

On-Line Basic Buddhism Study Course

**RKINA-101 Buddhism for Today
10 Week Course
Mondays, August 2 – October 11, 2010
FINAL EXAM Due by October 15, 2010**

Instructor: Kris Ladusau
Distance Learning Course
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For technical questions or difficulties please contact:
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Prerequisites: None

Required Reading:
Basic Buddhist Text. This can be downloaded from the [course website](#).

Reference Books:
1. Niwano, Nikkyo, Buddhism for Today. Kosei Publishing, 1975.
2. The Threefold Lotus Sutra, Translated by Bunno, Kato, Tamura and Miyasaka. Kosei Publishing, 1975.
These can be purchased through the [RKINA website](#).

Catalog Description:
This is an introductory course on Ekayana Buddhism as interpreted through the writings of Nikkyo Niwano, founder of Rissho Kosei-kai.

Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, a student will have gained the knowledge to do the following things:
1. Understand basic Buddhist teachings.
2. Apply the teachings to their every day lives.
3. Convey a moderate understanding of the basic Buddhist teachings to others.

This online course can be accessed through <http://www.nfomedia.com>. The link below will take you to the student information page. In the Course Listing box enter "RKINA 101". Then click on the course. You must be registered for the course through RKINA or the site will not allow you to gain access. Please take time to go through the "Getting Started" site in the right navigational box.

<http://www.nfomedia.com/studentstart.nfo>

Course Outline:

See the schedule in the table below (or available via a link at nfomedia.com) for exact due dates of the chapter quizzes. You may work ahead of this schedule if you wish.

Week	Chapter		Live Lectures & Team Presentations	Due Dates
1	1	Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures and The Law of Causation	8-2-10	8-7-10
		Read text WebEx lecture Assignment 1		
2	2	The Seal of the Three Laws and Four Laws and the Four Noble Truths	8-9-10	8-14-10
		Read text WebEx lecture Student reflections of week 1 and discussion Assignment 2		
3	3	The Ten Suchnesses	8-16-10	8-21-10
		Read text WebEx lecture Student reflections of week 2 and discussion Assignment 3		
4	4	The Twelve Link Chain	8-23-10	8-28-10
		Read text WebEx lecture Student reflections of week 3 and discussion Assignment 4		
5	5	The Eightfold Path	8-30-10	9-4-10
		Read text WebEx lecture Student reflections of week 4 and discussion Assignment 5		
6	6	The Six Perfections	9-13-10	9-18-10
		Read text WebEx lecture Student reflections of week 5 and discussion Assignment 6		

7	7	Transmigration, Karma, the Six and Ten realms, and the Three Thousands Realms in One Thought	9-20-10	9-25-10
		Read text WebEx lecture Student reflections of week 6 and discussion Assignment 7		
8	8	Transmigration and Karma and the Six and 10 Realms in One Thought	9-27-10	10-02-10
		Read text WebEx lecture Student reflections of week 7 Assignment 8		
9	9	Practical application of teachings	10-04-10	10-09-10
		View PowerPoint - Part 1 WebEx lecture Student reflections of week 8 and discussion Assignment 9		
10	10	Practical application of teachings	10-11-10	Wednesday 10-13-10
		View PowerPoint – part 2 WebEx lecture and discussion Assignment 10		
		Final Exam is due Friday by midnight		10-15-10

In order to facilitate your learning, outlines lecture notes and PowerPoint slides are posted under the Course Content icon.

Quizzes:

There are quizzes associated with each chapter. The quizzes are intended to keep you on-track with the course and they let me know you are making progress. They have varying number of questions but generally there are between 5 and 10 multiple choice questions per quiz. Please see the calendar for the exact due dates of the quizzes. Quizzes can be accessed in two ways. You can find them under the Course Content icons with the associated chapter or under the Quizzes/Exams icon. You may take the quiz as often as you wish. Exam can be taken only once.

Assignments:

Download the worksheets for each assignment under the Assignment link on the [homepage](#).

Live Lectures:

Live lectures and discussions will be given weekly through WebEx. Each Monday (except Wednesday, 5/27) at 9:00pm EST, 8:00pm CST, 7:00pm MST, 6:00pm PST and 3:00pm HST, a 1-1.5 lecture will be presented on the topic of the week. You should expect to be on WebEx for 2 hours each Monday evening. *WebEx access instructions will be provided after registration.*

Live Team Presentations:

The class will be divided up into teams. Each team will be responsible for teaching one of the chapters from the Basic Buddhist Text to the rest of the class during the last half hour of the live broadcast.

Discussions – Course Blog:

The Course Blog contains threaded discussions. You are required to regularly read the discussions and post your comments. You must make a comment on what someone else said as well as give your own opinion. This section reflects your attendance in class. It is recommended that you log onto the blog at least twice a week or more. Please do not skip any discussions.

Chat Room:

This is a live chat room. This room is for students to get together with each other for social conversation. No points are awarded for conversation but chats here will make the course more interesting for you. This section is not instructor monitored.

Examinations:

Students will be expected to take the exam at the scheduled time. You may take the exam earlier if you wish. The exams are drawn from the weekly quizzes. There is only one crack at the exam so don't start it until you are ready to complete it.

Evaluation Criteria:

Certificates will be awarded based upon performance in this course.

Type	Requirements
Certificate of Honor	Participate in all of the live presentations
	Participate in discussions every week
	Complete all of the assignments
	Show an understanding of the teachings through successful completion of the exam and quizzes
	Demonstrate your ability to apply each of the teachings to your every day life.
Regular Certificate	Participate in 8-9 of the live presentations
	Participate in 8-9 discussions every week
	Complete a minimum of 8 of the assignments
	Show an understanding of the teachings through successful completion of the exam and quizzes
	Demonstrate your ability to apply each of the teachings to your every day life.
No certificate	Do not meet the above requirements in full

Course Evaluation:

Please complete the course evaluation during the last week of class. The evaluation will be available from Monday of that week through Thursday. Your thoughts and suggestions are important to me and are entirely confidential! I will not review the evaluations until the term is over.

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge with honesty and integrity. RK considers academic dishonesty to be an unacceptable practice.

Fee: (Non refundable)

US\$ 50

US\$ 30 For Rissho Kosei-kai members (Please indicate your membership at registration)

A VERY IMPORTANT FINAL NOTICE**Tips for Success:**

To navigate through this course I recommend you begin in **Getting Started**. This page will introduce you to the basic tools needed to navigate the course. Once you are comfortable with the navigation of the course, move on to Course Content. The chapters are listed with accompanying lectures and PowerPoint slides. I recommend that you review this material in addition to reading the chapters. Think about how you would apply the material to real world situations.

ENJOY THE COURSE

I am here to facilitate your learning; I am available by telephone or e-mail. The contact information for Jane Perri is at the [beginning](#) of this syllabus.