


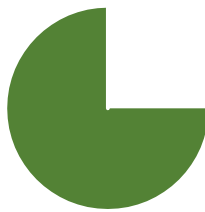


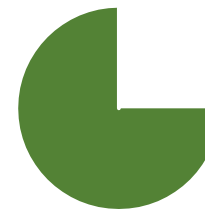



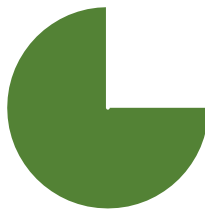
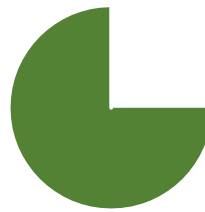


SPRING 2020 COURSE EVALUATIONS

APR504: (evaluations: 1)



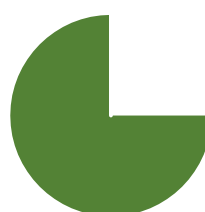


Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE

The course met the stated learning outcomes	This course helped me develop my wisdom	This course helped me develop my compassion	This course helped empower and inspire me to work for the benefit of others	The readings supported my learning in this course
				

The assignments supported my learning in this course	I would recommend this course to others	I was able to apply the material I learned in this course to my life	My learning in this course positively impacted how I relate to others	This course supported my development as a student
				

FACULTY

He/She was kind, patient, and caring	He/She provided useful feedback in a timely manner	He/She facilitated excellent discussions	He/She demonstrated knowledge and competency in his field or profession	He/She communicated effectively with me outside of class
				

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- A lesson on how to create and conduct qualitative interviews would have been helpful..

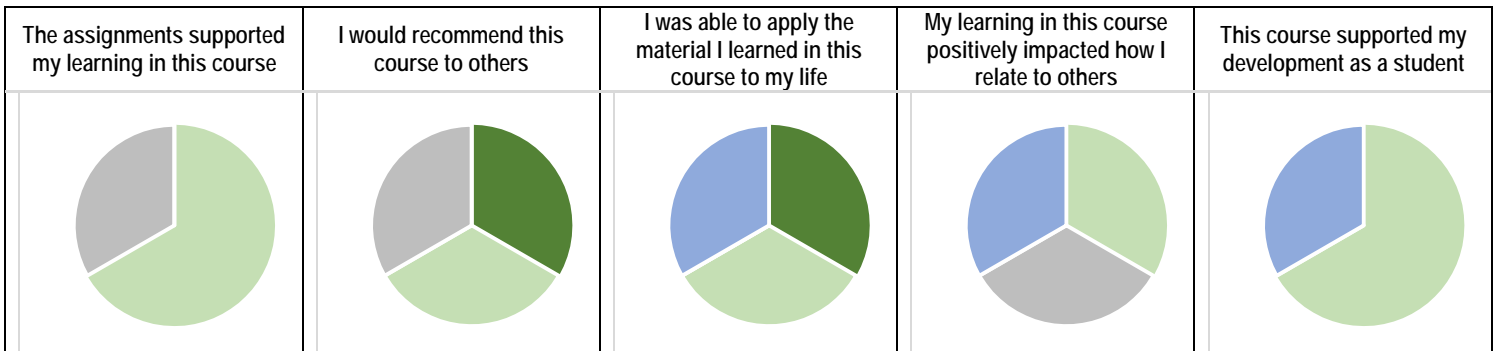
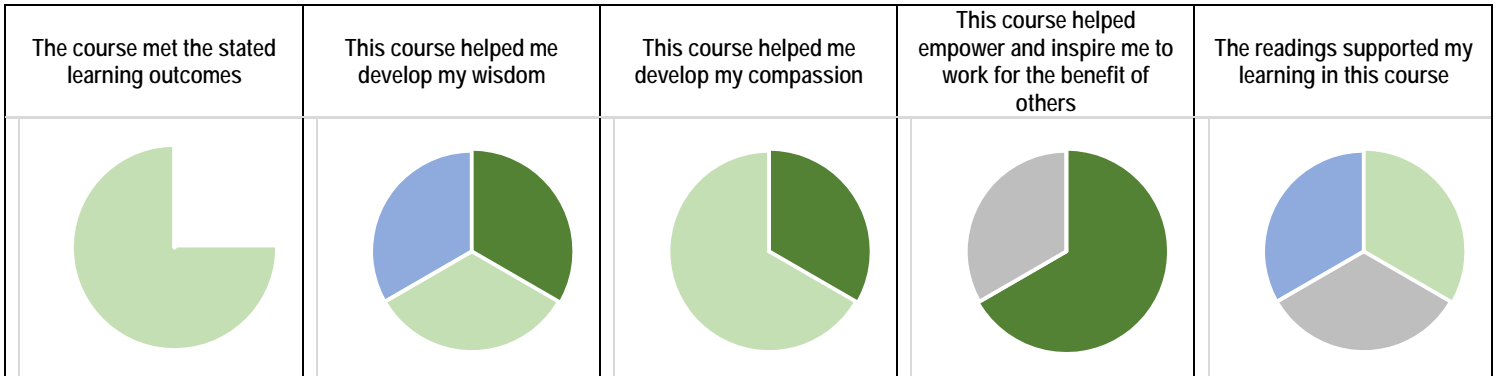
Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- Leigh's support has been great!

