**Course Code**  | **BSTD 203**
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**Course Title**  | **Fundamentals of Buddhist Philosophy**
**Semester, Year**  | **Fall 2024**
**Schedule: class day & time**  | **Monday and Wednesday 9:45am-11:15am**
**Required text(s)**  | The readings for this course are available in an electronic reader that can be accessed via a Dropbox link after the first day of class. If you wish to have a hard copy of the reader, please inform me before the first week of class.
**Optional Readings**  | Will be supplied through Teams

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the fundamental categories, doctrines, and problems of Buddhist philosophy as presented in the early canon(s) and the Theravāda and Sarvastivāda Abhidharma traditions, with an emphasis on historical development. It also introduces students to the modern academic study of Buddhist philosophy and its various methodological perspectives. The central topic will be the teaching on no-self, how it pertains to practice, and to other important topics such as dependent origination, karma, rebirth, psychology, meditation, dharma theory as well as modern philosophy. The course also helps students to develop the skills necessary to interpret and critically assess primary and secondary sources and to write academic essays. Students are expected to memorize several key lists around which Buddhist doctrines are organized as well as several English, Pāli and Sanskrit terms critical to the study of Buddhist philosophy in modern academia.

**Learning Outcomes**

Students who complete this course successfully will have gained a solid grasp of the fundamental concepts and doctrines of early Buddhist thought as well as their development over time, a rich conceptual vocabulary for further study in Buddhist philosophy, and improved skills of oral and written interpretation and analysis.

**Course Requirements**

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<th>How do I succeed in the course?</th>
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<td>To receive credit for this course, you must attend no less than 80% of classes. In other words, you must attend at least 20 out of the 25 classes. If you are more than 10 minutes late, this will...</td>
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Your final grade for the course will be based on the following elements:

1. Class Participation: 14% of the final grade.
2. Four Writing Assignments: 36% of the final grade (specific dates to be announced)
3. Final Exam: 50% of the final grade.