

DVPR 605 51800
(Ident. HREL 51800/SALC 48304)
The Twenty Verses of Vasubandhu
Winter Term, 2006
Swift Hall 403
Tuesdays, 2:00-4:50

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 *Vimśatikā* 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., *Vijñaptimātratāsiddhi: Deux Traités de Vasubandhu: Vimśatikā (La Vingtaine), Accompagnée d'une explication en prose, et Trimśikā (La Trentaine), avec le Commentaire de Sthiramati* (Paris: Librairie Ancienne Honoré Champion, 1925). **The Vimśatikā is at pp.1-11 of this volume.**

N.B.! Lévi subsequently published corrections to this edition, and his text is therefore to be read with the corrections: "Corrections au Texte Sanscrit," in Sylvain Lévi, *Un système de philosophie bouddhique: Matériaux pour l'Étude du Système Vijñaptimātra*, p.175 (Paris: Honoré Champion, 1932).

See also, as an aid to the use of Lévi's edition, André Bareau, "Index of Vimśatikā and Trimśatikā of Vasubandhu," *Vak* 3 (1953):102-128.

Tibetan edition: N. Aiyaswami Sastri, *Vimśatikā Vijñaptimātratāsiddhi, rNam par rig pa tsam du grub pa ñi 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.

Chinese edition: Clarence Herbert Hamilton, *Wei Shih Er Lun, or, The Treatise in Twenty Stanzas on Representation-Only* (New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1938).

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

Sylvain Lévi, "La Vingtaine," in *Un système de philosophie bouddhique: Matériaux pour l'Étude du Système Vijñaptimātra*, pp.43-59 (Paris: Honoré Champion, 1932).

Thomas A. Kochumuttom, *A Buddhist Doctrine of Experience: A New Translation and Interpretation of the Works of Vasubandhu the Yogācārin* (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1982), pp.164-196. (Translated from Sanskrit.)

Clarence Herbert Hamilton, *Wei Shih Er Lun, or, The Treatise in Twenty Stanzas on Representation-Only* (New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1938). (Translated from the Chinese.)

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:

King, Richard, "*Vijñaptimātratā* and the Abhidharma Context of Early Yogācāra," *Asian Philosophy* 8/1 (1998): 5-17.

Masaaki Hattori, "Yogācāra," in Mircea Eliade, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Religion* (New York: Macmillan, 1987), vol. 15, pp.523-529

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

Dan Lusthaus, "What Is and Isn't Yogacara" (<http://www.acmuller.net/yogacara>).

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.