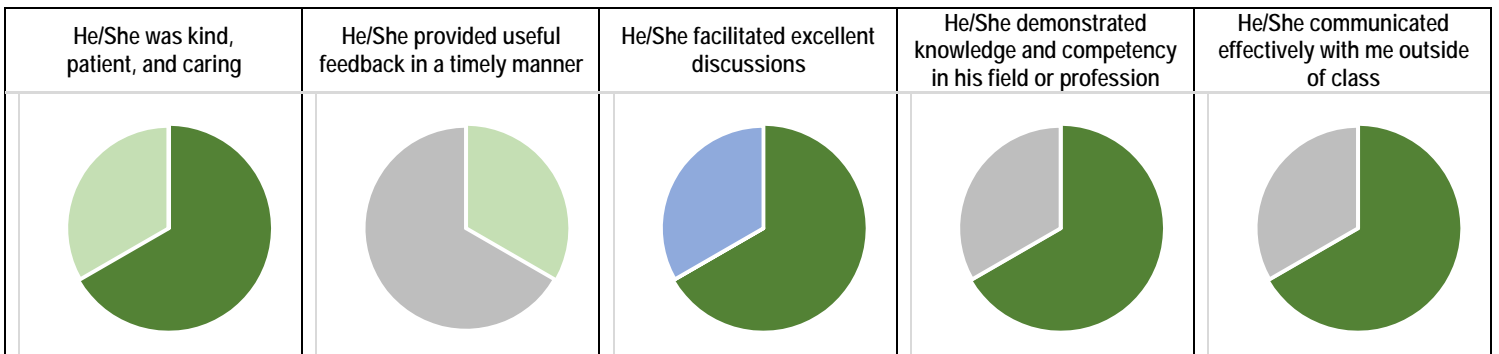
APR502: (evaluations: 3)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE



FACULTY



APR502: (continued)

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- I was initially skeptical of the Action Research Project model, but have come to accept it more. It seems like a nice structure to allow students some flexibility in investigative methods combined with action. I do wish there was a path for people to do more purely creative projects, as I think they have great learning value.
- I appreciate having this course in order to get a jump start on the project before finishing next year. I wasn't anticipating that the project would have this kind of focus, with data collection and the like. I would not have thought I would be doing this kind of work in pursuit of a Master of Divinity. So I found it disappointing. However, I managed to work out a topic that is of interest and it somewhat conforms to what is looked for in this kind of project. My most general recommendation is that students get more feedback on the work they turn in. The pieces that we had put together in order to prepare for writing the proposal were never returned or commented on, so when we went on to do the proposal we had no feedback on them, except for oral comments from the presentation. These were helpful, though.

