

## SUBJECT OUTLINE

### SECTION 1 –SUBJECT SUMMARY

<b>Subject code and name</b>	<b>ABS701 Introduction to Buddhism</b>		
<b>Program</b>	Applied Buddhist Studies	<b>Credit points</b>	6
<b>Subject coordinator</b>	Dr Royce Wiles	<b>Duration</b>	5 weeks
<b>List of courses that will offer this subject</b>	Graduate Certificate in Applied Buddhist Studies Cross-institutional		
<b>Level</b>	AQF 7 - Undergraduate		
<b>Indicate core or elective</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> core for Graduate Certificate in Applied Buddhist Studies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> elective for cross institutional students		
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Nil		
<b>Equivalent subject</b>	Nil		
<b>Student workload</b>	No of timetabled hours: 40 hours No of personal study hours: 120 hours Total workload hours: 160 hours		
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Face to face on-site <input type="checkbox"/> E- learning (online) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intensive (provide details below)		
	<p>The subject is delivered over 5 weeks of full-time study.</p> <p>Week 1 is preliminary reading; week 2 is intensive face-to-face lectures and other teaching and learning activities on campus; weeks 3 - 5 are self-study and assessment supported by the Course Coordinator/Lecturer through email and consultation as required and by online teaching resources.</p> <p>Total hours of face-to-face classes exceed the standard scheduled teaching hours of a typical semester-length subject offered in this discipline by universities.</p> <p>Students studying their course part-time can negotiate longer time for submission of assessment tasks.</p>		

## SECTION 2 –SUBJECT INFORMATION

### 2.1 Subject Description

*Provide a summary of approximately 100 words that gives a concise outline of the subject*

This subject is an introduction to the fundamentals of Buddhist thought. Students will examine ideas around the origin and development of Buddhism, key Buddhist doctrines, and the basic concepts of Buddhist philosophy across various traditions. The meaning of life from the Buddhist perspective will be critically examined. The role of Buddhist philosophy, meditation, and practice in approaching morality and ethics, as well as contemporary developments in global Buddhism, will be introduced and critically appraised.

This subject contributes to the course aims through its (a) in-depth introduction to key concepts and practices of the Buddhist tradition across sectarian and historical boundaries, from its origin to later developments spanning 2,500 years; (b) reflective critical student essay and presentation showing evidence of application of religious studies and/or social science research methods; and (c) critical, inquiring assimilation of Buddhist philosophy and practice through open debate and discussion, innovative angles of interpretation, and experiential immersion in meditation. This subject provides the essential foundation for further studies in Buddhism and a portal to other subjects such as Healing Traditions: Buddhism and Psychotherapy, Mindfulness: Theory and Application, and Philosophy of Mind in Buddhism

### 2.2 Learning Outcomes

*Provide the key knowledge and skills which student would be expected to attain by successfully completing this subject (numbered list)*

1. Demonstrate broad and coherent theoretical and technical knowledge of the fundamental concepts of Buddhism
2. Develop cognitive skills to review critically, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge on the traditional interpretations of major concepts of Buddhism
3. Demonstrate a broad understanding of knowledge with depth in some areas
4. Communication skills to present a clear, coherent and independent exposition of knowledge and ideas about Buddhist studies

### 2.3 Content and Structure

*Provide details in the table below, the subject content and how it is structured, including practical components such as laboratory, studio and work –based placements*

Day	Lecture topics	Suggested readings
1	Introduction The context of the Buddha's life The Buddha's life	<b>Gethin 1998, pp. 1-34</b> Prebish, C & Keown, D 2007, pp. 1-15; 256-274, 26-42; 43-54
2	The four truths, noble eight-fold path The word of the Buddha: Buddhist textual traditions The Buddhist community (Sangha)	<b>Gethin 1998, pp. 35-58, [59]-84, [85]-111</b> Prebish, C & Keown, D 2007, pp. 55-58, 59-74
3	Meditation traditions: calm and insight (Buddhaghosa and Vasubandhu) No-self and dependent arising Cosmology, karma, rebirth Introduction to Abhidharma systems	<b>Gethin 1998, pp. [163]-201, [112]-132, 133-162, [202]-223;</b> Prebish, C & Keown, D 2007, pp. 11-24, 54-55, 9-24, 89-90

