Instructors: Dan Arnold (d-arnold@uchicago.edu), Matthew Kapstein (mkapstei@midway.uchicago.edu), Christian Wedemeyer (wedemeyer@uchicago.edu)

This course is devoted to the close textual and philosophical study of a seminal text in the Idealist tradition of Indian Buddhist thought, the Viṃśātikā of Vasubandhu. The Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Chinese versions will be consulted, together with the commentaries and relevant secondary studies.

**Texts:** The following texts, available on reserve at Regenstein (and many of them on e-reserve), will constitute the basic readings for the course:

- **Sanskrit edition:** Sylvain Lévi, ed., Viṃśātikātratāsidhi: Deux Traités de Vasubandhu: Viṃśātikā (La Vingtaine), Accompagnée d’une explication en prose, et Triṃśātikā (La Trentaine), avec le Commentaire de Sthiramati (Paris: Librairie Ancienne Honoré Champion, 1925). The Viṃśātikā is at pp.1-11 of this volume.


- **Tibetan edition:** N. Aiyaswami Sastri, Viṃśātikā Viṃśātikātratāsidhī, ṅam pa rig pa tsam du grub pa ni su pa, with introduction, notes and an index verborum (Gangtok: Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, 1964). This has the Sanskrit (basically from Lévi’s edition) and Tibetan texts on facing pages.


**Translations:** While our aim is to consult primarily the texts in original languages, the following translations may be consulted occasionally:


In addition, we will be consulting a fair amount of secondary literature, chiefly of a philosophical sort. The secondary readings will include both works concerned with the interpretation of Vasubandhu’s arguments, and some modern philosophical works that may prove useful in thinking through these arguments in a comparative way. These readings are available on reserve. Some such readings represent recommendations to be pursued based on student interest; others will be assigned as we progress through the text. The following such texts can usefully be read at the beginning of the term, by way of orientation:

- Dan Lusthaus, “A Retrospective of Western Yogacara Scholarship in the 20th Century” (http://www.acmuller.net/yogacara/ISCP_99_Yogacara_retro2.html).

**Course requirements:** In addition to regular attendance and participation, students registered for the course will be required to complete a term paper, on a topic to be determined in consultation with the instructors. The paper may be philosophical in orientation (that is, concerned chiefly with the exegesis, critique, and/or advancement of some of Vasubandhu’s arguments), or historical. Alternatively, students may elect to develop a detailed, annotated bibliography of sources relevant to some such study. Final projects will be due at the end of the term.