

**RELI / HIST 2315**

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# **HISTORY OF NON-WESTERN RELIGIONS: TIBETAN BUDDHISM**

**Ever heard of the Dalai Lama? Wondered why people talk about a “Free Tibet”? Wanted to visit Shangri-La? Thought about leaving it all behind to search for enlightenment in the Himalayas?**

**This course is an introduction to the history, doctrines, scriptures, institutions, literature, and practices of Buddhism in Tibet from the mid-first millennium up through the present day. We will explore how Buddhism transformed as it moved from its origins in India to the mountains of Tibet, key ideas about impermanence, desire, and the nature of the self, and how Tibetans thought that people could gain enlightenment in a single lifetime. We will read primary sources from across the Tibetan tradition, explore Buddhist rituals around meditation and death, and analyze artistic representations of the Buddhist path.**

**Our question throughout will be how, in various times, places, and cultural contexts, Tibetan Buddhists diagnosed the origins of human suffering, imagined the goal of freedom from suffering, and proposed a path to such freedom.**

**No prior experience studying Buddhism or Religious Studies is required or assumed.**

**Fall 2021  
Tuesday–Thursday 9:35–10:50  
Face to Face  
Meets A&S Core Global**

**DR. KATE HARTMANN**