

# RELS 393: BUDDHISM IN THE MODERN WORLD

*Queen's University School of Religion*

Taught by: Professor Aditi Sen

**The course starts with a study of the key tenets of Buddhism and a brief survey of its global history. After that, we focus on Buddhism in the west. In order to understand current debates in Buddhism, we look at the major schools in North America and discuss issues like mindfulness, self-compassion, social engagement, ecology, health, aesthetics and cosmopolitanism. We also look at the commodification of Buddhism, and its role in popular culture. The class will also cover Buddhism inspired comic series like *Osamu Tezuka's Buddha* and *Takehiko Inoue's Vagabond*. Students will also attend online meditation sessions and encouraged to maintain personal meditation journals.**

## Course Breakdown

The course doesn't require any textbook and all the readings will be provided online. Some of the class assignments will include short papers, online discussions and a final research paper.

Time Commitment per Week

**8-10  
hours**

Prerequisite

**Level 3**

Required Textbook/Materials

**No**