

DRBU Master of Arts in Buddhist Classics

Fall 2013 Course Schedule

Required Courses

BUCL 511

: The Sixth Patriarch Platform Sutra

Monday, 9:00-11:00 AM (every other week)

Wednesday, 9:00-11:00 AM

3 units

LG only

Conference Room

Martin Verhoeven, Reverend Heng Sure, Douglas Powers

The Dharma Jewel Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch (六祖法寶壇經 liù zǔ fǎ bǎo tán jīng) presents the teachings of Huineng (638-713) who was the Sixth Patriarch in China, and the thirty-third in Patriarchal descendants from the time of the Buddha in India. The essence of the Sixth Patriarch's philosophy is that all beings have the buddha-nature; all can become Buddha. Full awakening is not a future state or a distant place, but exists "right within your own mind" and is directly and immediately available. Taken together, the text presents a powerful and resounding vision of a totalistic, unbounded human potential waiting to be fully realized if only we could see it.

BUCL 521

Comparative Hermeneutics

Tuesday, 12:15-3:15 PM

3 units

LG only

Conference Room

Jessica Samuels

This course is devoted to exploring the major methodological approaches to the theory and practice of interpretation as framed through the academic, cultural, and intellectual thought-ways of the West. Particular attention will be given to examining the strategies and preconceptions at work as Western thinkers view, present, and attempt to interpret Buddhist texts and practices.

BUCL 551

Language Tutorial: Sanskrit

Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 AM

Thursday, 1:50-2:50 PM

Thursday, 3:00-5:00 PM (Lab)

3 units

LG only

Room 6

Bhikshuni Heng Hsien, Barbara Waugh

The Sanskrit Tutorial introduces students to the script, sound system and basic grammatical structure of the Sanskrit language. Sanskrit is a member of the Indo-European language family and the source language of the Buddhist and Hindu/Brahmanic traditions, among others. Students will use texts derived from the Buddhist Sutras and Indian Epic literature to practice translation and deepen their understanding of the relationship between language and content in classical texts.

Enrichment Courses

These courses are offered through DRBU's Extension Program. Credits from these courses cannot be transferred to the MA in Buddhist Classics program.

BSP 200

Indian Roots of Buddhist Thought

Wed 12:00-2:00 PM

Snjezana Akpinar

UB Rm 6

2 units

LG, P/NC, or AUD

This course will concentrate on classical texts of the Vedic and Bramanic traditions from where Shakyamuni Buddha's enlightenment arose. Students will be acquainted with concepts about deities as expressed in poems, hymns, discussions, and riddles.

SKT 135.2

Advanced Sanskrit Part II

Thu 9:00-11:00 AM

Barbara Waugh

UB Rm 6

2 units

LG, P/NC or AUD

Prerequisite: English and a working knowledge of Sanskrit or permission of instructor. In this class students will further their reading, translation, and interpretive skills by exploring Sanskrit verse. Readings will include the verses from the Universal Door Chapter of the Lotus Sūtra.

SUT 220

Shurangama Sutra

Wed 2:00-4:30 PM

Bhikshuni Heng Yi and Doug Powers

UB Conf Rm

3 units

LG, P/NC or AUD

The Shurangama Sutra has been one of the most ardently studied Buddhist texts for centuries throughout East Asia. The prevalence of this work in East Asian Buddhist communities can be attributed to its synthesis of major philosophical thoughts promoted in several mainstream schools, including Chan, Pure Land, Tiantai, Yogachara, and Esoterism. This study aims at investigating the Shurangama Sutra from multiple perspectives through close reading of the primary sources and class discussions. In addition to the text, special attention will be drawn to the study of the Shurangama Dharani contained in the seventh fascicle of the Sutra. This course will be taught in the Fall and Spring.

VIN 260

The Lives and Practices of Nomadic and Hermit Monks

Tue 7:40-9:00 PM (every other week)

Doug Powers

UB Conf Rm

1 units

LG, P/NC or AUD

We will study the new translation of the Sixth Patriarch Sutra and the autobiographies of various hermit monks such as Chan Master Han Shan, Chan Master Hsu Yun (Empty Cloud), and Chan Master Hsuan Hua. We will look at the lives and practices of these hermit monks and investigate the common grounds of their practices and how the nomadic practice is being carried on today.