

The Many Faces of Hawai'i Buddhism: Theravada Buddhist Traditions

Tuesday evenings, 630-830pm, 3 sessions, May 16, 23, 30

Buddhist Study Center Classroom

Instructor: Dr. Patricia Masters, University Hawaii Manoa

Course Objective

The primary goal of this course is to help students gain a basic understanding of the variety of forms found within Buddhism. Through the study of central objects of worship and their stories—this course will introduce the various beliefs and practices of one of the world's major religions. Looking at various Theravada Buddhisms in Hawai'i will enable students to place them into their proper contexts and explore some of the important issues that confront Buddhism today.

Course Learning Opportunities

By the end of the course we will have had the opportunity to:

- Examine the basic beliefs and practices of Buddhism.
- Develop an understanding and sense of appreciation for the unity and diversity of the various paths in Buddhism.
- Comprehend the historical context for and development of the Buddhist tradition.
- Describe the major forms and expressions in Buddhism.
- Evaluate critically and objectively the various issues and themes in Buddhism.

Textbook

There is no required textbook for the course. Suggested readings to further understanding:

“The World’s Religions”, Huston Smith

Class Etiquette

All questions and inquiries are welcome. There is no such thing as a “silly” question or irrelevant point of view so feel free to ask questions, comment on, or even challenge the material presented in class.

Class Schedule

- #1: TBD
- #2: TBD
- #3: TBD

Class schedule is subject to change and may be adapted to suit the interest of the course participants.