4	Mah ā y ā na schools (China, Japan, Korea)  The Bodhisattva Buddhist ethics Meditation practices in the contemporary world	<b>Gethin 1998, pp. [224]-250</b> Prebish, C & Keown, D 2007, pp. 91-94, 97-118, 235-255
5	Evolving traditions in Asia the “West” (engaged Buddhism, secular Buddhism, etc.) Student presentations Digital Dhamma	<b>Gethin 1998, pp. [253]- 276</b> Prebish, C & Keown, D 2007, pp. 205-217, [218]-234

## 2.4 Assessment

Assessment Task			Learning outcomes for subject related to assessment task.(Use number from Learning Outcomes table
Type	When assessed- Year, session and week	Weighting (% of total marks for subject)	
Short paper (300-500 words) on prescribed preliminary readings	Week 1	15%	1, 2, 4
Portfolio (class participation, reading log, etc.)	Week 2	35%	1, 2
Assignment (1500-2000 words) including critical literature review, research method statement, critical analysis and interpretation of a relevant topic	Week 5	50%	1, 2, 3

## 2.5 Prescribed and Recommended Readings

*Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended readings for the subject*

### **Prescribed texts**

1. Gethin, R 1998, *The foundations of Buddhism*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

### **Additional readings are selected from these works (optional)**

2. An ā layo. 2010, *The genesis of the bodhisattva ideal*, Hamburg University Press, Hamburg.  
[http://www.buddhismuskunde.uni-hamburg.de/fileadmin/pdf/publikationen/HamburgUP\\_HBS01\\_Analayo.pdf](http://www.buddhismuskunde.uni-hamburg.de/fileadmin/pdf/publikationen/HamburgUP_HBS01_Analayo.pdf)
3. Batchelor, S 1997, *Buddhism without beliefs*, Bloomsbury, London.
4. Bodhi, B 2013, *Nourishing the roots: essays on Buddhist ethics*, viewed 1 July 2013,  
<http://www.accesstoinsight.org/lib/authors/bodhi/wheel259.html>
5. Emmanuel, SM (ed.) 2013, *A companion to Buddhist philosophy*. Wiley Blackwell, Chichester
6. Gombrich, R 2009, *What the Buddha thought*, Equinox Publishing, Oxford.
7. Harvey, P 2013, *An introduction to Buddhism: teachings, history, and practices*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
8. Kalupahana, DJ 1994, *A history of Buddhist philosophy: continuity and discontinuity*, Motilal, Delhi.
9. Keown, D 2013, *Buddhism: a very short introduction*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
10. Olson, C 2005, *The different paths of Buddhism: a narrative historical introduction*, Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick.
11. Prebish, C & Keown D 2007, *Introducing Buddhism*, Routledge, New York and London.
12. Robinson, RH, Willard LJ, & Bhikkhu Thanissaro, 2005, *Buddhist religions: a historical introduction*. Wadsworth, Belmont, California.
13. Siderits, M 2007, *Buddhism as philosophy: an introduction*. Hackett, Indianapolis.

14. Williams, P, Tribe, A, & Wynne, A 2012, *Buddhist thought: a complete introduction to the Indian tradition*, Routledge, London. Seager Buddhism in America

**Sample of useful web resources**

Access to Insight - <http://www.accesstoinsight.org>

Buddhism A to Z - <http://buddhisma2z.com/>

Buddhanet ebooks - <http://www.buddhanet.net/ebooks.htm>

Buddhanet e-learning - <http://buddhanet.net/e-learning/index.htm>

DharmaWeb - [http://www.dharmaweb.org/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.dharmaweb.org/index.php/Main_Page)

Journal of Buddhist Ethics - <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/buddhistethics/>

Journal of Global Buddhism - <http://www.globalbuddhism.org>