

# NEW214Y Socially Engaged Buddhism 2002-2003

Course Instructor: Henry Shiu  
Lectures: 2 hours a week

## Course objectives:

The course will introduce a comprehensive survey of Engaged Buddhism, which calls for the need to apply traditional Buddhist ethical and social teachings to improve our society. Focus will be on the issues of environmental protection and Buddhist ethics, the role of women in Buddhism, as well as contemporary movements in Vietnam, Tibet, China & Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and India.

## Required Texts:

- 1) Harvey, Peter. *An Introduction to Buddhist Ethics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- 2) Queen, Christopher, ed. *Engaged Buddhism in the West*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2000.
- 3) Queen, Christopher & King, Sallie B., eds., *Engaged Buddhism: Buddhist Liberation Movements in Asia*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1996.

## Recommended Readings:

- 2) Cabezón, José Ignacio, ed. *Buddhism, Sexuality, and Gender*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1985.
- 3) Eppsteiner, Fred, ed. *The Path of Compassion: Writings on Socially Engaged Buddhism*. Berkeley: Parallax Press, 1985.
- 4) Gross, Rita M. & Ruether, Rosemary Radford. *Religious Feminism and the Future of the Planet*. New York: The Continuum International Publishing Group Inc., 2001.
- 5) Havnevik, Hanna. *Tibetan Buddhist Nuns. History, Cultural Norms and Social Reality*. Oslo: Norwegian University Press, 1989.
- 6) Horner, I.B. *Women Under Primitive Buddhism, Laywomen and Almswomen*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1975.
- 7) Nhat Hanh, Thich. *Vietnam: Lotus in a Sea of Fire*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1967.
- 8) Page, Tony. *Buddhism and Animals*. London: UKAVIS Publications, 1999.
- 9) Sulak Sivaraksa. *A Buddhist Vision for Renewing Society*. Bangkok: Tahi Interreligious Commission for Development, 1994.
- 10) Tucker, Mary Evelyn & Williams, Duncan Ryuken. *Buddhism and Ecology*. Cambridge: Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions, 1997.
- 10) Ueki, Masatoshi. *Gender Equality in Buddhism*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing Inc., 2001.
- 11) Williams, Paul. *Buddhist Thought: A Complete Introduction to the Indian Tradition*. London: Routledge, 2000.

## Course Evaluation:

2 Tests (10% each):	20%
2 Essays:	40%
Participation:	10%
Final Exam:	30%

## Course Syllabus:

### Fall Term:

- Week 1 Introduction: The Social Environment for the Rise of Buddhism  
*Recommended Reading:* Williams, chapter 1
- Week 2 The Buddhist Worldview  
*Course text:* Harvey, chapter 2
- Week 3 The Rise of Engaged Buddhism  
*Course text:* Queen & King, chapter 1
- Week 4 Thich Nhat Hanh: “Vietnam: Lotus in a Sea of Fire”  
*Course text:* Queen & King, chapter 9
- Week 5 Tibetan Liberation Movement and the Dalai Lama  
*Course text:* Queen & King, chapter 8
- Week 6 T’ai-hsu, Yin-shun, and Hsing-yun: Humanistic Buddhism in China
- Week 7 The Vision of Sulak Sivaraksa  
*Course text:* Queen & King, chapter 6  
*Recommended Reading:* Sulak Sivaraksa
- Week 8 Buddhadasa Bhikkhu: “Servant of the Buddha”  
*Course text:* Queen & King, chapter 5
- Week 9 Shagharakshita’s Neo-traditional Buddhism in India  
*Course text:* Queen & King, chapter 3
- Week 10 Dr. Ambedkar: the Hermeneutics of Buddhist Liberation  
*Course text:* Queen & King, chapter 2
- Week 11 The Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement in Sri Lanka  
*Course text:* Queen & King, chapter 4
- Week 12 The Soka Gakkai  
*Course text:* Queen & King, chapter 10
- Week 13 **Test 1**

### Spring Term:

- Week 14 Engaged Buddhism in Europe, Africa, and Australia  
*Course text:* Queen, pp. 397-484
- First Essay Due**
- Week 15 The Role of Women in Buddhism and the Ordination Question  
*Course texts:* Queen, pp. 247-268; Queen & King, chapter 7  
*Recommended Readings:* Ueki, pp. 3-88; Cabezón, pp. 3-36
- Week 16 Feminine Principle in Tibetan Buddhism  
*Recommended Readings:* Gross (1998), pp. 187-198; Havnevik, chapter 2
- Week 17 Issues on Environmental Protection  
*Course text:* Queen, pp. 159-183  
*Recommended Reading:* Tucker & Williams, pp. 269-326
- Week 18 Buddhist Perspectives on Politics  
*Course text:* Queen, pp. 218-246
- (Reading Week)
- Week 19 Buddhist Ethics: moral and mental cultivation  
*Course texts:* Queen, pp. 307-327; Harvey, chapter 1

Week 20 Buddhist Economics

*Course texts:* Queen, pp. 372-398; Harvey, chapter 5

Week 21 Suicide and Euthanasia

*Course text:* Harvey, chapter 7

**Test 2**

Week 22 Abortion and Contraception

*Course text:* Harvey, chapter 8

Week 23 Non-violence and Peace

*Course texts:* Queen, pp. 35-94; Harvey, chapter 6

Week 24 Buddhist Vision of Humanity: On Animal Rights

*Recommended Readings:* Page, pp.63-118; Tucker & Williams, pp. 131-148

Week 25 Buddhist-Christian Dialogues

**Second Essay Due**

Week 26 Review