

## SUBJECT OUTLINE

### SECTION 1 – SUBJECT SUMMARY

<b>Subject code and name</b>	<b>56G+&amp;%Buddhism, Environment and Sustainability</b>		
<b>Program</b>	Applied Buddhist Studies	<b>Credit points</b>	6
<b>Subject coordinator</b>	Michael Adam	<b>Duration</b>	5 weeks
<b>List of courses that will offer this subject</b>	Graduate Certificate in Applied Buddhist Studies Graduate Certificate in Health and Social Wellbeing Cross Institutional		
<b>Level</b>	Graduate		
<b>Indicate core or elective</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> core <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> elective for Graduate Certificate in Applied Buddhist Studies, Graduate Certificate in Health and Social Wellbeing and 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

This subject examines the relationship between Buddhist traditions, including contemporary Buddhist practice, and global issues in sustainability and environment. It explores both classic and new sources of Buddhist environmentalism, as well the position of environmentalism from other spiritual paths. Spiritual traditions have a key role in engaging creative responses to environmental and associated social challenges. This subject will analyse scales of Buddhist environmentalism from the global to the personal, and situate them in both local and global geographic contexts. The subject places emphasis both on theory and on practice: apart from the study and critical examination of primary and secondary sources on Buddhist environmentalism, students will participate in field activities examining local environmental issues

### 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 a broad and coherent knowledge of principal environmental issues and Buddhist environmental traditions
- 2) Analyse and evaluate information on fundamental premises involved in global and local issues in environment and sustainability
- 3) Review critically, analyse, consolidate and synthesize knowledge about the role and function of Buddhism in responding to environment and sustainability
- 4) Cognitive and creative skills to exercise critical thinking and judgement to reflect on the spectrum of attitudes and doctrinal beliefs on the environment, which have developed throughout the history of Buddhism in its many schools
- 5) Develop understanding of issues and challenges arising from contemporary applications of Buddhist beliefs and practices, related to environmental issues, in new contexts

### 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*

This subject examines the relationship between Buddhist traditions, including contemporary Buddhist practice, and global issues in sustainability and environment. It explores both classic and new sources of Buddhist environmentalism, as well the position of environmentalism from other spiritual paths. Spiritual traditions have a key role in engaging creative responses to environmental and associated social challenges. This subject will analyse scales of Buddhist environmentalism from the global to the personal, and situate them in both local and global geographic contexts. The subject places emphasis both on theory and on practice: apart from the study and critical examination of primary and secondary sources on Buddhist environmentalism, students will participate in field activities examining local environmental issues. The theoretical framework, which is accompanied by practical field sessions on local environmental issues included as appropriate in the time devoted to each topic, encompasses the following structure:

1. Introduction: The geographic context of the global environment (3 hrs)
2. A role for religion and belief? (3 hrs)
3. Indigenous and other paths (3 hrs)
4. What does Buddhism say about the environment? (3 hrs)
5. The Lotus Sutra; The Mountains And Rivers Sutra (3 hrs)
6. Engaged Buddhism (3 hrs)
7. Compassion and mindfulness (3 hrs)
8. Ethical Guidelines (3 hrs)
9. New paradigms (3 hrs)
10. The Buddha; The Dharma; The Sangha (4 hrs)

11. Buddhist practice and sustainability (3 hrs)
12. The global environment and Buddhism (3 hrs)
13. Personal responses within the Buddhist traditions to environmental challenges (3 hrs)

## 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)	
Class participation	Week 2	10%	(1), (2), (3), (4) (5)
Environmental Autobiography: Reflection (300 words)	Week 2	10%	(2), (5)
Field Work Assignment: mapping the Sangha (1,000 words)	Week 3	30%	(1), (2), (3)
Research paper (2,000 words)	Week 5	50%	(1), (2), (3), (4) (5)

## 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. Kaza, Stephanie, and Kenneth Kraft. *Dharma Rain: Sources of Buddhist environmentalism*. Shambhala Publications, 2000.
2. Badiner, Allan Hunt, ed. *Dharma Gaia: A harvest of essays in Buddhism and ecology*. Parallax Press, 1990.
3. Murphy, Susan. *Minding the Earth, mending the world: Zen and the art of Planetary Crisis*. Counterpoint, 2014.
4. Hanh, Thich. *Love Letter to the Earth*. Parallax Press, 2013.

Students are also expected to read relevant journals and magazines. The lecturer will provide guided readings and supplementary references to academic and professional articles of current interest in the study guide.

### Recommended Texts:

1. Barash, David P. *Buddhist Biology: Ancient Eastern wisdom meets modern Western science*. Oxford University Press, 2013.
2. Hanh, Thich Nhat. *Peaceful Action, Open Heart: Lessons from the Lotus Sutra*. Parallax Press, 2009.
3. Harvey, Peter, *An Introduction to Buddhism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
4. Kaza, Stephanie. *Mindfully Green*. Shambhala Publications, 2008.
5. Tucker, Mary Evelyn, and Duncan Ryuken Williams. "Buddhism and ecology: the interconnection of dharma and deeds." (1997).
6. Monbiot, George. *Feral: searching for enchantment on the frontiers of rewilding*. Penguin UK, 2013.
7. Marris, Emma. *Rambunctious Garden: saving nature in a post-wild world*. Bloomsbury Publishing USA, 2013.
8. Lane, Belden C. *Landscapes of the Sacred: Geography and narrative in American spirituality*. JHU Press, 2002.

### Online resources

Nourishing Terrains

<https://www.environment.gov.au/resource/nourishing-terrains>

Insight Meditation Centre:

<http://www.insightmeditationcenter.org/2013/09/caring-for-the-earth-as-buddhist-practice/>

Society for Conservation Biology

[https://conbio.org/images/content\\_groups/Religion/Bhuddism.pdf](https://conbio.org/images/content_groups/Religion/Bhuddism.pdf)

Western Buddhist Review

[http://www.westernbuddhistreview.com/vol2/ecological\\_self.html](http://www.westernbuddhistreview.com/vol2/ecological_self.html)