Lingnan University
Department of Philosophy – MA in Practical Philosophy Programme

Course Title: Buddhist Philosophy of Life
Course Code: PHI516
Recommended Study Year: -
No. of Credits/Term: 3
Mode of Tuition: Lecture and Tutorial
Class Contact Hours: 3
Category in Major Programme: Traditions and Practical Wisdom
Prerequisite(s): -
Co-requisite(s): -
Exclusion(s): -
Exemption Requirement(s): -

Brief Course Description
Buddhist Philosophy is neither deterministic nor libertarian. Buddhist thought aims to help clear up psychological problems. Buddhist wisdom enables the individual to overcome difficulties in his life. This course focuses on the basic characteristics of Buddhism, its philosophy of life, the conception of causality, the notions of subjectivity and non-subjectivity, Buddhist counselling and therapy, its theory of emancipation and enlightenment, the perfection of life (nirvana), wisdom of Prajñã, Buddha Land and Zen cases. The emphasis of the course is on the application of Buddhist Philosophy in our daily lives.

Aims
1. To provide students an understanding of the basic concepts in Buddhist Philosophy.
2. To explore the relevancy of the ideas of Buddhist Philosophy in our time.
3. To introduce the explanation of contemporary problems of human life from a Buddhist perspective and their resolutions that Buddhism suggests.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:
Grasp the core concepts in Buddhism;
Reflect on the meaning of Buddhism in contemporary society;
Understand the problems of human from a Buddhist view;
Confront daily issues with the Buddhist attitude in contemporary society;
Think critically about the meaning of life in light of the Buddhist wisdom.

Indicative Content
1. Suffering, its cause and its elimination.
2. The conception of causality
3. The eight noble path
4. Perfection of life
5. The distinction of Buddha and arahant
6. The spiritual practice in Buddhism
7. The application of Buddhist philosophy in daily life

Teaching Method
Lecture and Tutorial

Measurement of Learning Outcomes
1. Students will give an individual or group presentation. They are expected to be able to explain
the core concepts in Buddhism.
2. Students will write short essays concerning the contribution of Buddhism to modern society.
3. Student will write a term-end paper in which they are expected to explicate the philosophical considerations that Buddhism have in mind in developing their philosophies towards the problems of human.
4. Students are also expected to engage in in-class discussion or debate. In-class performance will be partly assessed and they are expected to show the result of exegetical and critical skills of their readings of the texts of Buddhist philosophy.

Assessment
Continuous assessment: 60%
Examination: 40%

Required Readings
周叔迦著，《佛教基本知識》，香港：中華書局，1991
弘學著，《人間佛陀與原始佛教》，成都：巴蜀書社 1998
中國社科院世界宗教研究所佛教室，《佛教文化顚面觀》，曲阜：齊魯書社，1989
陳文新著，《禪宗的人生哲學—頓悟人生》，敦煌：敦煌文藝出版社，1997
聖嚴法師著，《正信的佛教》，台北：東初出版社 1965
方立天著，《佛教哲學》，北京：中國人民大學出版社 1991
傅偉勳著，《佛教思想的現代探索》，台北：東大圖書，1995
鄭金德著，《現代佛學原理》，台北：東大圖書，1991
〔英〕關大民著，《當代學術入門佛學》，遼寧：遼寧教育出版社、牛津大學出版社，1998
周紹賢著，《佛學概論》，台北：台灣商務印書館，1990
于凌波著，《簡明佛學概論》，台北：東大圖書，1991
黃憲華著，《佛教各宗大綱》，台北：天華出版，1980

Supplementary Readings
陳沛然著，《佛家哲理通析》，台北：東大圖書，1993
陳沛然著，《佛法心靈清湯①因果、業報、命運》，香港：經要出版社，2004