1. **Course code: CURE2130**
2. **Title in English: Chinese Buddhist Classics**
3. **Title in Chinese: 中國佛教經典導讀**

Instructor: Xingyi Wang, xingyiwang@cuhk.edu.hk

TA: Yuan Cui, yuancuicyly@link.cuhk.edu.hk

4. **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the study of medieval Buddhist literature written in classical Chinese. We will cover some of the most substantial and inspirational works in the history of East Asian Buddhism. Readings are carefully selected from a variety of genres, including early Chinese translations of Sanskrit and Central Asian Buddhist scriptures, hagiographies of eminent monks, and polemical treatises. The course will also serve as an introduction to resource materials used in the study of Chinese Buddhist texts, and students are expected to make use of a variety of reference tools in preparation for the translation of classic Chinese texts. Readings in Chinese will be supplemented by a range of secondary readings in English on Mahāyāna doctrine and Chinese Buddhist history.

本課程介紹古典漢語撰寫的中世紀佛教文獻。我們將涵蓋東亞佛教史上一些最重要和最舉起發現的作品。選材多樣，包括早期漢譯的梵文和中亞佛教經典、高僧傳記以及辯論性論著。本課程也將作為學習漢傳佛教文獻資源的入門，學生需要運用各種參考工具準備翻譯古典漢語文獻。漢語閱讀材料將輔以一系列關於大乘教義和中國佛教史的英語補充閱讀材料。

**5. Learning outcomes**

Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:
a) understand fundamental Buddhist teachings;
b) read Buddhist studies written in English and become familiar with current English scholarship on Buddhism;
c) read Buddhist primary sources in classic Chinese;
d) understand and critically review the methodology, research questions, and interdisciplinary tendencies in Buddhist studies;
e) learn how to conduct and present academic research using both primary and secondary sources.

**6. Course schedule**

***All readings (primary source and supplementary reading) are available on Blackboard.*

***Part I. Buddhist Narrative***

Introduction: How to read Chinese Buddhist Texts? (**Week 1-3**)

- Selections from *Foshuo taizi ruiying benqijing* 佛說太子瑞應本起經

- Selections from two texts of *Nirvana Sūtra* 大般涅槃經, on the scene of the final nirvana of the Buddha (**Week 2**)
- Selections from *Mingbaoji* 冥報記 (**Week 3**)

Supplementary reading:

Mark Laurence Blum, *The Nirvana Sūtra : (Mahāparinirvaṇa-Sūtra)* (Berkeley, California: Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai America, Inc., 2013) xiii-xxii.

Naomi Appleton, *Narrating Karma and Rebirth: Buddhist and Jain Multi-Life Stories* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014) Chapter 4.

***Part II. Mahāyāna Sūtra (Week 4-7)***

- *Lotus Sūtra* 妙法蓮華經, the chapter on the appearance of the jeweled stūpa 見寶塔品 (**Week 4**)
- *Lotus Sūtra* 妙法蓮華經, the chapter on a parable 譬喻品 (**Week 5**)

Supplementary reading:

Donald S. Lopez, Jr. and Jacqueline I. Stone, "A Parable" and "The Appearance of the Jeweled Stūpa," in *Two Buddhas Seated Side by Side: A Guide to the Lotus Sūtra* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019).

- *Vimalakīrti Sūtra* 維摩詰所說經, the chapter on contemplating sentient beings 觀眾生品 (**Week 6**),
- *Vimalakīrti Sūtra* 維摩詰所說經, chapter on entering the dharma gate of non-duality 入不二法門(**Week 7**)

Supplementary reading:

Sangharakshita, *The Inconceivable Emancipation: Themes from the Vimalakīrti Nirdeśa* (Birmingham: Windhorse Publications, 1995).

Andrew Macomber, and C. Pierce Salguero. *Buddhist Healing in Medieval China and Japan* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2020), 57-90.

***Part III. Buddhist Hagiography (Week 8-9)***

- Kumārajīva, *Gaosengzhuan* 高僧傳 **(Week 8)**
- Xuanzang, *Xu gaosengzhuan* 續高僧傳 (**Week 9**)

Supplementary reading:

John Kieschnick, *Eminent Monk: Buddhist Ideals in Medieval Chinese Hagiography* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1997), 112-138.

***Part IV. Chinese Treatises (Week 10-12)***

- *Cessation and contemplation* 小止觀 (**Week 10**)
- *Shamen bujing wangzhe lun* 沙門不敬王者論, *Hongmingji* 弘明集 (**Week 11**)
- *Guan wuliang shoufojing shu* 觀無量壽佛經疏 (**Week 12**)

Supplementary reading:

Eric Zürcher, *The Buddhist Conquest of China: The Spread and Adaptation of Buddhism in Early Medieval China*, (Leiden: Brill, 1959) Chapter 6.

