

RELI 425

Advanced Studies in Asian Religions

PART I



Religious Studies Programme

Te Tari Matai Whakapono

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Trimester one, 2009

Reli 425
Advanced Studies in Asian Religions

Course co-ordinators: **T1: Dr Michael Radich HU 216 Tel: 463 9477**
michael.radich@vuw.ac.nz

T2: Dr Rick Weiss HU 215 Tel: 463 6726
rick.weiss@vuw.ac.nz

Course dates Commencement, Part I: March 2nd 2009
Mid trimester break: April 13th – 26th 2009
End of teaching, Part I: June 5th 2009
Submission of essay 1: 26th June 2009
University Examination Period: June 8th –
July 1st 2009
Mid year break: July 2nd – 12th 2009
Commencement, Part II: 13 July 2009
End of teaching, Part II: October 2nd
Submission of Essay 2: 9th October 2009
Final submission date for course: 23rd October
2009

Meeting time and location **TBA**

Religious Studies is in the Hunter building. The Programme Administrator, Aliko Kalliabetsos, is in Hunter 318 (463 5299). **Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the department notice board outside her office.**

Office Hours: The main office is open Monday - Thursday, 9.30am - 12:00 noon and 2:00 – 3:30pm.

Course outline

- 1** The course has the following learning objectives:
 - Students should become aware, by the end of the course, of key methodologies, problems, sources, and current questions in the study of Asian religions.
 - Students should become able to competently analyse primary and secondary sources, and communicate the content of their analysis (both orally and in writing) at a level appropriate to the academic study of religion at an entry graduate level.

- 2 **Required Readings:** Readings will be distributed by the religious Studies programme
- 3 **This course is delivered through regular seminars.:**
- 4 **Mandatory course requirements:** one essay of 5000 words.
- 5 **Assessment Requirements. The course is internally assessed by means of the following assignment:**

- **one essay of 5000 words due Friday June 19 2009.**

The final submission day for all Honours work is due Friday October 23 2008.

- 6 **Work-load (Recommendation of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences):**
For 400-level 30 points two trimester course, 12 hours per week are recommended. An average student should spend 10 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at seminars.

400 – level 2 trimester 30 points 12 hours per week

- 7 **Aegrotat regulations apply** to internally assessed courses. Students who cannot submit or complete the course requirements due to illness or some other impairment should visit the Faculty's Student Administration Office, or go to Student Health or Student Counseling who also have the application form and information about aegrotats. To be eligible for an aegrotat the affected items of assessment must be required to be submitted not earlier than three weeks before the day on which lectures cease for the last trimester of the course. Please see Aegrotat policy at <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/fhss/student-administration/aegrotats.aspx>

8 **General University Statutes and Policies**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

9 **Academic integrity and plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. "someone else's work" means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or staff
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the Internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organization or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

Telephone 463 6983 or 463 6984, Email: education@vuwsa.org.nz.

10 Use of Turnitin: Student work provided for assessment in this course *may be* checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. *At the discretion of the School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin.* You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

11 Student Learning: Support Services: A range of workshops, drop-ins and other assistance is provided by SLSS, covering such things as study techniques, essay writing, exam preparation and note taking skills. They are at Level 0 Kirk Wing, Hunter Courtyard.

12 Manaaki Pihipihinga Maori and Pacific Mentoring programme (Faculties of Humanities and Social sciences and Commerce and Administration). Academic Mentoring for Maori and Pacific students studying at all levels in the above schools. Weekly sessions for an hour with a mentor to go over assignments & any questions from tutorials or lectures. Registered students can use the facilities study rooms & computer suite, at any time, at Kelburn & Pipitea.
Mature student and Post grad network

If you would like to register as a mentor or mentee please contact or pop in & see the coordinator, Melissa Dunlop, Programme Coordinator, 109 D, 463 6015,
Email: Maori-Pacific-Mentoring@vuw.ac.nz, 14 KP: back courtyard

Student Services

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class

representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

- 13 Taping of lectures:** All students in the School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies are welcome to use audio-tapes to record lectures. If you want to do this, please see your lecturer, tutor or the relevant programme administrator and complete a disclaimer form which advises of copyright and other relevant issues.
- 14 Class representatives:** Class representatives are elected in the first week or two of term. They are supported by the VUW Students' Association, and have a variety of roles, including assistance with grievances and student feedback to staff and VUWSA. Contact details for your class rep will be listed on the Religious Studies notice board.
- 15 Supplementary Materials:** A website of materials related to RELI 425 is being maintained in Blackboard. **However, most of the materials handed out in class will not be on blackboard.** You can find it by visiting <http://blackboard@vuw.ac.nz>. Your user name is the one issued to you by Student Computing Services. Your password is your Student ID Number. If in doubt, please contact the Student Computing Services Help Desk, 463-6666 (extension 6666 from VUW phones) or by email scs-help@vuw.ac.nz
- 16 Evaluation:** This course will be assessed by UTDC

