

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Humanities
HUMA2840: Buddhism and the Chinese Intellectual Tradition
Spring 2025

Lecturer: Professor Simon WONG

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:45 am-12:15 pm (Room 3354)

Teaching Assistant:

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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 behavior.

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:

1. Essay 45%

- An essay about 2,500 words in length is due by May 9, 2025.
- Late essay will be penalized.

2. Final Examination 40%

--Students will be given a number of essay questions among which usually three of them have to be selected and answered. These questions are aimed at testing how well the students understand the subject matter of the course.

3. Attendance and participation 15%

- 1% will be deducted each time a student is found absent from class.

Final Grade Descriptors:

[As appropriate to the course and aligned with university standards]

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates a comprehensive grasp of subject matter, expertise in problem-solving, and significant creativity in thinking. Exhibits a high capacity for scholarship and collaboration, going beyond core requirements to achieve learning goals.
B	Good Performance	Shows good knowledge and understanding of the main subject matter, competence in problem-solving, and the ability to analyze and evaluate issues. Displays high motivation to learn and the ability to work effectively with others.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Possesses adequate knowledge of core subject matter, competence in dealing with familiar problems, and some capacity for analysis and critical thinking. Shows persistence and effort to achieve broadly defined learning goals.
D	Marginal Pass	Has threshold knowledge of core subject matter, potential to achieve key professional skills, and the ability to make basic judgments. Benefits from the course and has the potential to develop in the discipline.
F	Fail	Demonstrates insufficient understanding of the subject matter and lacks the necessary problem-solving skills. Shows limited ability to think critically or analytically and exhibits minimal effort towards achieving learning goals. Does not meet the threshold requirements for professional practice or development in the discipline.

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。