

Buddhist Philosophy

PHIL 4388-001/5392-001
Summer I, 2013
Instructor: Dr. Kenneth Williford

Meeting Time: M-Th, 10:30-12:30

Meeting Place: Science Hall (SH) 333

Office and Office Hours: 305 Carlisle Hall
M-W 2:00-3:30PM & By Appointment

Kenneth Williford
305 Carlisle Hall
(817) 272-0505
williford@uta.edu

Department of Philosophy & Humanities
305 Carlisle Hall
(817) 272-2764
<http://www.uta.edu/philosophy/>



Course Description

This course is an advanced introduction to the Buddhist philosophical tradition. We will begin by covering the core doctrines of Buddhism and an outline of the history of Buddhism, from its origins to its major living schools: Theravada, Tibetan, and Zen. The focus of the course will be one the philosophical articulation and defense of the central Buddhist tenets: the no-self doctrine, the ubiquity of suffering, impermanence, dependent origination, altruistic ethics, methods for bringing about the cessation of suffering, the role of meditation, the distinction between conventional and absolute reality, and consciousness and self-consciousness. Throughout, we will relate the discussion to contemporary Western philosophical perspectives.

Course Dates

June 3-July 3, 2013

Required Text

Buddhism as Philosophy: An Introduction by Mark Siderits, Hackett, 2007

The book should be available at the UTA Bookstore.
We may also read texts that will be provided.

Evaluation

- (1) Attendance, participation (25%)
- (2) One take-home essay exam (25%)
- (3) Reading Quizzes (25%)
- (4) An in-class final exam or oral exam or research paper (25%)

Attendance and Participation

Attendance will be taken everyday (there will be a sign-in sheet), a student may have up to two unexcused absences without this affecting his or her grade adversely. For each further unexcused absence the attendance/participation score will be reduced by 10%. Participation will be noted throughout the semester.

Reading Quizzes

There will be frequent quizzes designed to probe the extent are keeping up with to which you the reading and the care with which you are reading.

Take-home Essay Exam

Around midterm, there will be a take-home examination consisting of three essay questions. Each essay-answer will need to be five to six pages in length (typed, double-spaced, and in a 12-point font). In order to answer the questions adequately, the student will need to be familiar with the reading and lecture material.

In-class Final Exam, Oral Exam, or Research Paper

In order to earn the final 25% of your grade you may choose to take an in-class final exam, take an oral exam, or write a research paper on an approved topic of your choosing. It is up to you.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. According to the UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.

Electronic Communication Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. **Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.