with commentary. *Viṃśatikā*

(*Twenty Verses*). (course web page)

Sept 15 Buddhist Philosophy in India (III)

- Tantra in “India”. Williams: Chapter 7.
- Supplementary reading: see course web page.

Sept 22 History of Buddhism in Tibet (I)

- Session 1: Samuel (ER): Chs. 23-24.
- Session 2: Powers Chapter 5 (ER): 119-148

Sept 29 History of Buddhism in Tibet (I)

- Session 1: Review readings from Samuel and Powers
- Session 2: Samuel (ER): Chs. 26-27.

October 6 A Survey of Traditions

- Session 1: Powers (ER): 313-376.
- Session 2: Powers (ER): 377-430.

October 13 The Step-by-Step Stages of the Path to Buddhahood (I)

- Session 1: Dalai Lama: Chapters 1-7; Lam Rim Outlines (ER): 5-27.
- Session 2 Dalai Lama: Chapters 8-9; Lam Rim Outlines (ER): 30-51.

October 20 *The Step-by-Step Stages of the Path to Buddhahood (II)*

- Dalai Lama: Chapter 10.
- Lam Rim Outlines: 53-81.
- *******MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED*******

October 27 Lojong: Transforming the Mind

- Eight Verses of Mind Training (Web) (*****Midterm Due*****)

November 3 Understanding Tibetan Tantra and Tibetan Festivals

- Session 1: Lama Yeshe (2001) [exact readings TBA]; Gampopa, *Jewel*

Ornament, Chapter 1 (course web site).

- Session 2: (ER): Rigzin: 1-14; Yuthok: 48-72; Powers (CB): 190-202.

November 10 Feminism and Fighting Monks

- Session 1: Women in Tibetan Buddhism: Klein (1995): 5-57. [Recommended: 61-88]
- Session 2: Adventures of a Fighting Monk Khedrup (1998)

November 17 Life of the Dalai Lama & “Kundun” (Term Paper topic due**)**

- Session 1: Read all of *Freedom in Exile*
- Session 2: View and discuss the film *Kundun*. See reviews and commentary on the web.

November 24 No class: AAR conference and Thanksgiving holiday.

December 1 Interpreting Tibetan Buddhism & Contemporary Tibetan Buddhism

- Session 1: Interpreting Tibetan Buddhism Lopez (1999): selections.
- Session 2: Contemporary Tibetan Buddhism (Final Distributed) Germano (1998).

Final Exam and Term Paper due to my office (Manly 206) on Friday, December 5, 2003 by 5 pm.

Bibliography

Dalai Lama. (1994) *The Path to Enlightenment*. Translated and edited by Glenn H. Mullin. Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.

Goldstein, Melvyn C. and Matthew T. Kapstein, editors. (1998) *Buddhism in Contemporary Tibet: Religious Revival and Cultural Identity*. Foreword by Orville Schell. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press.

Khedrup, Tashi. (1998) *Adventures of a Tibetan Fighting Monk*. Compiled by Hugh Richardson. Edited by Tadeusz Skorupski. 2nd edition. Bangkok: Orchid Press.

Klein, Anne C. (1995) *Meeting the Great Bliss Queen: Buddhists, Feminists, and the Art of the Self*. Boston: Beacon Press.

- Lama Yeshe. (2001) *Introduction to Tantra: The Transformation of Desire*. Edited by Jonathan Landaw. Forward by Philip Glass. Boston: Wisdom Publications.
- Lopez, Donald S.. (1999) *Prisoners of Shangri-La: Tibetan Buddhism and the West*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Mills, Martin A. (2002) *Identity, Ritual and State in Tibetan Buddhism: The Foundations of Authority in Gelukpa Monasticism*. London: RoutledgeCurzon.
- Nāgārjuna. (2001) *Wisdom: Verses on Centrism with the Commentary of Candrakīrti*. Translated and Introduced by John Dunne and Sara McClintock. Unpublished manuscript.
- Pettit, John W. (1999) *Mipham's Beacon of Certainty: Illuminating the View of Dzogchen, the Great Perfection*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Wisdom Publications.
- Powers, John. (1995) *Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism*. Snow Lion Publications.
- Rigzin, Tsepak (1993). *Festivals of Tibet*. Dharamsala, India: Library of Tibetan Works and Archives.
- Samuel, Geoffrey. (1995) *Civilized Shamans: Buddhism in Tibetan Societies*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.
- Valham, Karin, compiler. (1997) *Lam-Rim Outlines: Beginners' Meditation Guide*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Wisdom Publications.
- Vasubandhu (1992) *Twenty Verses and Commentary*. Translated by John Dunne. Unpublished manuscript.
- Vasubandhu and Asaīga. (1993) *Madhyāntavibhāga and Commentary*. Translated by John Dunne. Unpublished manuscript.
- Vasubandhu. (1999) "Abhidharmakośa: 6.4." Translated by John Dunne. Unpublished manuscript.
- Williams, Paul and Anthony Tribe. (2000) *Buddhist Thought: A Complete Introduction to the Indian Tradition*. London: Routledge.
- Yuthok, Dorje. (1995) *House of the Turquoise Roof*. Edited by Michael Harlin. Ithaca, New York: Snow Lion Publications.