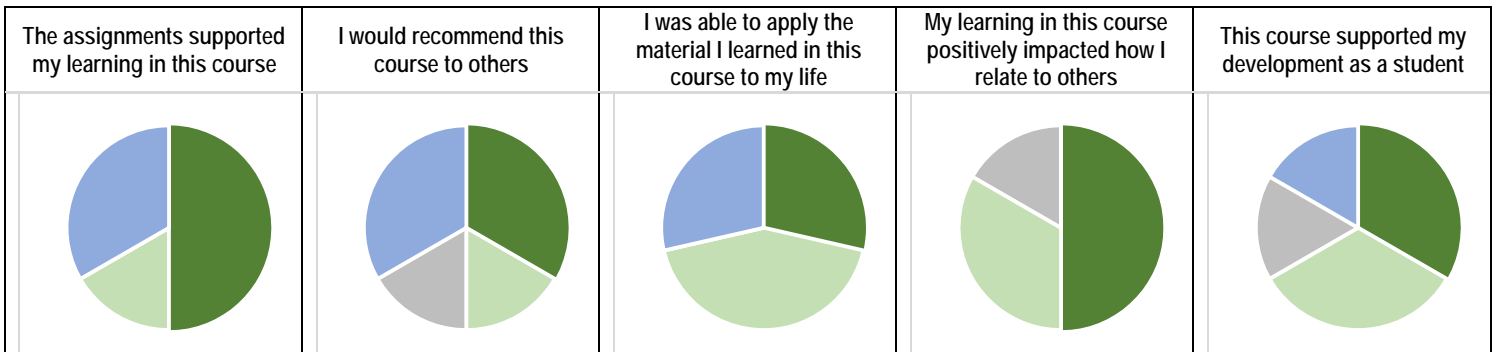
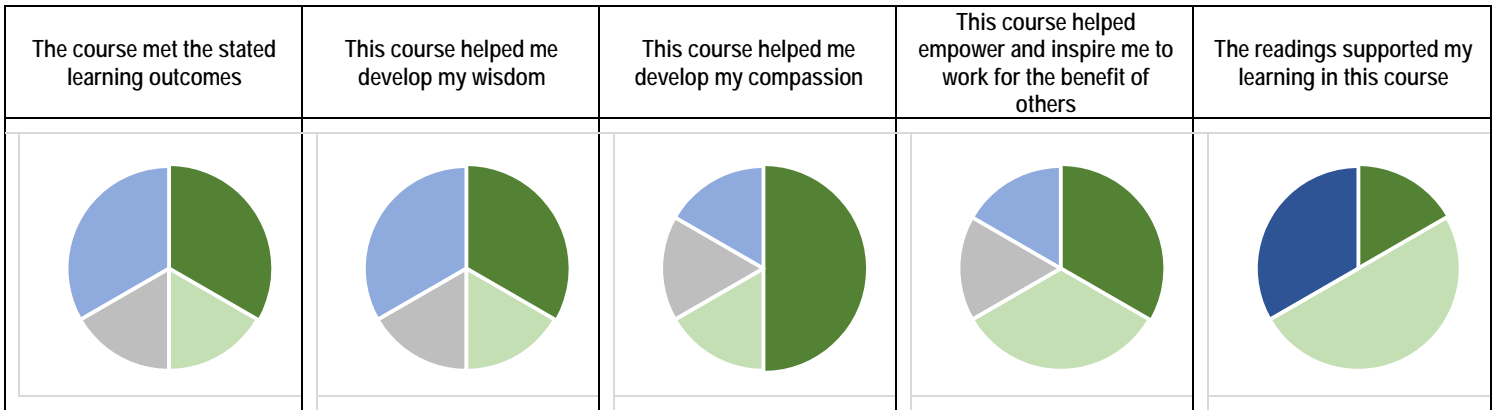
Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- There seemed to be a bit of "too many cooks" at the beginning of the class, with a feeling of conflicting ideas and standards. This is probably inevitable for a first run, but it would be nice to see a little more cohesion in the next iteration. Thanks!

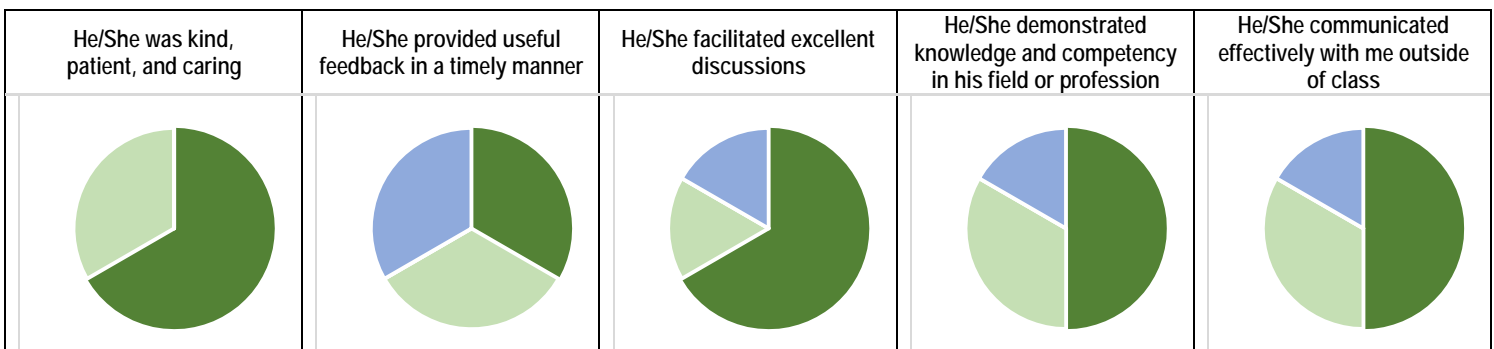
CS302: Finding Your Voice: Communication and Context with Namdrol Miranda Adams *(evaluations: 6)*

