

## Buddhism (A002927)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026**

null

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Anderl, Christoph

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Heirman, Ann

LW21

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

**crdts**

**offering**

null

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Buddhism, India, China, Japan

**Position of the course**

This course gives a general historical and geographical overview of the different Buddhist schools. The course teaches students to place the various Buddhist schools within their respective social context. It aims at preparing students to understand research on the historical, doctrinal and philosophical developments within Buddhism.

**Contents**

In the course, an overview of the historical, doctrinal and philosophical developments of Buddhist schools in India, Central Asia, China and Japan is provided. They are discussed in their social and cultural context, with special emphasis on the East Asian culture sphere. Maps and iconographical material are used throughout the course. In addition, the students are requested to choose some themes for a more detailed study, based on the reading of scholarly articles (chosen out of a list of articles provided through Ufora) or based on the lecture series on Buddhism.

**Initial competences**

- To have successfully completed the course History of China or History of South and Central Asia or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means (preferable).
- To have a good knowledge of English.

**Final competences**

- 1 To be able to differentiate the different Buddhist schools and their development.
- 2 To be able to deal in a comprehensive way with questions concerning Southeast Asian and East Asian Buddhism.
- 3 To be able to give a general historical and geographical overview of the different Buddhist schools.
- 4 To be able to situate different Buddhist schools in their social context.
- 5 To be able to start understand research into the historical, doctrinal and philosophical developments within Buddhism.

**Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

## Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

## Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

## Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures: the historical, doctrinal and philosophical developments within Buddhism are explained by a lecturer.

Independent work: detailed analysis of some aspects of Buddhism, on the basis of two scholarly articles (chosen out a list provided via Ufora), or on the basis of the lecture series Buddhism.

## Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint presentations

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Handouts

Name: short handouts

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Other

Name: reader (articles)

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

## References

## Course content-related study coaching

The seminars are conducted by the lecturers, who also can be contacted for extra questions.

## Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

## Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

## Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

## Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

## Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

## Extra information on the examination methods

*Assessment moment*

Periodical: oral examination (100%)

*Assessment form*

Oral examination, testing the ability of the student to explain the developments

within Buddhism and the reasons of these developments. Apart from general questions and more detailed questions, questions will be asked on issues discussed in detail during the course, and on the topics (articles or lectures) chosen by the student.

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

The examination consists of three parts: 1) background of Buddhism, the life of the Buddha, the Buddhist community, and the geographical spread of Buddhism (40%); 2) the Buddhist doctrine (40%); 3) analysis of some topics, based on two scholarly articles chosen by the student, or based on the lecture series of Buddhism (20%).

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

1. Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible.