

Course Purpose

This course attempts to present the essential features of Buddhist philosophy and history from an objective and sympathetic perspective, so to make for a better understanding of the Buddhist's belief system. The underlying assumption is that, to reach a Buddhist or the Buddhist community, it is necessary to assure them that we have heard and understood what they believe about the Buddha.

It is also assumed that, in a world rife with religious tension, the church needs to prepare a cohort of ambassadors of peace who will facilitate the opening up of channels of communication between practitioners of different religions.

This course, therefore, is offered as an appreciation of Buddhist culture and history, and not as a critique of the religion itself.

Dates (2021)

Jan 11, 25

Feb 8, 22

Mar 8, 22

(7:15pm – 10:00pm)

Location

TBC

Credits

1.5 CR

Fees*

S\$225(Credit)

S\$120 (Audit)

Class Format

TBC

Pre-Requisites: NIL

About the Lecturer

Rev Ng Seng Chuan did his theological training at Trinity Theological College (BD, 1977), as well as at Regent College (MCS, 1983). He served several pastorates between 1977 and 1993. In 1993, he began a second career in speech education, while carrying on with a ministry of itinerant preaching, as well as conducting speech classes at BGST on a part-time or adjunct basis.

In 2006, he felt prompted to begin a serious study of the Buddhist religion. He took classes at a Buddhist temple, the Mangala Vihara, and subsequently gained the diploma (2007), BA (2010) and MA (2011) degrees from the Buddhist & Pali University of Sri Lanka. His personal vision is so to engage practitioners of other religions in friendship and academic study, and so open up channels of communication and dialogue with believers of other faiths.



Academic Information

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students would:

1. Be able to decipher some of the more complex concepts in Buddhism, and open up opportunities for engagement;
2. Have decreased in the level of discomfort in the exploration of an alien faith at various levels of engagement.
3. Have gained enough mastery of the language of the Buddhist faith to express comprehension in dialogue and discussion, as well as to begin building bridges for the communication of aspects of Christian belief and practice.

Assignments

Write a book review/essay/sermon on aspects of Buddhist history and teachings.

Course Text:

The required textbook for this course is Narada's "The Buddha and His Teachings".

For more information, contact us at **Biblical Graduate School of Theology**
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