Course Description, Objectives, and Student Learning Outcomes: This course will examine the fundamental themes and principles of Buddhist philosophy, beginning with the early life experiences of Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha), continuing through the historical development of the Theravada (Hinayana) and Mahayana schools of Buddhism, and culminating in the philosophy and way-of-life of Zen Buddhism. The primary objective of the course is threefold: (1) To learn to see the world through the eyes of the Buddhist yogi; (2) To understand how to appropriate Buddhist wisdom, compassion, and peace in our daily lives; (3) To determine whether or not the wisdom of Buddhism is perennial – that is, can it come alive and be meaningful for us in the 21st century?

As a course in intellectual history, the follow broad objectives follow: (1) Impart the values of intellectual integrity and honesty; (2) Develop respect for the materials of historical inquiry; (3) Foster a capacity for dialogue with the past; (4) Engender an understanding of good scholarly technique and practice.

Course Requirements: Two short papers (about 6 pages each); One art project; Assigned readings must be read prior to class; Class participation is strongly encouraged; Attendance is mandatory.

Course Determinants: Each paper: 35% (a total of 70%); The art project: 10%; Attendance and class participation: 20%.
**Required Texts:**

Eknath Easwaran, *The Dhammapada*

Thich Nhat Hanh, *Our Appointment with Life: The Buddha’s Teaching on Living in the Present*

Thich Nhat Hanh, *The Heart of Understanding: Commentaries on the Prajnaparimita Heart Sutra*

Chogyam Trungpa, *The Heart of the Buddha*

Shunryu Suzuki, *Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind*

**Class Schedule**

Sept 6 – Introduction to the History of Buddhism

Sept 13 – Fundamental principles of Buddhist Philosophy/ Meditation

Sept 20 – The Four Noble Truths/ The Theravada and Mahayana Schools

Sept 27 – *The Dhammapada*

Oct 4 – *Our Appointment With Life*

Oct 11 -- *The Heart of Understanding* (Hand out 1st paper)

Oct 18 -- Thich Nhat Hanh DVD: *Peace is Every Step*

Oct 25 -- *The Heart of the Buddha (Taking Refuge)* (1st paper due)

Nov 1 -- *The Heart of the Buddha (The Bodhisattva Vow)*

Nov 8 -- Introduction to Zen Buddhism (** Class will be held in M 225 Main Bldg**)

Nov 15 -- *Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind* (Hand out 2nd paper)

Nov 22 -- Class visitation: Buddhist Monks

Nov 29 -- Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 6 -- Art presentations (2nd paper due)

Dec 13 -- Art presentations

Dec 20 -- Last class

**Americans with Disabilities Act**
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Learning Resource Center at **410-225-2416**, in Bunting 458, to establish eligibility and coordinate reasonable accommodations.

**Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)**
It is the responsibility of faculty and students to follow health and safety guidelines relevant to their individual activities, processes, and to review MICA's Emergency Action Plan and attend EHS training. It is each faculty member’s responsibility to coordinate with the EHS Office to ensure that all risks associated with their class activities are identified and to assure that their respective classroom procedures mirror the EHS and Academic Department guidelines. Each of these policies and procedures must be followed by all students and faculty. Most importantly, faculty are to act in accordance with all safety compliance, state and federal, as employees of this college and are expected to act as examples of how to create art in a way to minimize risk, and reduce harm to themselves and the environment. Faculty must identify and require appropriate personal protective equipment for each art making process, for each student, in all of their classes, when applicable. Students are required to purchase personal protection equipment appropriate for their major. Those students who do not have the proper personal protection equipment will not be permitted to attend class until safe measures and personal protection are in place.

**Plagiarism**
Each discipline within the arts has specific and appropriate means for students to cite or acknowledge sources and the ideas and material of others used in their own work. Students have the responsibility to become familiar with such processes and to carefully follow their use in developing original work.

**Policy**
MICA will not tolerate plagiarism, which is defined as claiming authorship of, or using someone else's ideas or work without proper acknowledgment. Without proper attribution, a student may NOT replicate another's work, paraphrase another's ideas, or appropriate images in a manner that violates the specific rules against plagiarism in the
student's department. In addition, students may not submit the same work for credit in more than one course without the explicit approval of all of the instructors of the courses involved.

Consequences
When an instructor has evidence that a student has plagiarized work submitted for course credit, the instructor will confront the student and impose penalties that may include failing the course. In the case of a serious violation or repeated infractions from the same student, the instructor will report the infractions to the department chair. Depending on the circumstances of the case, the department chair may then report the student to the Office of Academic Affairs, which may choose to impose further penalties, including suspension or expulsion.