



RELG 317 (Special Topics in Religion 2)

Varieties of Modern Buddhism

Winter 2023, Monday and Wednesday 14:35-15:55

Meditation, peacefulness, and a science of the mind? Buddhism, as it is practiced today, is much more diverse than these buzzwords may suggest. This course explores the varieties of modern Buddhism by comparing how it has developed since the late modern period in both Theravada and Mahayana majority societies in Asia (such as Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Japan) and among their Western diasporas. In addition to the internal diversity it expresses, we will also explore Buddhism's relations with Christianity and Islam, which have unfolded in equally diverse ways.
(Prerequisites: RELG 204 or RELG 252 or RELG 253)