

Special Topics: Buddhism and Medicine**Instructor:** Justin B. Stein**Email:** justin.stein@kpu.ca**Class time:** Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:50 pm, Fir 324**Office hours:** Thursdays, 4–5 pm, Surrey Main 2850A

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Across Asia and, increasingly, around the world, Buddhism has provided people with resources to understand illness and healing for thousands of years. Buddhist traditions have intersected with therapies and treatments including magic, meditation, and biomedicine, generally taking a holistic approach that considers physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health to be deeply interconnected. In this course, students will learn about the history and diversity of Buddhist approaches to medicine while engaging in fieldwork at Buddhist sites to help construct a map of Buddhist medicine in the Lower Mainland.

TEXTS: This course is in line with KPU's Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) program. The main text – C. Pierce Salguero's *A Global History of Buddhism and Medicine* (2022) – is available as an e-book through the KPU Library website. All other readings will be provided electronically through the course Moodle page.

DIVERSITY & ACCESSIBILITY: Students with [diverse identities](#), learning styles, and needs are welcome in this course. If you need any accommodations, please let me and [Accessibility Services](#) know about your needs so we can help you succeed in this course (access@kpu.ca, 604-599-2828).

CONTACT: I generally reply to all emails within 24 hours, but sometimes take longer on a holiday or over the weekend). I want to help you succeed in this course, so please make use of my office hours (listed above) and reach out with any questions or concerns, but please first double-check that the answer to your question is not already answered on the syllabus. I am also available to meet via MS Teams or Zoom by appointment.

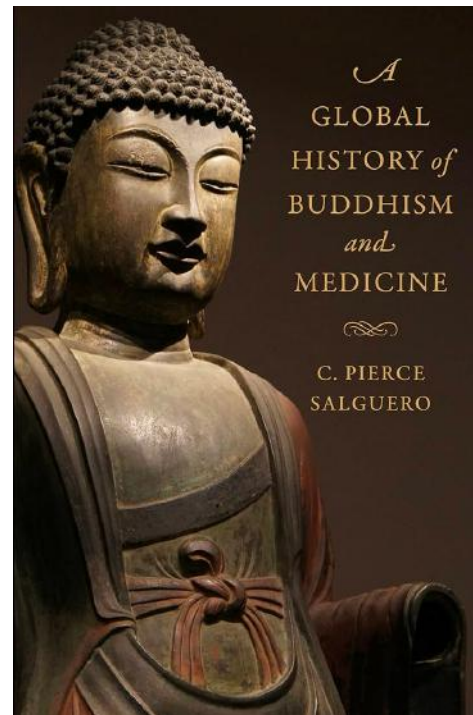


Image: statue of the Medicine Buddha 藥師如來 from 9th-10th c. Korea

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Student who successfully complete the course will have reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Critically evaluate the interconnections between Buddhism and medicine in various regions of Asia as well as in communities outside of Asia
- Critically analyze primary and secondary sources at an advanced level
- Conduct original research on the types of Buddhist medicine at work in the Lower Mainland
- Use digital tools, including (but not limited to) StoryMapJS, TimelineJS, and WordPress, to share their research findings in an accessible and engaging manner

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is fundamental to scholarship. The cornerstone of original research is distinguishing between one's own words and ideas and those of others. It is essential that all sources are real, represented appropriately, and cited properly. *All work submitted in this course must be generated specifically for this course* (i.e., not submitted for more than one course without permission), *by the student who submits it* (i.e., not copy-and-pasted from the internet, or written by anyone else including friends, colleagues, "editors," **or AI chatbots like ChatGPT or GrammarlyGO**). Paraphrasing improperly can also be a form of plagiarism; [here](#) is an explanation of how to avoid plagiarism when you paraphrase. **Assignments that include plagiarism will be marked zero and referred to the Dean's office.** For more clarification, please consult KPU's [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#), the document [Understanding Academic Honesty](#), or contact me.

STUDENT CONDUCT: In this course, we will be discussing the deeply-held beliefs of others, including the beliefs and opinions of our classmates. It is imperative that we learn to discuss the beliefs of others (which we may disagree with) in a respectful manner. Abusive, threatening, or demeaning language will not be tolerated. The [University](#) has [policies](#) that students conduct themselves in a manner that values respect, safety, civility, inclusiveness, and freedom from harassment and discrimination. If you feel that I or a fellow student is not treating you in this way, please let me know privately, through email, in office hours, or through appointment.

