

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Humanities
HUMA2840: Buddhism and the Chinese Intellectual Tradition
Spring 2018

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30-4:00 pm (Room 3354)

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Course Description:

Buddhism as an Indian religion encountered with the Chinese intellectual tradition, the outcome of which was the establishment of the main schools of Buddhism in China. This course will introduce the basic ideas of Buddhism, the main schools of Buddhism in China and their historical development. Some representative work will be selected and discussed.

Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, students will: 1. acquire basic technique of writing an academic report; 2. be able to identify, remember and explain key concepts of the spirit, development and basic doctrines of Buddhism as well as the main schools of Chinese Buddhism; 3. be able to compare and contrast different theories in Chinese Buddhism and evaluate the significance of these theories; 4. be able to evaluate and apply the Chinese Buddhist philosophy they have learnt to reflect upon different aspects of their lives and behaviour.

Tentative Schedule of Lectures:

Weeks 1-2 Introduction
 The life of the Buddha
 The basic teachings of the Buddha
 The development of Buddhism in India
3-4 Buddhism in China
 Early development
 The seven schools on “emptiness”
 Seng-chao and his writings
5-12 The Schools of Buddhism in China
 The Three Treatise School
 The Consciousness-Only School
 The T’ien-t’ai School
 The Hua-yen School
 The Ch’an School
 The Pure Land School
 The Tantric School
 The Disciplinary School
13 Buddhism after the T’ang Dynasty

Course Evaluation:

Essay 45%; an essay about 2,500 words in length is due by May 3, 2018. Late essay will be penalized.

Final Examination 45%

Attendance and participation 10%

Basic Texts:

屈大成，《佛學概論》。台北：文津出版社，2002。

廖明活，《中國佛教思想述要》。台北：台灣商務印書館，2006。

中國佛教協會編，《中國佛教》，五冊。北京：知識出版社，1989。