Religious Studies *714
Topics in Indian Buddhist Texts: Daily Life in India from around the Turn of the Common Era Onwards
McMaster University, Term 1 (Fall), 2016–2017

Time: Fridays, 8:30–10:30 am

Instructor: Shayne Clarke
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Office: University Hall 118
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 16:45–17:45, or by appointment

Course Objectives:
This course is designed to provide an overview of select sources available for the study of daily life in Indian Buddhist monasteries. Students will be introduced to a wide range of research tools and approaches (including archaeological, art-historical, epigraphical, literary, and textual) in the study of Indian Buddhism. Students will also be expected to become familiar with a variety of Buddhist texts. In addition to a research essay, students may be required to submit short (1–2 page), critical response papers on a regular basis, and occasional assignments relating to the use of specialised research tools.

Course Requirements and Grading:
Please come to class prepared to discuss the week’s readings (see separate handout). One student will be assigned to lead the discussion of each reading; there will be multiple readings each week. The main requirement for this course is a seminar paper on some topic dealing with Buddhist monasticism. The paper will be due on Tuesday, December 13th. A first draft of the paper should be submitted by Friday, November 11th. Students will give oral presentations of their research on Friday, December 2nd (and possibly Nov. 25, depending on student numbers).

Class presentations and participation: 20%
Seminar Paper: 80%

Background reading:
DS 425.A89 V1E
Tentative Schedule

**Week 1:** Introduction  
September 16

**Week 2:**  
September 23  
**Reading:**


**Week 3:**  
**September 30—Instructor away at conference**

**Week 4:** Monastic Law Codes  
October 7  
**Reading:**


**Week 5:**  
**October 14: midterm recess**

**Week 6:** Art-history: Bharhut  
October 21  
**Reading:**


or: http://tinyurl.com/32rpcp
**Week 7: Inscriptions**

October 28


**Week 8: Central Asia**

November 4

**Reading:**


**Week 9: Sanskrit Dramas**

November 11

**Reading:**


**Week 10: Chinese Pilgrims**

November 18

**Reading:**


Week 11: Graffiti

November 25

Reading:


Week 12: Oral presentations & Conclusions

December 2