Image: Medicine Buddha (Bhaiṣajyaguru, 2005) at Songdhammakalyani Monastery, Nakhonpathom, Thailand



ASSIGNMENTS AND MARKING: Like all courses at KPU, this course is marked according to the following scale:

Grade	Grade Points	CNVR Scale	Definition
A+	4.33	90–100	Exceptional achievement
A	4.00	85–89	Outstanding achievement
A-	3.67	80–84	Excellent achievement
B+	3.33	76–79	Very good achievement
B	3.00	72–75	Good achievement
B-	2.67	68–71	Good achievement
C+	2.33	64–67	Satisfactory achievement
C	2.00	60–63	Satisfactory achievement
C-	1.67	56–59	Minimal achievement – this grade does not permit student to pursue another course for which the graded course was a prerequisite
D	1.00	50–55	Minimal achievement – this grade does not permit student to pursue another course for which the graded course was a prerequisite
F	0	0–49	Unsatisfactory achievement – did not meet minimum course requirements

This mark will be generated based on the following assignments:

Attendance and Participation (30%): As a fourth-year seminar, coming to class having completed the readings and participating in our discussions is crucial to your success in this course. It is [University policy](#) that students attend classes regularly and arrive on time. Absences are expected to be made up by watching the recording of the synchronous discussion and writing in the asynchronous discussion forum and/or the weekly feedback section.

Each class session from Week 1 to Week 11, your participation will be assessed on a scale from 0 (no participation) to 3 (excellent) based on a combination of: engagement in our in-class meetings on Thursday afternoons; & participating in the asynchronous discussion forum and/or the weekly feedback section by Sunday night. A rubric describing what constitutes quality participation is on the class Moodle page. Your lowest mark will be dropped.

In-class presentation (20%): Over the course of the semester, we will all be reading the book *A Global History of Buddhism and Medicine* by C. Pierce Salguero. Dr. Salguero has also edited two anthologies that collect primary sources. Between Weeks 7 & 11, students will present primary sources from the anthologies that illustrate the week’s reading. Further information and examples will be provided.

Research project (total of 50%, divided up below)

This semester, you will work with a team of colleagues to create a contribution to the [Global Buddhist Medicine](#) page at *The Jivaka Project*, which will be the first entries representing Canada. Each team will research a particular site in the Lower Mainland and create a webpage using WordPress. Other tools such as StoryMapJS, TimelineJS, etc., may be integrated as well.. More detailed instructions and criteria will be distributed in Week 3 (January 25), but the basic outline is:

- Progress report (5%), due Sunday, February 25

- you can collaborate, but each team member submits their own

- Rough draft (5%), due April 4

- your team will bring a rough draft of your project to a meeting with Dr. Justin on April 4

- Presentation (10%), due April 11

- Final project (20%), self/peer evaluation (10%), due April 11

- Along with the final draft of your project, you will submit a worksheet that assesses how you and your team members performed on the project

EARLY ALERT SYSTEM: During the course of the semester, if I am concerned about your progress, I may use the [Early Alert Response System \(EARS\)](#) to connect you with student services who will work with you to find additional resources or supports that may increase your chances of success. Such assistance may include putting you in touch with an academic advisor, a tutor, financial aid, a counsellor or another faculty member. Please be advised that this information is treated confidentially and is sent because I care about your progress and success in this course.

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Image: healing votive plaques (*gankake fuda* 願掛け札) at Tanukidani-san Fudōin 狸谷山不動院, Kyoto, Japan, photo by the instructor



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: *This schedule is open to revision, which will be announced in the synchronous meeting and via the class Moodle page*

		Unit 1:	Basic history and themes of Buddhist medicine
Week 1	January	11	Course overview (Introduction)
Week 2		18	Nikāya Buddhism (Ch. 1)
Week 3		25	Mahāyāna Buddhism (Ch. 2)
Week 4	February	1	Tantric Buddhism (Ch. 3)
Week 5		8	Field trip / guest lecturer?
Week 6		15	Themes in the Study of Buddhism and Medicine (Ch. 4)
No class - Reading Week			
<u>Project update due Sunday, February 25</u>			
		Unit 2:	Contemplating Buddhist medical processes and texts
Week 7		29	Circulations (Ch. 5)
Week 8	March	7	Translations (Ch. 6)
Week 9		14	Localizations (Ch. 7)
Week 10		21	Modernizations (Ch. 8)
Week 11		28	Contemporary Buddhist Medicine (Ch. 9 & Conclusion)
		Unit 3:	Presenting original research in Buddhism & medicine
Week 12	April	4	Group meetings with Dr. Justin <u>Project rough drafts due</u>
Week 13		11	Group presentations <u>Peer evaluations, self evaluations, and final projects due</u>

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: At KPU, we work, study, and live in a region south of the Fraser River which overlaps with the unceded traditional and ancestral lands of the Kwantlen, Musqueam, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Qayqayt and Kwikwetlem peoples.