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE



FACULTY



Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- The leadership models that were studied in class were extremely beneficial; as well as, the "finding your voice" assignment. Having a future plan to benefit others with the Dharma we learned was very motivating and I have a plan and goal for the future now.
- I think the Service classes provide the most flexibility, in reading materials. I believe that also is pertaining to comments, below. I don't have any recommendations, as I feel the Teacher is very responsive to feedback and super flexible to changes that inevitably occur.
- I felt this class has so much potential, however, it seemed was unable to hit stride in a meaningful way. The classes I enjoyed the most were those that facilitated interesting discussions on the topics. The classes I enjoyed the least were those that had lectures seemingly put in place with limited time due to their brevity. I was excited to work on my final project and was in the middle of it when we were instructed it had changed to sharing our Covid experience. I found this to be unfortunate because I felt I was getting so much more from the project I had started. I will finish this project regardless.
- The syllabus changed many times over the term. The assignments were not clear and also kept changing. That was quite frustrating. Many of the readings that were originally uploaded to the dashboard were never used and the readings that were assigned were seldom discussed. The check-ins are a very nice way to create community, but they were not controlled and often went on too long, even though at the beginning of the term we agreed to keep them to 3 minutes each. That meant we had little time for content. I can't say that I actually learned anything in this course, sadly. I really wanted to learn how to "find my voice" - especially my Dharma voice - but I don't feel that happened in any concrete way. Quite disappointing overall, as the curriculum looked interesting and valuable at the start of term, but then kind of went to pieces. Of course, we all know that the Covid pandemic deeply affected how things were run, and that definitely played a part in the class kind of falling apart, and that is understandable. However, my overall feeling is that the readings weren't integrated into our learning, there was not enough content, and the assignments were not given enough instruction or oversight to make them meaningful.






Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?






- Namdrol is very helpful inside and outside of class in assisting myself and all students to understand and develop a real plan to use what we have learned in the real world.
- What worked is that Namdrol is super flexible. She is patient with our, and the many changes in our lived experiences in a way I have never seen as deeply before. I deeply appreciate her leadership in this class CS302 and her extreme flexibility, patience and humor. Her glass half (or more than half) full is nourishing and gratefully received. I love the pause of one minute periods of silence and stillness. Thank you!
- I got the impression that she has too much on her plate and just didn't have the time to put into this class. It seemed like she didn't take the readings or the assignments seriously, and so we students didn't either, and that created quite a bit of frustration and confusion all around. Namdrol is a great teacher and when she taught content it was very good, but there wasn't enough of that type of learning, in my opinion. I wish she had a TA for this class who could help out with things like assignments, so that she can spend more time on other things, if that is what is needed. She is a great person, a true bodhisattva, and a great educator, but somehow there just wasn't enough of her to go around this term.

CS304: Servant Leadership in Buddhist/Spiritual Communities with Tiffany Patrella Blumenthal (with Leigh Miller and Namdrol Miranda Adams) *(evaluations: 3)*


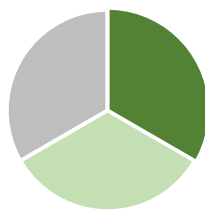
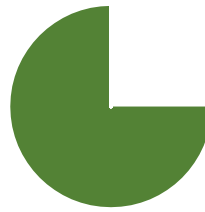

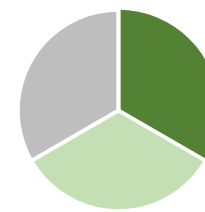
Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE