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

RELI 425, "Advanced Studies in Asian Religions"

TRIMESTER ONE

"The Mahāyāna Mahāparinirvā a sūtra in 5th-6th Century China"

Instructor: Michael Radich
ph (463)9477
michael.radich@vuw.ac.nz
HU 216

The aim of this half of the course is to examine a major Mahāyāna Buddhist *sūtra* (scripture) entitled the *Mahāparinirvā a sūtra*, and aspects of its reception in China in the fifth and sixth centuries of the Common Era, when interpretation of and commentary on this text was one of the central foci of the developing Chinese Buddhist tradition. Students will be provided with a copy of the only existing English translation of this major primary text, and several seminar sessions will focus on the close reading of portions of it, which will be selected by consultation between the lecturer and students. In the course of our study, we will also read relevant studies in the relevant scholarly literature.

The first few weeks of the course will be more lecture-style, to bring students up to speed with background knowledge necessary to coming to grips with the topic of the course. In later weeks, the format will shift more to discussion or seminar style.

The course will be assessed on **one essay of 5000 words**. Like all Honours work, this essay is finally due on **Friday October 23 2008**. However, Michael Radich's portion of the course is run in T1 only, and there will therefore be a deadline for T1 essays on **Friday June 19 2009**. While work submitted after this date will still be graded, the lecturer cannot guarantee it will be given the extensive feedback usual for Honours work submitted in a timely fashion, nor that students will have the usual opportunities for rewriting.

At Honours level, your research work is guided, and our intention is that you will take advantage of the detailed feedback we provide on essays when first submitted, to substantially rework and improve them where possible. I will therefore require that you discuss with me a **research topic** and provide a draft **bibliography** before the beginning of Week 7 (by **Friday April 24**). I will also require that you give me your **best attempt at a finished version** of the essay, for possible reworking where I think it admits of further improvement thereafter, by **Week 11** (i.e. by **Friday May 29**). The deadline structure is thus:

Friday April 24	Research topic and draft bibliography
Friday May 29	Your best polished draft of the essay
Friday June 19	Final deadline for revisions based on feedback
Friday October 23	Final deadline for all Honours work programme-wide

Failure to meet any of these deadlines will be reported to the Honours Coordinator.

Attendance

Attendance at all seminar sessions is an integral part of the course. Please make sure you attend every week, or, in cases where absence is truly unavoidable, that you contact the lecturer in advance.

READINGS

At the outset of the course, readings will only be set for the first four to five weeks. Readings for subsequent weeks will be decided in part on the basis of student interest, as it emerges in our discussions.

UNIT ONE: Background

Week One (Monday March 2)

General Honours meeting; first meeting for 425, Monday March 2; distribution of readings for Week 2; introductory comments.

Week Two (week of March 9): Relevant basic Buddhist doctrines

Week Three (week of March 16): Buddhism in China in the fifth and sixth centuries

Week Four (week of March 23): The *Mahāparinirvā a sūtra*

UNIT TWO: The Mahāyāna *Mahāparinirvā a sūtra*

Week Five (week of March 30)

Week Six (week of March 30)

Friday April 24	Research topic and draft bibliography due
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Weeks Seven (week of April 27) and following:

Readings to be decided on the basis of student interest and the progress of the course. Readings will include:

Friday May 29	Your best polished draft of essay due
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Week Twelve (May 28):

Face to face meetings to discuss feedback on essays towards any possible rewrite. Email feedback will have been provided before this meeting.

Friday June 19	Final deadline for revisions to essay based on feedback
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Preliminary Bibliography

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Kawamura, Kōshō 河村孝照. "Daijō *Nehan gyō* ni okeru *Daihatsunikō kyō* to *Daihatsukōhan kyō* to no hikaku kenkyū 大乘涅槃經における大般泥洹經と大般涅槃經との比較研究." *Tōyōgaku kenkyū* 4 (1970): 55-81.

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Essays and Assignments

1 **Essays and assignments** must be placed in the locked assignment box located near the administrator's office and students must date and sign the essay register to indicate submission. **No responsibility will be taken for assignments for which there is no record. Students should keep a copy of all their work until it is returned.**

2 **Due dates for first trimester:**

Friday April 24	Research topic and draft bibliography
Friday May 29	Your best polished draft of the essay
Friday June 19	Final deadline for revisions based on feedback
Friday October 23	Final deadline for all Honours work programme-wide

3 **Penalties for late essays / assignments:**

- 1 percent per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays.
- essays submitted more than two weeks late will not be accepted for assessment unless prior written arrangement has been made with the lecturer.

Essays submitted late due to medical reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a doctor's certificate.

5 **For guidance in essay writing** and presentation of bibliographies please refer to Religious Studies guidelines for essays, attached. Essay topics are to be discussed with the course coordinators.