## 7. Course Components

| **Teaching Modes and Learning Activities** | |
|---|---|
| **On-site face-to-face** | **Percentage of time** |
| *Lectures on-site face-to-face (hybrid no)* | 100% |
| Guest speaker: TBD | Included in lecture time |
| *Last class presentation* | Include in lecture time |
| **Learning activities** | |
| *Lecture on-site face-to-face* | 40% |
| *Assigned recommended reading* | 60% |
| **Out-of-classroom** | |
| One Fieldtrip | Included in lecture time |

## 8. Assessment Type, Percentage and Rubrics

| **Assessment Type** | **Rubrics** | **Percentage** |
|---|---|---|
| In class discussion and attendance | Students are expected to finish reading assignment and be prepared to participate in class discussion | 20% |
| Weekly translation assignment | The weekly reading report is due 11:59 pm before the class day. Students must submit at least 9 reports throughout the semester. | 20% |
| Mid-term assignment | Compilation of primary and secondary sources for a selected Buddhist text | 20% |
| In-Class Presentation | The in-class presentation will be given in the class, depending on the actual enrollment, student may present alone or in pair. | 10% |
| Final Project | In class final exam | 30% |

## 9. Required and Recommended Readings

**Required readings:**

- *Foshuo taizi ruiying benqijing* 佛說太子瑞應本起經
- *Nirvana Sūtra* 大般涅槃經
- *Mingbaoji* 冥報記
- *Lotus Sūtra* 妙法蓮華經
- Kumārajīva, *Gaosengzhuan* 高僧傳
- Xuanzang, *Xu gaosengzhuan* 續高僧傳
- *Cessation and contemplation* 小止觀
- *Shamen bujing wangzhe lun* 沙門不敬王者論, *Hongmingji* 弘明集
- *Guan wuliang shoufojing shu* 觀無量壽佛經疏

**Recommended readings:**

- Mark Laurence Blum, *The Nirvana Sūtra : (Mahāparinirvaṇa-Sūtra)* (Berkeley, California: Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai America, Inc., 2013) xiii-xxii.
- Naomi Appleton, *Narrating Karma and Rebirth: Buddhist and Jain Multi-Life Stories* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014) Chapter 4.
- Donald S. Lopez, Jr. and Jacqueline I. Stone, "A Parable" and "The Appearance of the Jeweled Stūpa," in *Two Buddhas Seated Side by Side: A Guide to the Lotus Sūtra* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019).

- Sangharakshita, *The Inconceivable Emancipation: Themes from the Vimalakīrti Nirdeśa* (Birmingham: Windhorse Publications, 1995).
- Andrew Macomber, and C. Pierce Salguero. *Buddhist Healing in Medieval China and Japan* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2020), 57-90
- John Kieschnick, *Eminent Monk: Buddhist Ideals in Medieval Chinese Hagiography* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1997), 112-138.
- Eric Zürcher, *The Buddhist Conquest of China: The Spread and Adaptation of Buddhism in Early Medieval China*, (Leiden: Brill, 1959) Chapter 6.

**10. Course Schedule**

| Class/ week | Date | Topic | Requirements |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1/1 | | Introduction and Methodology | Recommended reading |
| 2/2 | | Buddhis Narrative I. | Weekly Reading and Translation |
| 3/3 | | Buddhis Narrative II. | Weekly Reading and Translation |
| 4/4 | | Buddhis Narrative II. | Weekly Reading and Translation |
| 5/5 | | Mahāyāna Sūtra I. | Weekly Reading and Translation |
| 6/6 | | Mahāyāna Sūtra II. | Weekly Reading and Translation |
| 7/7 | | Mahāyāna Sūtra III. | Weekly Reading and Translation |
| 8/8 | | Mahāyāna Sūtra IV. | Weekly Reading and Translation |
| 9/9 | | Buddhist Hagiography I. | Weekly Reading and Translation |
| 10/10 | | Buddhist Hagiography II. | Weekly Reading and Translation |
| 11/11 | | Chinese Treatises I. | Weekly Reading and Translation |
| 12/12 | | Chinese Treatises II. | Weekly Reading and Translation |
| 13/13 | | Final Exam | In class close book exam |

**11. Contact Details for Teacher**

| **Professor/Lecturer/Instructor:** | |
|---|---|
| Name: | Xingyi Wang |
| Office Location: | KKB 312 |
| Telephone: | |
| Email: | xingyiwang@cuhk.edu.hk |
| Teaching Venue: | ERB 706/LDS 214 |
| Website: | |
| Other information: | |

**12. Details of Course Website**

| **Course Website** | blackboard |
|---|---|

**13. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

- In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents.

- For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment.

- Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality.

- Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as suggested by the course teacher.

Assignments without a properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers.

Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.



**15. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Use of AI by default** | **All use of AI tools is prohibited in assignments and assessment tasks**<br>For assignments and assessment tasks that count towards the final course grades, students are not allowed to submit work which is produced with the collaboration of or supported by the use of any generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT)*.<br>Any breach of the regulations will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and will be handled according to the University's *Procedures for Handling Cases of Academic Dishonesty.*<br>In case of queries, students should seek advice from the course teacher. |

**16. Guideline on sharing lecture recordings**

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|---|---|
| **Guideline on sharing lecture recordings** | • The copyright of any lecture recordings shared in the course, whether they are produced by teachers, students, or peer note-takers, belongs to the University.<br>• Students should not share these recordings with others without obtaining prior written consent from the teacher(s). |