The course met the stated learning outcomes	This course helped me develop my wisdom	This course helped me develop my compassion	This course helped empower and inspire me to work for the benefit of others	The readings supported my learning in this course
				

The assignments supported my learning in this course	I would recommend this course to others	I was able to apply the material I learned in this course to my life	My learning in this course positively impacted how I relate to others	This course supported my development as a student
				

FACULTY

He/She was kind, patient, and caring	He/She provided useful feedback in a timely manner	He/She facilitated excellent discussions	He/She demonstrated knowledge and competency in his field or profession	He/She communicated effectively with me outside of class
				

CS304 *(continued)*

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- Loved the exercises and assignments. They pushed my edges of learning and understanding and yet were approachable and doable.
- The areas I see of improvement for the creation of this course are mostly a matter of timing and sequence. Having the time marked off to give feedback to each other on practical matters such as spiritual care and verbatims would have been helpful.
- I really enjoyed this class. I enjoyed being able to practice live skills in relation to spiritual care conversation. As indirect consequence of online learning, it most likely lent itself to more opportunities of spiritual conversations online. The Dharma talk was good practice. The function of having to go online though changed the dynamic as talking ten minutes into a camera is a very different from having to give an hour life talk in person. The spiritual leadership section of the class was good too but I would also like a perspective from a religious leader as opposed to a more business oriented.

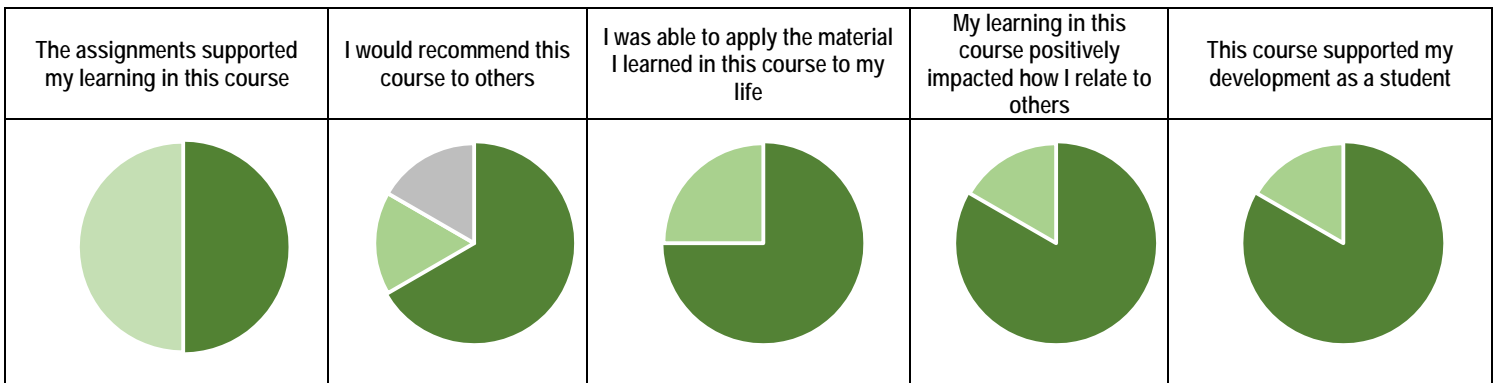
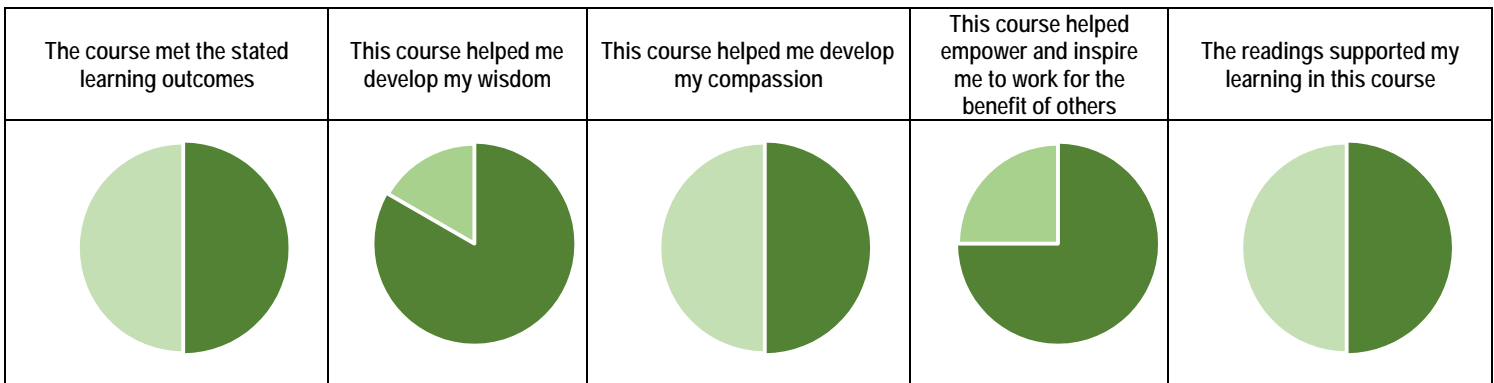
Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- All of the instructors brought a wealth of resources to the class. Greatly appreciated!
- All of the faculty team in this class did a great job and they modeled compassion, openness and integrity when faced with the difficulty of dealing with the pandemic. Compassion in action!

