

DVPR 41700 [= SALC 48317]:
Readings in Madhyamaka

Winter term, 2020
Swift Hall 200
Thursdays, 2:00-4:50

Instructor: Dan Arnold

Office hours: Swift 401A, **Wednesdays, 3:00-5:00 pm** (or by arrangement); sign-up sheet for appointments during regular office hours is with Julia Ivory-Woods (773-702-7049) in the Martin Marty Center

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Objectives and requirements of the course: In this seminar, we will take a number of soundings in India's Madhyamaka tradition of Buddhist philosophy, mostly by way of selections from the instructor's forthcoming anthology of original translations. All readings are (or will soon be) on reserve at Regenstein Library; most can be accessed electronically from the course's Canvas website (look under "Library Reserves"). In addition to exhibiting regular attendance and spirited participation in discussion, students will be required to write a final paper of moderate length (15-20 pages), engaging some aspect of Madhyamaka thought, and/or issues or thinkers overlapping with the world of concerns evinced in our text(s); the paper will be **due Friday, March 20**. N.b.: *Late papers will not be accepted without prior notice.*

Weekly readings (*generally listed in order of priority*):

Week 1 (Thursday, January 9): Course introduction; no required reading. **Recommended** background readings and orientation: **Mark Siderits**, "Madhyamaka: The Doctrine of Emptiness" (= *Buddhism as Philosophy*, pp.180-207); **Paul Williams**, "Mahayana Philosophy" (= *Buddhist Thought*, pp.131-152); **Dan Arnold**, "Madhyamaka" (Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy <<https://www.iep.utm.edu/b-madhya/>>includes bibliography)

Week 2 (Thursday, January 16): Buddhist "Personalism" (*pudgalavāda*): **Paul Williams**, "Pudgalavāda"; **Matthew Kapstein**, "Early Buddhist Scholasticism and the Personalist Controversy" (= "Self and Personal Identity in Indian Buddhist Scholasticism," pp.88-112); **Amber Carpenter**, "Persons Keeping Their Karma Together: The Reasons for the Pudgalavāda in Early Buddhism"; from the Pāli *Kathāvatthu*, "Of the Existence of a Personal Entity"; **James Duerlinger**, "Vasubandhu's *Abhidharmakośa*: The Critique of the Pudgalavādins' Theory of Persons"; **Leonard Priestley**, "The Reality of the Pudgala"; **Bhikshu Thích Thiên Châu**, selections from *The Literature of the Personalists of Early Buddhism*; **Joseph Walser**, *Nāgārjuna in Context*, pp.188-223; **Lance Cousins**, "Person and Self"; **Tillman Vetter**, "On the Authenticity of the *Ratnāvalī*"

Week 3 (Thursday, January 23): Selections from the tradition's foundational text: **Nāgārjuna**, *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā*, chapters 1-2, 10, 24 (for chapters 1-2 and 10, see Mark Siderits and Shoryu Katsura, "Mūlamadhyamakakārikā I-X"; for chapter 24, see Siderits and Katsura, "An Analysis of the Noble Truths" [= *Nāgārjuna's Middle Way*,

pp.267-288]). **Recommended:** Jan Westerhoff, “The Madhyamaka Concept of Svabhāva: Ontological and Cognitive Aspects”

Week 4 (Thursday, January 30): Nāgārjuna’s hymns of praise: **Nāgārjuna**, “Four Hymns of Praise” (*Catuhstava*, trans. Dan Arnold). **Recommended:** Graham Priest, “The Structure of Emptiness”

Week 5 (Thursday, February 6): Nāgārjuna’s appendix to the *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā*: **Nāgārjuna**, “Dispatching Objections” (*Vigrahavyāvartanī*, trans. Dan Arnold). **Recommended:** David Seyfort Ruegg, “Does the Mādhyamika Have a Thesis and Philosophical Position?”

Week 6 (Thursday, February 13): Madhyamaka meets logic and epistemology: **Bhāviveka**, Selections from chapter three of *Verses on the Heart of the Middle Way* with auto-commentary, *The Light of Reason (Madhyamakahrdayakārikā with Tarkajvāla*, trans. Dan Arnold). **Recommended:** William Ames, “Bhāvaviveka’s Own View of His Differences with Buddhapālita”

Week 7 (Thursday, February 20): Candrakīrti pushes back: **Candrakīrti**, selections from *Prolegomenon to the Middle Way (Madhyamakāvātāra*, trans. Dan Arnold). **Recommended:** Kevin Vose, “The Indian Discovery of Candrakīrti”; C. W. Huntington, *The Emptiness of Emptiness: An Introduction to Early Indian Mādhyamika*; William Ames, “The Notion of ‘Svabhāva’ in the Thought of Candrakīrti”; Mattias Salvini, “*Upādāyaprajñaptiḥ* and the Meaning of Absolutives”

Week 8 (Thursday, February 27): **Śāntarākṣita**, “Embellishment of the Middle Way” (*Madhyamakālaṃkāra*, trans. Dan Arnold). **Recommended:** James Blumenthal, *The Ornament of the Middle Way: A Study of the Madhyamaka Thought of Shantarakṣita*

Week 9 (Thursday, March 5): The gradual path to awakening as promulgated in Tibet: **Kamalaśīla**, “The Stages of Cultivation” (selections from *Bhāvanākrama I*, trans. Dan Arnold). **Recommended:** José Cabezón, “The Canonization of Philosophy and the Rhetoric of Siddhānta in Tibetan Buddhism”

Week 10 (Thursday, March 12): Madhyamaka and Buddhist ethics: **Śāntideva**, “Considering Oneself as the Same as Others” (selections from *Bodhicaryāvatāra* chapter 8, trans. Dan Arnold). **Recommended:** Selections from The Cowherds, *Moonpaths: Ethics and Emptiness*

Papers due Friday, March 20!