Thesis (B.A): Not-self Doctrine in the Āgama-sūtra (I)

Course Description:

Based on this being a philosophy course, this course will train students to reflect on philosophical topics, particularly those concerning the great questions of life. By interpreting and reflecting on the解脱 teachings in the Āgama-sūtra, students will cultivate the ability to engage in the sagacity of the myriad phenomena and the changeable life world, especially focusing on the distinction between self and non-self.

Course Objectives:

Upon completing this course, students are expected to have the following points of growth:

1. Understand the great questions of Buddhist philosophy, particularly some key concepts, such as impermanence, dependent origination, emptiness, non-self, and non-duality.
2. Have a stronger ability to reflect and criticize when placing religious traditions in a temporal perspective.
3. Cultivate the ability to analyze Buddhist teachings and practice.
4. Have the ability to read and reflect on the Āgama-sūtra.
5. Enhance students' writing and expression skills.

Course Requirements:

Preparation and reading materials, class reports, questions, discussions, and assignments.

Discussions in class: Asking questions, raising concerns and offering your own ideas in discussions are crucial components of the learning process. The overall degree of intellectual engagement you demonstrate in the course will be assessed, focusing on the extent to which you are an active, informed, stimulating participant in class discussions.

Texts and Readings:

Reading materials, as listed in the course schedule, will be provided in class.

Evaluation:平时上课 60%、期末报告 40%。

The course requires the submission of an 8-page final report.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 2013/09/13 [Chapter Topic]: Introduction and Syllabus

Additional selected readings

*Bhikkhu Bodhi (ed.), In the Buddha’s Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pāli Canon, Boston: Wisdom, 2005.
第 2 週 2013/09/20 [單元主題]：放假 Holiday

第 3 週 2013/09/27 [單元主題]：The Characteristic of Nonself
* 〈《無我相經》中、巴對讀分析〉，《轉法輪經、無我相經》（新北：慈善精舍, 2009 年）, 頁 201-226.

〔延伸的參考材料 Additional selected readings〕

第 4 週 2013/10/04 [單元主題]：《雜阿含經》研讀

〔延伸的參考材料 Additional selected readings〕

第 5 週 2013/10/11 [單元主題]：《雜阿含經》研讀

〔延伸的參考材料 Additional selected readings〕

第 6 週 2013/10/18 [單元主題]：“SN 24.1: Winds” “SN 24.2: This Is Mine”

〔延伸的參考材料 Additional selected readings〕
* 〈《雜阿含經.第 164, 142, 133 經》, 劉宋・求那跋陀羅譯, T. 99, vol. 2, pp. 45a, 43a, 41c-42a.

第 7 週 2013/10/25 [單元主題]：“SN 24.3: The Self,” “SN 24.4: It Might Not Be For Me”

〔延伸的參考材料 Additional selected readings〕
* 〈《雜阿含經.第 152 經》, 劉宋・求那跋陀羅譯, T. 99, vol. 2, pp. 43c.

第 8 週 2013/11/01 [單元主題]：Theravāda Philosophy of Mind and the Person

〔延伸的參考材料 Additional selected readings〕
* Sue Hamilton, “Chapter 1: Setting the Scene: We have no self but are comprised of five aggregates,” Early Buddhism - A New Approach: The I of the Beholder, Richmond: Curzon, 2000, pp. 18-32.


〔延伸的參考材料 Additional selected readings〕
* 《中阿含經·第200經·阿梨吒經》，T. 26, vol. 1, pp. 763b-766b.

第 10 週 2013/11/15 [單元主題] : 放假 No class due to anniversary of the founding of NTU

* Bhikkhu Ānāgamoli, Bhikkhu Bodhi (tr.), “MN 22: Alagaddūpama Sutta - The Simile of the Snake,” The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha: A New

第 12 週 2013/11/29〔單元主題〕：Impermanence, No-enduring-self, and Emptiness

第 13 週 2013/12/06〔單元主題〕：期中回顧與討論 Midterm review and discussion

第14週2013/12/13〔單元主題〕：Impermanence, No-enduring-self, and Emptiness

第15週2013/12/20〔單元主題〕：An Interpretation of the Not-self Doctrine

〔延伸的參考材料 Additional selected readings〕

第16週2013/12/27〔單元主題〕：Non-Self: Empty Persons
* Mark Siderits, “Non-Self: Empty Persons - Arguments for the claim that there is no self, and that the person is a conceptual fiction,” Buddhism as Philosophy: An Introduction, Hants: Ashgate, 2007, 32-68.

第 17 週 2014/01/03〔單元主題〕：Non-Self: Empty Persons
* Mark Siderits, “Non-Self: Empty Persons - Arguments for the claim that there is no self, and that the person is a conceptual fiction,” Buddhism as Philosophy: An Introduction, Hants: Ashgate, 2007, 32-68.

第 18 週 2014/01/10〔單元主題〕：期末報告 Final Examination