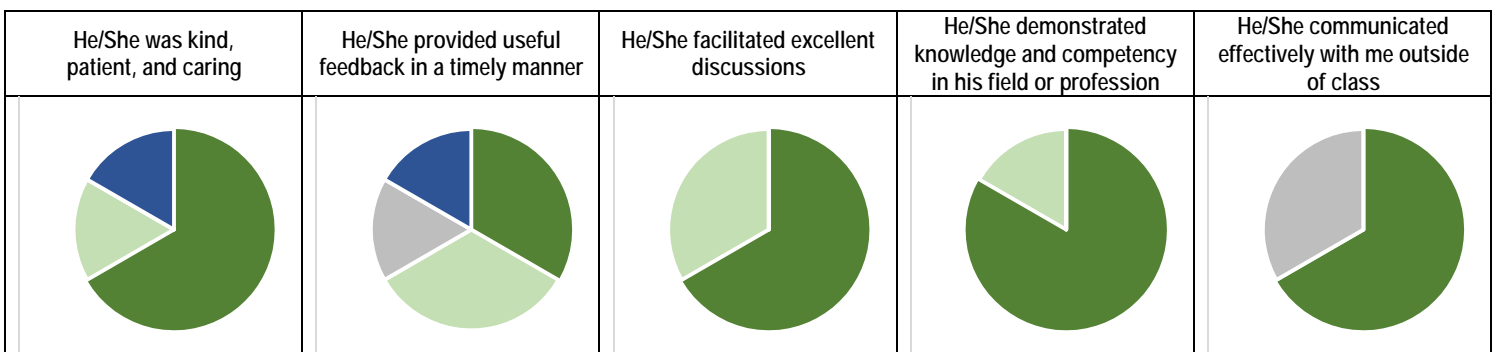
PHL302: Foundations & Ethics of Buddhist Thought: The Medium and Great Scope with Yangsi Rinpoche (with Namdrol Miranda Adams) *(evaluations: 6)*

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE



FACULTY



PHL302: *(continued)*

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- Course content was great.
- The only suggestion I'd make about this course is to have feedback in a more timely manner. As seems to be the case with Maitripa courses, there is usually a problem getting input from the professors about the assignments. When I did get the midterm back, I was pleased to get the information from the exam, but I didn't get it returned until the term was nearly over. The content was great and the readings were good. In this course there didn't seem to be much of a problem with getting the material for reading, maybe because it's been taught so many times before.
- The course content and everything far exceeded my expectations.
- A request I would make is in the future demonstrating how the studies of mind and mental factors, buddha nature and emptiness support the understanding of the other. These topics are easily connected and understood from someone who has spent time already in the study of Indo-Tibetan buddhist philosophy. However, someone entirely new to this study/tradition might have a hard time sorting this all out or making sense of it in a way that is meaningful to their lives right now.
- Some of the material feels still farther than where I can comprehend, yet. And I appreciate having access to it and continuing to deepen after class is completed. Thanks!
- It was helpful to have the consistency of Rinpoche for this class and the meditation class, a much better experience than 301.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

