

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 427 ADVANCED STUDIES IN RELIGIOUS TEXTS

30 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates:	3 March to 2 July 2014
Teaching dates:	3 March to 6 June 2014
Easter/Mid-trimester break:	18 April to 4 May 2014
Study week:	9 – 13 June 2014

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Mondays 10:00 – 12:50 HU 320

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator Dr Michael Radich, HU 216, 463 9477
Michael.radich@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is in the Hunter Building. The programme administrator, Alikali Kalliabetsos, is in room HU 318 (463 5299, aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz). Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the Department Notice Board adjacent to her office.

Prescription

A critical study, in English, of a sacred text or texts from a selected major religious tradition.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Identify and analyse one issue of scholarly interest in the study of Mahāyāna Buddhist texts;
2. Demonstrate familiarity with scholarly literature in English pertinent to the analysis of an issue in the study of Mahāyāna Buddhist texts;
3. Demonstrate the ability to construct a coherent, well-written, evidence-based argument with respect to an issue in the study of Mahāyāna Buddhist texts;
4. Demonstrate the ability to communicate orally the findings and significance of research pertaining to Mahāyāna Buddhist texts and related questions in current scholarship.

Teaching format

This course is delivered through regular seminars. The seminar programme may be varied from time to time. As much notice as possible will be given when changes occur and, a revised programme will be issued.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Submit one essay proposal and bibliography
2. Submit one essay
3. Give two seminar presentations.

Workload

The total expected workload for this course is 300 hours spread evenly over the trimester. Of the 300 hours, 30 shall be spent at seminars. It is recommended that about 60 hours be spent on preparation for classes; 30 hours on preparation of the proposal, bibliography and the presentations, and about 180 hours on the final research essay.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)
1	One 1,000-word proposal with bibliography (due 11.04.2014)	10%	1, 2, 3
2	One 6,000-word essay (due 27.06.2014)	70%	1, 2, 3
3	Two 20-minute in-class presentations (17.04.2014, 29.05.2014)	10%, 10%	4

Assessment for the whole course is by means of two written assignments, and two oral presentations.

1. One research essay proposal of 1,000 words, accompanied by a draft bibliography, on a topic to be discussed with Dr Radich, worth **10%** of the total course grade: to be submitted by **Friday 11 April**.
2. One **research essay** of a maximum of 6,000 words, worth **75%** of the total course grade.
 - a. Students must submit a full polished draft (their *best* draft) of the essay by **Friday May 23**.
 - b. The full final version of the essay must be submitted by **Friday 27 June**.
3. Two oral presentations:
 - a. A 20-minute in-class **presentation** (10 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion) of the research topic, worth **5%** of the total course grade, to be conducted in class in Week 7.
 - b. A 20-minute in-class **presentation** (10 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion) of the research essay, worth **10%** of the total course grade, to be conducted in class in Week 11.

Submission and return of work

The proposal and essay are to be submitted by email to Dr Radich AND to the essay box outside the Programme Office, HU 318. The proposal will be returned to students via email, with comments, within approximately one week of submission. Essay drafts (due May 23) will be returned with detailed feedback for further improvement within two weeks maximum of submission. Final grades will be determined in consultation with moderators, including external moderators where necessary, and will be returned as soon as is reasonably possible after the beginning of July.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions may be sought from the Course Coordinator

Penalties

Work submitted after the final deadline of June 27 2014 will not be assessed, excepting cases in which prior arrangement has been made, and/or extenuating circumstances warrant exceptional consideration.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Student feedback

Student evaluation of this course shall be administered by CAD
Student feedback on University courses may be found at
www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:
www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress
(including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz