



GE 2: BSOE 201B: Devotion in Chinese Buddhism

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credits distribution of the course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the course, if any
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical		
GE 2: BSOE 201B: Devotion in Chinese Buddhism	4	3	1	0	As per admission criteria	Nil

This paper is aligned with Sustainability Development Goals 2030: 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institution

Objectives: This course introduces major religions of China through exploring myths and legends; rites, rituals, and festivals; and contemporary popular culture. Particular attention will be paid to the complexities and contingencies in shifting categories such as “religion” and “culture” in China. In sum, we will work with translated primary sources, scholarly surveys and analyses, and literary and artistic pieces. The goal is to provide close reading, critical thinking, and effective communication. There are no formal prerequisites, although some prior knowledge of Chinese history and / or religion will be helpful. No knowledge of the Chinese language is required.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Identify, analyze, explain, and appraise the key doctrines of Chinese Buddhism.
- Discover the Buddhist perspective on the individual and the world.
- Through understanding the realities of life and living, develop a positive, activist and compassionate attitude towards oneself and one’s dealings with the world.

Contents:

Unit-I: Concept of Buddha: Śākyamuni, Amitābha, Mahāvairocana, and Bhaiṣajyaguru

Unit-II: Concept of Bodhisattva: Maitreya, Avalokiteśvara, Mañjuśrī, Samantabhadra, and Kṣitigarbha. Four great Bodhisattvas and the pilgrimage to their abodes

Unit-III: Expression of Buddhist Devotion in Chinese Society: charitable activities, Buddhist festivals, Buddhist societies, vegetarian feasts.

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Unit-IV: Buddhist Art in Tibetan Buddhism.

Suggested Reading

- Naquin, Susan; Yu, Chun-Fang (Ed.), *Pilgrims and sacred sites in China*, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1992.
- Taigen Dan Leighton, *Faces of Compassion, Classic Bodhisattva Archetypes and Their Modern Expression*, Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2003.
- Van Oort, H. A. *The Iconography of Chinese Buddhism in traditional China*. Pt. 1. Iconography of Religions Series, XII-5. Kinderhook, NY: E. J. Brill U. S. A., Incorporated, 1986.
- Welch, Holmes H. *Practice of Chinese Buddhism, 1900-1950*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1967.
- Williams. Paul. *Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations*, London and New York: Routledge, 1989.
- Yhu, Chun-fang. *Kuan-Yin: The Chinese Transformation of Avalokiteśvara*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000.
- Yoshinori, Takeuchi. *Buddhist Spirituality, Vol. I*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers. 2003.

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