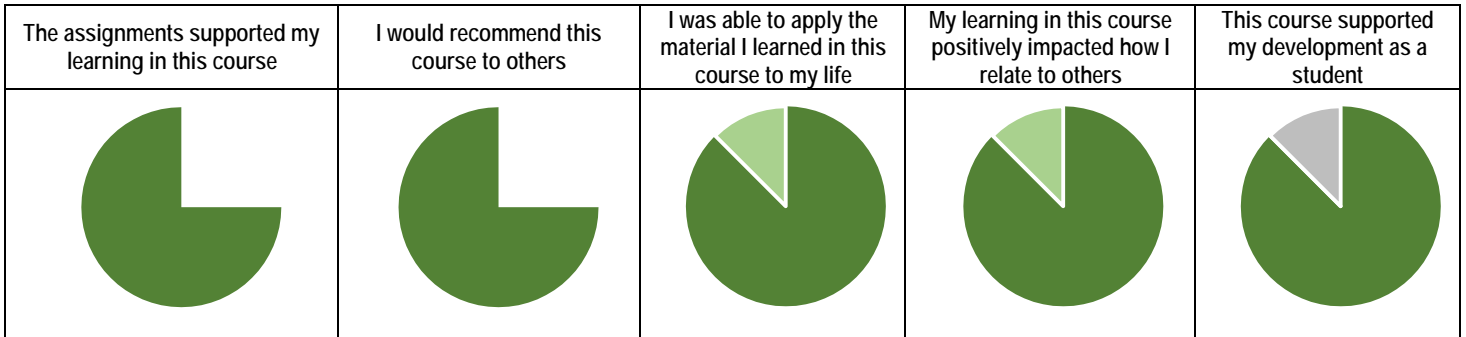
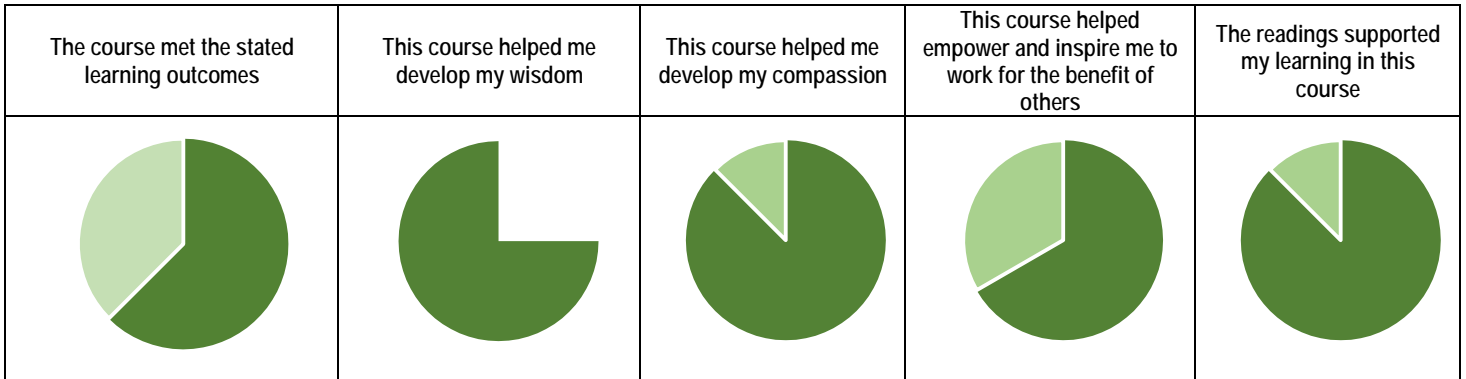
- The transitions between Rinpoche and Bill Magee were a little jarring. They have two very different styles. Sometimes Bill had to guess about what class content was useful for us.
- Yangsi Rinpoche and Namdrol the TA always helped me understand all the material and taught in a way that I understood complex philosophy. They are both the best teachers I have had in my academic career.
- I appreciated the ongoing opportunity to ask questions. Having Rinpoche answer our real-world application questions greatly deepened my learning. If we continue in an online learning platform, maybe having an optional session for group questions and answers, with the TA would be a supportive process (similar to what we have done in the past in person). This would provide an opportunity for any additional questions, to be answered or for a deepening discussion.
- I like when Rinpoche gets multiple people speaking and contributing to class discussions. I would like to see him continue leaning into this and even maybe actively call on people from time to time by name to assist in greater sharing of ideas. I'm not even sure if he knows my name having never heard him say it out loud before...This could be a very simple way of making people feel heard and recognized. With this being said, I do feel he received some of this feedback from last semester and did a much better job in the second half of the year..

