Chinese Buddhism 中国佛教 (Ref 3938/4321)

Prof. Mario Poceski (Religion Department, University of Florida)

Class Time & Location
Tue 3:00–4:55 pm & Thu 4:05–4:55 pm; AND 32.

Office Hours & Contact Information
Thu 2:30–4:00, and by appointment. 132 Anderson Hall. (352) 273-2937; mpoceski@ufl.edu; http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/mpoceski/.

Course Description
The course is a comprehensive survey of Chinese Buddhism. We will explore the growth and transformation of the beliefs, doctrines, practices, and institutions that shaped the historical trajectories of Chinese Buddhism, and consider the overall impact of Buddhism on Chinese religious, social, and cultural life.

Prerequisites
There are no formal prerequisites, although some prior knowledge of Chinese history or religion will be helpful. No knowledge of the Chinese language is required.

Course Format
This is primarily a lecture course, but students are encouraged (and expected) to engage in discussion and critical analysis of the course materials.

Requirements
• Class attendance, participation, and (advance) reading of the assigned materials.
• Five quizzes (20% of the final grade).
• Two exams (each 30%).
• Field research report (20%), due 12/4.

Textbooks
• Cheng Chien Bhikshu, Sun-Face Buddha: The Teachings of Ma-tsu and the Hung-chou School of Ch’an (Berkeley: Asian Humanities Press, 1993). ¹
• Course Reader (hereafter referred to as CR). See last page for contents (same applies for the next item).
• Select articles from the Encyclopedia of Buddhism (EB). Available as an e-Book from the UF library.

Use of the e-Learning System
The syllabus and other course materials will be posted online via UF’s e-Learning system [http://lss.at.ufl.edu/]. Students must have an active GatorLink ID to access e-Learning, which can be obtained at the GatorLink website [http://gatorlink.ufl.edu].

¹ The Cheng Chien and Madsen volumes are available at the Goerings bookstore (NW 1717, 1st Ave; tel: 377-3703), as well as from online bookstores.
## Lecture Topics and Course Schedule

Tentative and subject to change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
<td>No class on 8/28, Thu (Prof. Poceski giving lecture at U of Oslo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/30 &amp; 10/2</td>
<td>Visit to the Harn Museum (Tue) and video: <em>Buddhism in China</em> (Thu)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/7 &amp; 10/9</td>
<td>6. Chan Doctrines and Practices</td>
<td>Cheng Chien 3–68</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/14 &amp; 10/16</td>
<td>Review (Tue) and Exam 1 (Thu)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/4 &amp; 11/6</td>
<td>9. Contemporary Chinese/Taiwanese Buddhism I</td>
<td>Madsen 1–50; no class on 11/11, Tue (Veterans Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>10. Contemporary Chinese/Taiwanese Buddhism II</td>
<td>Madsen 51–103</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>Video: <em>To the Land of Bliss</em> (Thanksgiving on Thu)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12/2 &amp; 12/4</td>
<td>Exam 2 (Tue)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/9</td>
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### Grading

- The final grade will be based on the course requirements.
- Grades will be computed on this scale: A = 100–91%; B+ = 90.5–87%; B = 86.5–81%; C+ = 80.5–77%; C = 76.5–71%; D+ = 70.5–67%; D = 66.5–60.5%; E = 60% or less.
**Attendance**

- Attendance is mandatory for all students, starting with the first day of classes. Students who have problems with class attendance or punctuality should think twice before enrolling in this course.
- Valid excuses for missed classes must be submitted in writing and in a timely manner, along with pertinent documentation (such as note from a doctor). Written excuses for planned absences (such as participation in athletic meetings or religious observances, for example) must be submitted in advance.
- Excessive absences from class will have adverse effects on the final grade. Student can miss up to three (3) hours (regardless of whether they are excusable or not) without any penalty. Each subsequent unexcused hour will lead to a 2% reduction of the final grade.
- Coming late, leaving early, being inattentive, and other forms of disruptive behavior can be counted as unexcused absences. (For more on the university’s attendance policies, see http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html).

**Exams**

- No make-up exams will be given, except in documented instances of illness or other emergency, in which case the student must directly contact the instructor before the exam, if feasible, or as soon as possible.
- If any student has a valid reason to request rescheduling of an exam—such as observance of a religious holiday—he/she must contact the instructor in person and make suitable arrangements one week before the examination. Failure to act in accord with these instructions will lead to a failing grade.
- Students should take all exams and quizzes very seriously. They should not count on having an opportunity to do additional work for extra credit or better grade.

**Quizzes**

- The quizzes will not have a regular schedule and will be given without an advance warning. They will include the readings for that and the previous week, so students should come to class prepared to be examined on them. Remember, the readings are not optional.
- Students who are late will not be able to take the quiz and will have to wait outside until it has ended. Be considerate of your fellow students and the professor.
- The quiz with the worst score will not be counted for the final grade.
- There will be no make-ups on any of the quizzes.

**Field Research Report**

- The report should be based on field research that involves participant observation, undertaken at a Chinese Buddhist group or institution in Florida.
- The report should be 3–4 typewritten pages (1.5 spacing) and must follow standard academic format. There is no need to include a separate title page. For more on writing the paper, see Poceski’s web page.
- Students are welcome to bring early drafts of the report and ask for advice during the office hours.
- Students can hand the papers in class or leave them in the instructor’s mailbox at the Dept. of Religion office any time prior to the deadline. No late submissions will be accepted under any circumstances, and no other form of submission, such as emailing a paper, is acceptable.

**Other Notices**

- A student who has a disability that may require some modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements should consult the instructor so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Note that the student is responsible for communicating his/her needs to the instructor, and that all arrangements for changes pertaining to the exams must be made one week in advance.
- Plagiarism and cheating will result in a failing grade and other serious penalties. For more information, see the “Academic Honesty—Student Guide” brochure (posted online by the Dean of Students Office).
• Students are expected to be courteous and abstain from disruptive behavior in the classroom that adversely affects others and is contrary to the pursuit of knowledge. Examples of such behavior include talking with someone, making late entrances or early exits from the classroom, displaying active disinterest in the class (e.g. sleeping or using computer), or putting down others. Offending students will be asked to leave.

• Registration in the course implies that each student enters a contractual agreement with the instructor, whereas he/she is accountable for fulfilling all course requirements and adhering to the course policies.

• Students are responsible for knowing and following all schedules and instructions contained in this syllabus, as well as any other instructions given in class (remember, attendance is not optional). Any questions about the course requirements or any aspect of the coursework should be resolved by consulting the instructor, preferably in person. Pleading ignorance or lack of common sense are not valid excuses for failures to fulfill requirements or abide by course policies.

**Course Reader**


**Encyclopedia Articles**


• Bechert, “Buddha, Life of the”: 82–88

• Anderson, “Four Noble Truths”: 295–98

• Cohen, “India”: 352–60

• Stone, “Lotus Sūtra”: 471–77

• Tweed, “United States”: 864–67