

Buddhism

(Week 6, begins Feb. 16)

Falls

Part I: Who (or what) is the Buddha?

The Historical Buddha

Human, God, or What?

Past Lives of the Buddha

Śākyamuni's Life Story

Part II: Central Doctrines

Four Truths

Eightfold Path

Three Marks of Existence

The Twelve Links of Dependent Origination

Selflessness

Two Truths

Meditation

Part III: Buddhist Cosmology

A Closer Look at Karma

Six Rebirths

Three Realms of Existence

Part IV: Rise of the Mahāyāna [if there is time]

Not a Schism or Sect

Nāgārjuna

The Perfection of Wisdom Sūtras

Cosmic Buddhas

The Bodhisattva Ideal: Altruistic Compassion

Buddha Nature

Emptiness

Technical Vocabulary

saṃsāra—cyclic existence

Dharma—Buddha’s Teaching

dharma—ultimately real thing

duḥkha—suffering

nirvāṇa—cessation of suffering

anātman—selflessness

pratītya-samutpāda—dependent origination

twelve links of dependent arising:

- avidyā (ignorance)
- saṃskāra (karmic predispositions)
- vijñāna (consciousness)
- nāma-rūpa (name & bodily form)
- āyatana (sense organs)
- sparśa (contact between object & sense organ)
- vedanā (feeling)
- tṛṣṇā (craving)
- upādāna (repetition)
- bhava (habit)
- jāti (birth)
- jarā-maraṇa (sickness & death)

[the following are Mahāyāna terms which we may not get to]

bodhisattva—one who strives to become a Buddha

śūnyatā—emptiness

tathāgatagarbha—Buddha Nature, literally:

“The Womb of the Thus Gone One”