

Looking at Mind

Understanding the Mind as the Basis for the Path

An Advanced Buddhist Studies/Rime Shedra Course
Nine Tuesdays from May 19th through July 21 (omitting June 9)

Syllabus

1. Introduction and the Neuroscience Overview

- a. In Class Reading:
 - i. The Matter of the Mind, *The Mind and the Brain: Neuroplasticity and the Power of Mental Force*, Jeffrey Schwartz and Sharon Begley, pp. 19-20 and 28-32
 - ii. Excerpt from The Noumenon in the Tathagata Store, from *The Surangama Sutra*, Translated by Lu K'uan Yu, pp. 4-21
- b. *The Quest for Consciousness*, Christof Koch, excerpts:
 - i. Introduction to the Study of Consciousness, pp. 1-11
 - ii. Two Conscious Minds in One Body, pp. 291-294

2. Abhidharma, Part One

- a. The Construction of Mindfulness, Andrew Olendzki, *Contemporary Buddhism*, Vol. 12, No. 1, May 2011, pp. 55-69
- b. Asian Perspectives: Indian Theories of Mind, *Cambridge Handbook of Consciousness*, Georges Dreyfus and Evan Thompson:
 - i. Abstract; Introduction; Self & Mental States: A Samkya View, pages 89-93
 - ii. The Abhidharma Tradition & Its View of Mind, pages 89-101
- c. Charts:
 - i. Adhidharma: The Nature of Mind and Emotions, two pages
 - ii. Mind and Its Functions: the Basic Mandala, one page
 - iii. The Seventy Five Dharmas

3. Abhidharma, Part Two

- a. The Cognitive Process, *The Theravada Abhidhamm: Its Inquiry into the Nature of Conditional Reality*, by Y. Karunadasa, pp. 138-151
- b. Excerpts from *The Selfless Mind: Personality, Consciousness and Nirvana in Early Buddhism*, Peter Harvey:
 - i. The Functions of Discernment in the Abhidhamma 'Process of Cittas', pp. 145-146
 - ii. The Roles of Bhavanga, pp. 162-165
 - iii. Appendix: The Theory of the Process of the Cittas, pp. 252-258

4. Pramana, Part One

- a. Introduction, Elizabeth Napper, *Mind in Tibetan Buddhism*, Lati Rinpoche, page

11 and pp. 15-39

- b. Asian Perspectives: Indian Theories of Mind, *Cambridge Handbook of Consciousness*, Georges Dreyfus and Evan Thompson:
 - i. Buddhist Epistemology; Conclusion, pages 101-111

5. Pramana, Part Two

- a. *Understanding the Mind*, Geshe Kelsang Gyatso, excerpts, pp. 16-60
- b. **Optional:** Conceptual Thought, *Knowledge and Liberation*, Anne Klein:
 - i. Objects of Thought, pp. 115-121
 - ii. Conceptual Error, pp. 126-130
 - iii. Thought and Direct Perception, pp. 130-134

6. Yogacara, Part One

- a. The Thirty Verses (Vimshatika) by Vasubandhu, 4 pages
- b. Analysis of the Verses, *Buddhist Phenomenology*, by Dan Lusthaus, pp. 321-322
- c. Analysis of the Thirty Verses in the WSSSL, *Treatise in Thirty Verses on Mere-Consciousness*, Swati Ganguly, pp. 25-33
- d. **Optional:** Excerpts from Yogacara, *Mahayana Buddhism: the Doctrinal Foundations*, Paul Williams, pp. 97-102
- e. *Living Yogacara: An Introduction to Consciousness-only Buddhism*, by Tagawa Shun'ei, excerpts, pp. 11-18

7. Yogacara, Part Two

- a. *Living Yogacara: An Introduction to Consciousness-only Buddhism*, by Tagawa Shun'ei, excerpts, pp. 19-60

8. Tantra, Part One

- a. Causes and Conditions, *The Profound Inner Principles*, Rangjung Dorje and Jamgon Kongtrul, excerpt from The Nature of Mind, pp. 105-125

9. Tantra, Part Two

- a. The Concept of Mind in Buddhist Tantrism, *Tibetan Buddhism in Western Perspective*, by Herbert V. Guenther, excerpt, pp. 36-47
- b. The rDzogs chen sNying thig Analysis of Mind, *The Philosophical Foundations of Classical rDzogs chen in Tibet*, David Higgins, excerpt, pp. 62-74