

About

A minor in Buddhist studies is an excellent adjunct to majors in such fields as religion, philosophy, American studies, anthropology, art history, Asian studies, comparative literature, East Asian languages and literature, East Asian studies, and the study of women and gender. It allows for a deeper focus in Buddhism, offering an interdisciplinary complement to one's major as well as an important credential for graduate admissions.

Requirements for the Minor

Buddhist studies is interdisciplinary, and students must understand multiple approaches to the field in order to study it successfully.

- BUS 120 *The Study of Buddhism* is required of all minors, with 24 additional credit hours drawn from at least two disciplines.
- Students should study Buddhism as it is practiced in at least two of the following four geographical areas: South and Southeast Asia, East Asia, the Tibeto-Himalayan region, and the West. Buddhism is constituted differently in different cultures, and it is important to understand this diversity in order to make sense of Buddhism's development and dissemination.
- At least 8 credits in the minor must be taken at Smith; up to 12 credits of overseas study may be counted.
- One seminar addressing a topic in Buddhist studies.



BUDDHIST STUDIES PROGRAM



Faculty

Core Faculty

Jay Garfield — Philosophy
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Yanlong Guo — Art
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Jamie Hubbard — Religion
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Ruth Ozeki — English
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Andy Rotman — Religion
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Buddhist Studies Program director, 2020-21

Affiliated Faculty

Suzanne Gottschang — Anthropology
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Sabina Knight — World Literatures
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Kim Kono — East Asian Languages and Cultures
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Sujane Wu — East Asian Languages and Cultures
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Fall 2020/Interterm 2021 Courses

BUS 120 The Study of Buddhism

Jay Garfield, Andy Rotman M 7:05—9:35 pm

This course introduces students to the academic study of Buddhism through readings, lectures by Smith faculty and guests, and trips to local Buddhist centers. We critically examine the history of Buddhist studies within the context of numerous disciplines, including anthropology, art, cultural studies, gender studies, government, literature, philosophy and religion, with a focus on regional, sectarian and historical differences. Materials to be considered include poetry, painting, philosophy, political tracts and more.

*Meets during the first half of the semester only,
2 credits, graded S/U only.*

ANT 274 The Anthropology of Religion

Pinky Hota TTh 10:55 am — 12:10 pm

What can anthropologists teach us about religion as a social phenomenon? This course traces significant anthropological approaches to the study of religion, asking what these approaches contribute to our understanding of religion in the contemporary world. Topics include religious experience and rationality; myth, ritual and magic; rites of passage; function and meaning; power and alienation; religion and politics. Readings are drawn from important texts in the history of anthropology and from contemporary ethnographies of religion.

PHI 330 Buddhist Ethics

Jay Garfield

TTh 1:40—4:30 pm, W 9:20—10:35 am

This seminar asks what is distinctive about Buddhist ethical thought. In ways it is similar to systems of Western ethics, in what way different? We will read sections of the Theravāda scholar Buddhaghosa's Path of Purification, the Mahāyāna scholar Sāntideva's How to Lead an Awakened Life, some selections from other Buddhist texts on ethics, and recent scholarship on Buddhist ethics. We will be interested in the overall structure of Buddhist ethical thought, its connection to broader ideas in Buddhist philosophy, and the ways it can be brought into conversation with Western ethical theory.

Spring 2021 Courses

ARH 280 Meditation in Caves: Buddhist Grottoes in East Asia

Yanlong Guo

The course is an introduction to Buddhist grottoes of East Asia. We will learn the historical trajectories of Buddhist grottoes, including the development of cave architecture, mural painting and sculpture. Case studies range from the Kizil Caves and Mogao Caves in Northwestern China to the Yungang Caves and Longmen Caves in the central plains and the Seokguram Caves in the Korean Peninsula. We will also consider the collecting, preserving and displaying of Buddhist grottoes in the contemporary world.

PHI/REL 108 The Meaning of Life

Jay Garfield, Lois Dubin

This course asks the big question, "What is the Meaning of Life?" and explores a range of answers offered by philosophers and religious thinkers from a host of different traditions in different eras of human history. We explore a variety of forms of philosophical and religious thinking and the ways that they can be directly relevant to our lives.