

Tues/Thurs , 1-2:20 PM

Instructor: Mavis Fenn

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Thursday: 2:30-3:30 PM

Or by appointment

Course Description

This course provides a broad background of the history and development of Buddhism in Tibet. It explores the connection between Buddhism and Tibetan history, the development of Vajrayana Buddhism in Tibet, including textual sources and ritual practices, philosophy and meditation, and its subsequent development outside of Tibet since 1959.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Explain the relationship of Buddhism and Tibetan history
2. Identify the key religious elements of Tibetan Buddhism including the role of the *lama*
3. Describe the types of *tantra* and its practice as a means to enlightenment
4. Identify the main schools of Tibetan Buddhism and the distinguishing characteristic of each school
5. Describe the process of the adoption and adaptation of Tibetan Buddhism in the West
6. Identify the issues involved in the history of Tibet/Chinese interaction and its impact on the practice of Buddhism in Tibet.
7. Describe some ways that Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism have been romanticized historically, and the consequences of that for our understanding of Tibetan Buddhism and Buddhists

Course Requirements:

1. Reading Summaries (10%). There will be 10 reading summaries worth 1% each. The purpose of these summaries is to ensure that students are advancing in their comprehension of the materials. (1-2 pages double spaced) To be placed in the proper chapter dropbox.
2. Reading Assignments (30%). There will be 3 reading assignments worth 10% each. Students will read the article and chapter from Lopez listed below and will respond to the question(s) posted by the instructor on LEARN. Questions will be posted by the end of the first week of class. The student response should pay proper attention to grammar, punctuation and spelling. The student should place the material read within the context of other text or lecture materials as a means of demonstrating that they understand how their reading fits into the overall Tibetan context. Student comments on the material should demonstrate their understanding of it. (2-3 pages, double spaced) They are due by midnight on the due

dates listed below, and are to be deposited in the drop box for that assignment. ***No assignments will be accepted after the drop box closes.*** Students should ensure they have sufficient time as clocks vary in time and the drop box cut off time may not correspond to your clock. Further, students should be aware that all submissions to any drop box are time-stamped. Thus, depositing it in the incorrect drop box by ‘mistake’ will not help if the time-stamp is after midnight.

3. Movie Assignments (15%). There will be 3 film assignments worth 5% each. Students will respond to question (s) posed by the instructor regarding the movie and its relevance to Tibetan Buddhism. (2 pages)
4. Tests (45% = 1X25%; 1X20%)
In class, multiple choice tests. Students are expected to take the test at the date and time established on the course outline. Students who do not write the test due to illness must provide acceptable medical documentation. As per university policy a student with proper medical documentation will have the test weight transferred to the next test. Students without medical documentation will receive a grade of 0% on the missed test(s). Students who do not write a test due to an emergency situation should provide documentation and contact the instructor as soon as is possible. The same rules regarding reweighting assignments due to illness will apply. Students who wish a review of their test(s) should make an appointment with the instructor within 1 week of the return of the test. If the review is for the purposes of reassessment, the student must provide reasons why they feel a reassessment is in order. Reassessment is at the discretion of the professor and the original grade is not guaranteed.

All assignments are marked carefully. If a student wishes a re-read, they must demonstrate why they feel this is appropriate. The professor will make a decision upon reviewing their argument.

Summary of due dates (due at midnight on due date)

Reading assignments

1 assignment a week up to 10.

Text Assignments

May 17th Regulations of a Monastery

June 5th Mindfulness of Death

June 28th Guidebook to Lapchi

Movie Assignments

June 7th Khensur Rinpoche

June 19th Tibetan Book of the Dead

July 19th Words of my Perfect Teacher

July 24th Cave in the Snow

Quizzes

July 24th Quiz 2

June 14th Quiz 1

Texts

John Powers. *Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism*. Snow Lion, 1995, 2007.

Donald Lopez. *Religions of Tibet in Practice*. (abridged) Princeton, 2007.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/> for more information.]

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm>.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4,

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Course Schedule

I try to follow the lecture schedule as noted below. However, sometimes adjustment is necessary for pedagogical reasons, practical reasons or unforeseen circumstances. **Students should be aware that the lectures provide more in depth details about the traditions and explanations of concepts than does the text. Students who wish to do well should not miss class.** The instructor will post powerpoint slides. Students should be aware that these slides are for their personal educational use only and copyright forbids them being circulated outside of the course. Written assignments will be placed in LEARN drop boxes and announcements and student e-mail contact will be through LEARN.

May 1 st	Lecture: Introduction (Powers, chpt. 1, 2 and 4) (Lopez, 11-14)
May 3 rd	Lecture: Meditation (Powers, cpt. 3)
May 8 th	Lecture: Buddhism comes to Tibet (Powers, chpt. 8, Lopez, 4-10)
May 10 th	Lecture: Second dissemination (Powers, 136-148, Lopez, 20-24)
May 15 th	Lecture: Tantra (Powers, chpt. 9), (Lopez, p.10-11, 14-16)
May 17	Lecture: Tantra Article (10%): “Regulations of a Monastery” Jose Cabezon in Lopez, p.241-257.
May 22 nd	No class today due to “Monday Schedule”
May 24 th	Lecture: Importance of the teacher, institution of the Dalai Lama
May 29 th	<i>Reincarnation of Khensur Rinpoche (Movie, 62 m,) * considered with Thread</i>
May 31 st	<i>Thread of Karma (Movie, 50m,)</i> SPUC ROOM 212
June 5 th	Death and Dying (Powers, chpt.10) Article : “Mindfulness of Death” Donald Lopez in Lopez, p.313-335
June 7 th	<i>Tibetan Book of the Dead: Part 1* considered with Part2</i>
June 12 th	<i>Tibetan Book of the Dead: Part 2</i>
June 14 th	Quiz 1 4 schools (Powers, 313-349) (Lopez,25-28)
June 19 th	BON (Lopez, 28-30)

June 21st	Festivals and Holy Days (Powers, chpt.7)
June 26th	17 th -20 th centuries (Powers, 148-158)
June 28th	Tibet up to 1959 (Powers, 158-179) Article : “Guidebook to Lapchi” by Toni Huber in Lopez, p.90-104.
July 3rd	Tibetan Buddhism in Tibet: Then and Now
July 5th	Background Understanding of the West http://books.google.ca/books <i>Prisoners of Shangri-la</i> by Don Lopez , “Introduction”.
July 10th	Personalities for the West
July 12 th	<i>The Words of My Perfect Teacher</i> (movie, 102 m)
July 17	Nuns in Tibetan Buddhism Read: “A Robed Revolution: The Contemporary Buddhist Nun’s (Bhikshuni) Movement.” Susanne Mrozik. <i>Religion Compass</i> Volume 3, Issue 3 , pages 360–378, May 2009. Available online through the library.
July 19th	<i>Cave in the Snow</i> (movie, 52 m.)
July 24 th	Quiz 2