

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

Minor in Buddhist Studies

The Buddhist Studies minor comprises three different types of courses aimed at giving students a broad-based education on Buddhist studies and its relation to other world religions, society, language, art, film, and psychology. In each course, students will be encouraged to develop knowledge of a given subject and also acquire a variety of transferable skills: 1. write concisely and with clarity; 2. effectively structure and communicate ideas; 3. explore and assess a variety of sources for research purposes; 4. make judgements involving the validity and cogency of arguments; and 5. develop self-reflexivity.

All offered courses are 6-credit courses that normally involve 24-36 contact hours and 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning). Assessment items and tasks may include in-class tests, short assignments, projects, presentation, examination and research papers with no more than a total of 5,000 words per course. Students will be asked to demonstrate presentational skills, independent study skills, research techniques and other means of critical learning.

1. Introductory Courses (6 credits)

Religions find expression in a variety of forms throughout the world's cultures, and the academic study of religion requires multiple perspectives on its subject. Hence, the aim of these introductory courses is to enable students to understand and critically engage with the ethical and intellectual teachings of the world's major religions, and to make some comparative appraisals of the roles that Buddhism and other religions play in different cultures and historical periods. Students will be able to acquire a solid background in the methods and contents for the study of religion with particular emphasis on the major doctrines and different schools of Buddhism across Asia.

Assessment items and tasks may include group projects, in-class tests, weekly assignments, in-class presentations, and long and short essays with no more than a total of 5,000 words per course. These courses are assessed by 100% coursework.

2. Lecture courses (6 credits)

Lecture courses will survey major Buddhist doctrines, review their traditional and contemporary histories, and examine institutional developments, lay and monastic practices, formulations of religious values and their societal and artistic expressions across Asia. The aim of these specialized courses is to facilitate student learning through disciplinary methods and cross-disciplinary dialogue as well as, theoretical and empirical modes of inquiry and self-critical experiential reflection. Similar to the introductory courses, assessment items and tasks may include group projects, in-class tests, weekly assignments, in-class presentations, long and short essays with no more than a total of 5,000 words per course. These courses are assessed by 100% coursework.

3. Language courses (6 credits)

The aim of these language courses is to train students with a basic competence in the canonical languages of Buddhism (classical Tibetan, Pāli, and Sanskrit) and provide them with a firm lexical foundation for appreciating the intellectual and cultural traditions of Buddhism in Asia. No prior knowledge of the languages is required or expected.

Assessment items and tasks may include weekly assignments, in-class quizzes, and written examinations. These courses are normally assessed by 50% coursework and 50% examinations.

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