

**DRBU**  
**Master of Arts in Buddhist Classics**  
**Spring 2014 Course Schedule**

**BUCL 512**

3 units

Bhikshuni Heng Chih, Bhikshuni Jin Jr

Monday 2:00 – 3:30pm, Thursday, 9:00 - 10:30am

UB Conf Room

Extensive evidence for the Buddha's ideas and early teachings resides in the Pali canon. This seminar will focus on the Nikayas, part of a huge collection of texts translated into English from the Pali language. Using selections from the Nikayas, the class will explore central questions and key elements of the Buddhist experience. This is the second course in the Buddhist Classics Strand sequence.

**BUCL 522**

**Comparative Hermeneutics II**

3 units

Douglas Powers, Jessica Samuels, Ernest Waugh,

Tuesday 12:15 – 3:15 pm

UB Room 8

This seminar will explore contemporary trends and issues presented from the Western tradition of philosophy, science, humanities, and the arts and, where appropriate, show their possible reference to Buddhist texts. Particular attention is given to the question of how Buddhist classical texts might engage and inform new developments in modern science, philosophy, technology, and religion.

**BUCL 531****Buddhist Hermeneutics I**

3 units

Martin Verhoeven

TA: Bhikshuni Jin Jing, Stacy Chen

Monday 9:00 - 11:00am, Wed 9:10 – 11:10am

UB Conf Room

The first course of Buddhist hermeneutics will explore the theoretical and philosophical foundations of a Buddhist-centered hermeneutical discipline, its distinctive features, sources, framing, and rationale. Additional attention will be given to issues surrounding its contrast and comparison with Western hermeneutical models and the extent to which they can be appropriated for Buddhist study. Related topics will include: authenticity of texts, authority/authorship, contextualization, upaya, buddhavacana (lit. 'word of the Buddha'), open and closed canons, and the implications of the soteriological nature of Buddhist literature.

**BUCL 552****Sanskrit II – Beginning Sanskrit**

3 units

Bhikshuni Heng Hsien, Barbara Waugh

TA: Bhikshuni Jin Xiang

Tuesday 9-11 am, Wednesday 8-9 am, Lab: Thursday 3-5 PM

UB Room 8

This is the second of two semesters designed to introduce students to Sanskrit grammar and the basic skills needed to read and translate Sanskrit texts. Instruction will cover nominal composition, nominal derivation, and advanced topics in Sanskrit verbal and nominal formation. Students will learn to read, translate and interpret increasingly complex passages in prose and verse format. They will improve their knowledge of print and online resources and will familiarize themselves with Sanskrit methods for expanding vocabulary. Readings in Sanskrit will be based on important source texts from the predominant Indian Sanskrit traditions including the Lesser Amitābha Sūtra and the Rāmāyaṇa. Students need to have taken BUCL 551 or have permission of the instructor.