

PHIL 442/542.002: Individual philosopher: The Buddha	Fall 2005
Instructor: Dr. Richard P. Hayes	Classroom: HIBB 125
Office hours: Tuesday 2:00–4:00pm	Or by appointment
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1 Readings

On sale in the UNM bookstore is Rupert Gethin, *The Foundations of Buddhism*, which will be our principal secondary source throughout the course. Supplemental readings that may prove useful while working on essays are Carrithers (1983), Collins (1982), Collins (1998), Gunaratana (1992), Harvey (1990), Harvey (1995), Hirakawa (1990), Lamotte (1988), and Warder (1970). Throughout the semester we will also read numerous translations of primary sources that are available on the Internet at www.accesstoinsight.org. In all the references to readings below in the schedule of lectures, a long dash should be filled in with “www.accesstoinsight.org”.¹

2 Schedule of lectures and discussions

Date	Topic
Aug 23	The Buddha’s place in Indian Buddhist philosophy
25	Background: The Upaniṣads and Jainism Read Gethin, pp. 1–34
30	Background: Sāṃkhya and the epics, the Ājīvikas Read <i>Samaññaphala Sutta</i> (—/canon/sutta/digha/dn-02-tb0.html)
Sep 1	Discussion of readings from the Vinaya-piṭaka: Upatissa’s question (—/canon/vinaya/mv1-23-5.html) The monk with dysentery (—/canon/vinaya/mv8-26-1.html) The story of Prince Dighavu (—/canon/vinaya/mv10-2-3.htm)
6	Discussion of <i>Mahāparinibbāna Sutta</i> (—/canon/sutta/digha/dn-16-sv0.html)
8	The first Buddhist council and the formation of the canon Reading: Gethin, pp. 35–58
13	Overview of four noble truths; read Gethin, pp. 59–84
15	<i>Dukkha</i> : Discussion of <i>Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta</i> (—/canon/sutta/samyutta/sn-56-011-pt0.html)

¹For example, “[—/canon/sutta/digha/dn-02-tb0.html](http://www.accesstoinsight.org/canon/sutta/digha/dn-02-tb0.html)” is an abbreviation for the full address for this reading, which is <http://www.accesstoinsight.org/canon/sutta/digha/dn-02-tbo.html>.

- 20 Discussion of *Adittapariyaya Sutta*
(—/canon/sutta/samyutta/sn-35-028-nt0.html)
- 22 Origin of *dukkha*: Discussion of *Nagara Sutta*
(—/canon/sutta/samyutta/sn-12-065.html)
Discussion of *Nidāna Sutta*
(—/canon/sutta/anguttara/an-03-033-tb0.html)
- 27 *Nibbāna*, cessation of *dukkha*
Read “The noble truth of the cessation of *dukkha*”
(—/ptf/dhamma/sacca/sacca3/index.html)
- 29 Discussion of “The Way to the end of suffering”
(—/lib/bps/misc/waytoend.html)
Internet review due.
- Oct 4 Overview of the Buddhist Community
Read Gethin, pp. 85–111
- 6 Discuss *Khaggavisāna Sutta*, *Parabhāva Sutta* and *Mahāmaṅgala Sutta*
(—/canon/sutta/khuddaka/suttanipata/sn1-03.html)
(—/canon/sutta/khuddaka/suttanipata/sn1-06.html)
(—/canon/sutta/khuddaka/suttanipata/snp2-04b.html)
- 11 Discuss *Sigalovada Sutta* and *Vyagghapajja Sutta*
(—/canon/sutta/digha/dn-31-nt1.html)
(—/canon/sutta/anguttara/an08-054.html)
- 13 No classes. Fall break.
- 18 The Buddhist Cosmos
Read Gethin, pp. 112–132
- 20 No self and dependent arising
Read Gethin, pp. 133–162
- 25 Discuss *Anatta-lakkhaṇa Sutta* and *Cūla-Sīhanāda Sutta*
(—/canon/sutta/samyutta/sn-22-059-nt0.html)
(—/canon/sutta/majjhima/mn-011-nt0.html)
- 27 Discuss *Poṭṭhapada Sutta* and *Alagaddupama Sutta*
(—/canon/sutta/digha/dn-09-tb0.html)
(—/canon/sutta/majjhima/mn-022-tb0.html)

- Nov 1 The Buddha's meditation programs
Read Gethin, 163–201
Book review due
- 3 Discussion of *Sallekha Sutta*
(—/canon/sutta/majjhima/mn-011-nt0.html)
- 8 Discussion of *Satipaṭṭhāna Sutta*
(—/canon/sutta/majjhima/mn-010-st0.html)
- 10 Mindfulness of the body (the parts, the elements, universal mortality)
Read “Buddhist reflections on death”
(—/lib/bps/wheels/wheel102.html)
- 15 The cultivation of universal friendship and the other *brahma-vihāras*
Read *Karaṇīya Mettā Sutta*
(—/canon/sutta/khuddaka/suttanipata/snp1-08b.html)
- 17 Discuss *Uddesa-vibhaṅga Sutta*
(—/canon/sutta/majjhima/mn138.html)
- 22 Abhidhamma: Systematizing the Buddha's teachings
Read Gethin, pp. 202–232
- 24 Thanksgiving holiday
- 29 Discuss Ken Jones's essay “Buddhism and Social Action”
(—/lib/bps/wheels/wheel285.html)
- Dec 1 Open discussion for tying up loose ends
- Dec 8 **Essay due**

3 Assignments and evaluation

The final grade for the course will be based on four factors:

1. **Internet review** There are hundreds of web sites dedicated to Buddhism. Use your resources to browse several of them and write a report of the ones you find most authoritative. Explain your criteria for evaluating the sites you choose to assess. (This assignment may be submitted electronically.)
2. **Book review** Pick one of the numerous books on Buddhism available in the UNM library and in bookstores and write a critical review of it, assessing its strengths and weaknesses in the light of what you have learned in this course.
3. **Essay** Prepare a 10–12 page essay consisting of a critical evaluation of one or more of the texts we have read in this course. Which ideas presented in Buddhist texts do you find persuasive, and why? Which ideas present a stumbling block to you?
4. **Participation** This will be an evaluation of the *quality* of participation in discussions.

Summary

Assignment	Due Date	Percentage
Internet review	September 29	25
Book review	November 1	25
Essay	December 8	50
Class participation	Weekly	10

References

- Carrithers, Michael. *The Buddha*. Past Masters series, General Editor Keith Thomas. Oxford: Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983.
- Collins, Steven. *Selfless Persons: Imagery and Thought in Thevavāda Buddhism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982.
- Collins, Steven. *Nirvana and Other Buddhist Felicities*. Cambridge Studies in Religious Traditions, 17. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- Gethin, Rupert. *The Foundations of Buddhism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Gunaratana, Henepola. *Mindfulness In Plain English*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 1992.
- Harvey, Peter. *An Introduction to Buddhism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
- Harvey, Peter. *The Selfless Mind: Personality, Consciousness and Nirvana in Early Buddhism*. Surry, UK: Curzon Press, 1995.
- Hirakawa, Akira. *A History of Early Buddhism: From Śākyamuni to Mahāyāna*. Translated and edited by Paul Groner. Volume 36 of Asian Studies at Hawaii. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1990.
- Lamotte, Etienne. *History of Indian Buddhism: From the Origins to the Saka Era*. Translation by Sara Webb-Boin from the French *Histoire du bouddhisme indien*. Louvain-la-Neuve: Université Catholique de Louvain, Institut Orientaliste, 1988.
- Warder, A. K. *Indian Buddhism*. First edition. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1970.