

**International Bachelor of Arts Degree Programme
Faculty of Buddhism
Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University**

**Course: Buddhism and Social Works
The 3rd Year Class
The First Semester, Academic Year 2013**

Lecturer

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1. Course Description

This course is designed to explore, from various perspectives, the contribution of Buddhism in the social works. The principle pattern and method of social works in Buddhism; the social works of the Lord Buddha and those of the Buddhist community, etc. will be discussed in this course. Recent developments of Buddhism, as well as how Buddhism has transformed itself to suit the needs of the society, will also be explored. Moreover, this course will figure out the solutions for Buddhism social work activities to be more effective.

2. Aim and Objective:

This course aims at introducing the basic beliefs and practices of Buddhism to its students. Its objective is to, by critically evaluating reading materials during lectures, enable students to understand how Buddhism has engaged and in order to better respond to the social progress of the human world.

3. Course Outline:

- (a) Introduction to the course.
- (b) The fundamentals of social works in Buddhism: values and issues.
- (c) Socially engaged Buddhism: concepts and identities.
- (d) Buddhist approaches to social works: (i) Giving and helping; (ii) Education; (iii) Counseling; (iv) Contemplative care; etc.
- (e) Socially engaged Buddhist organizations in the world.

4. Essay Title: A case study of a Buddhist organization/monastery which is actively engaged in social work.

5. Lecture techniques:

- (a) Class room lectures;
- (b) In class discussion;
- (c) Reading assignments from Internet, books and journals;
- (d) Essay and participants' presentation.

6. Course Requirements:

Students are required to:

- (a) Complete all assigned readings
- (b) Maintain regular attendance
- (c) Participate in class discussion

7. Assessment of course (grading): Total 100 Marks

- (a) One final exam = 60% of final grade.
- (b) A short essay presentation with 10 minutes duration = 30% of final grade (start in the month of September, 2012).
- (c) Lecture attendance = 10% of final grade.

8. Special Instructions for Exam and Assignment

(a) Final exams will cover the assigned readings and class discussions of them, and will involve describing, explaining, and evaluating texts, concepts, and arguments.

(b) The essay/presentation must include an introduction and a conclusion.

(c) Cite the textbooks, other sources including publications, lectures, web sites, class discussion, etc. In each reading citation include the author, year, and page (See for instance, MCU reference style).

(d) Assignment essay are intended to familiarize you with the readings, encourage you to develop your skills in reasoning, and reflect on philosophical and religious issues in different cultural and historical contexts and from a variety of perspectives. It is better to do this directly than use unreliable sources on the internet. Please note that your own thinking and writing should be more critical, engaged, precise, and it should be your own on the basis of the text and the class lectures and discussions.

9. Criteria for marking essay/presentation:

- (a) Good and correct understanding of the Buddhist teaching given in the lectures,
- (b) Clear, logical and rational presentation of your ideas and thoughts,
- (c) Show that you have read at least five papers in your essay either in your footnotes or endnotes and list them at the end.

Recommended Reading

Students are recommended to thoroughly read the following publications and prove that they have done so in class discussions and the final examination.

Recommended reading list:

- Brazier, D. (2001). *The New Buddhism*. London: Robinson.
- Chakravarti, U. (1987). *The Social Dimensions of Early Buddhism*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Eppsteiner, F. (ed.) (1988). *The Path of Compassion: Writings on Socially Engaged Buddhism*. CA: Parallax Press.
- Gnanarama, P. (1998). *Aspects of Early Buddhist Sociological Thought*. Singapore: Tisarana Buddhist Association.
- Harris, I. (ed.) (2007). *Buddhism, Power and Political Order*. New York: Routledge.
- Harvey, P. (2000). *An introduction to Buddhist Ethics: Foundations, Values, and Issues*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ken, J. (2003). *The New Social Face of Buddhism: An Approach to Political and Social Activism*. London: Wisdom Publications. pp. 86-105.
- King, S.B. (2005). *Being Benevolence: The Social Ethics of Engaged Buddhism*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press,
- Nhat Hanh, Thich (1999). "Ahimsa: The Path of Harmlessness." In *Buddhist Peacework: Creating Cultures of Peace*, edited by David W. Chappell. Somerville, Mass.: Wisdom Publications.
- Nhat Hanh, Thich (1993). *Love in Action: Writings on Non- Violent Social Change*. Berkeley: Parallax Press.
- Mackenzie, R. (2007). *New Buddhist Movements in Thailand*. London & NewYork: Routledge.
- Sivaraksa, S. (2005). *Conflict, Culture, Change: Engaged Buddhism in a Globalizing World*. Somerville: Wisdom Publications.
- Thich Nhat Hanh (2003). *Creating True Peace: Ending Violence in Yourself, Your Family, Your Community, and the World*. New York: Free Press.
- Queen, Christopher S., (2000) ed. *Engaged Buddhism in the West*. Boston: Wisdom Publications.
- Global Recovery: The Buddhist Perspective, UNDV Conference Volume, Thailand, 2010.