MDT330: Meditations on Emptiness with Yangsi Rinpoche

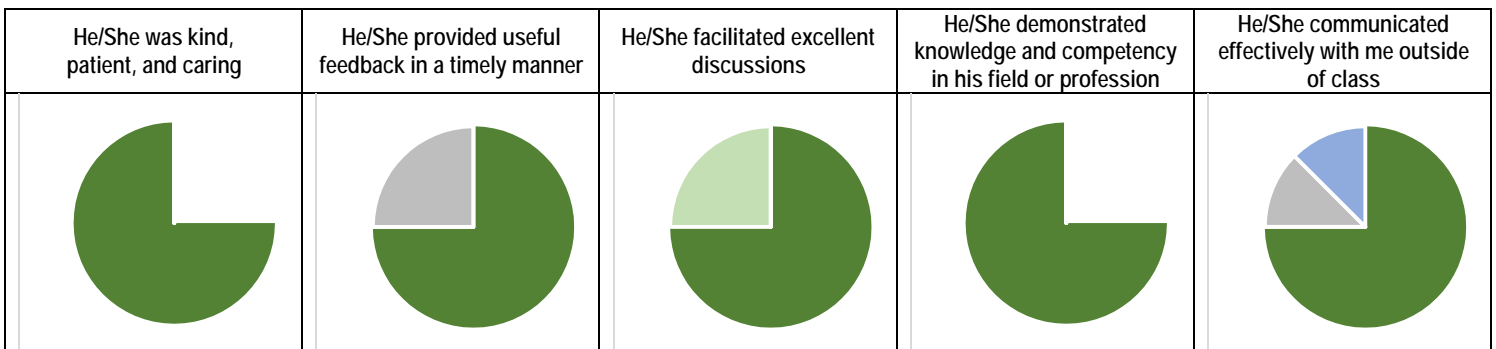
(evaluations: 8)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE



FACULTY



MDT330: *(continued)*

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- I liked this class having both philosophy and meditation combined. I also appreciated having books from His Holiness (Practicing Wisdom and The Essence of Heart Sutra) as part of the class. I feel like his texts have a good spiritual and scholastic balance, which the Hopkins texts tend not to be.
- I wish this had been a 2 unit course. I felt that I made real progress in my understanding. On the other hand, I'm not sure how a meditation course on Zoom would be -- maybe good. Or not. The practice was especially effective I thought.
- I really enjoyed the course. I felt, though, that there wasn't enough time devoted to meditation in the class to really get the best effect. Most of the class ended up being lecturing with a little meditation at the end. I miss having time to slow down and sit AND have time to discuss the meditation afterward. We didn't really get that in this class.

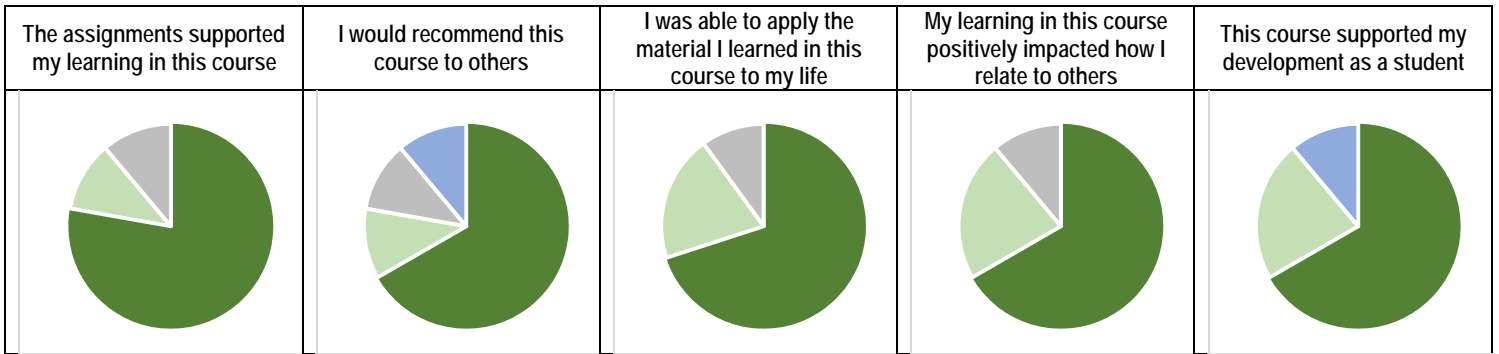
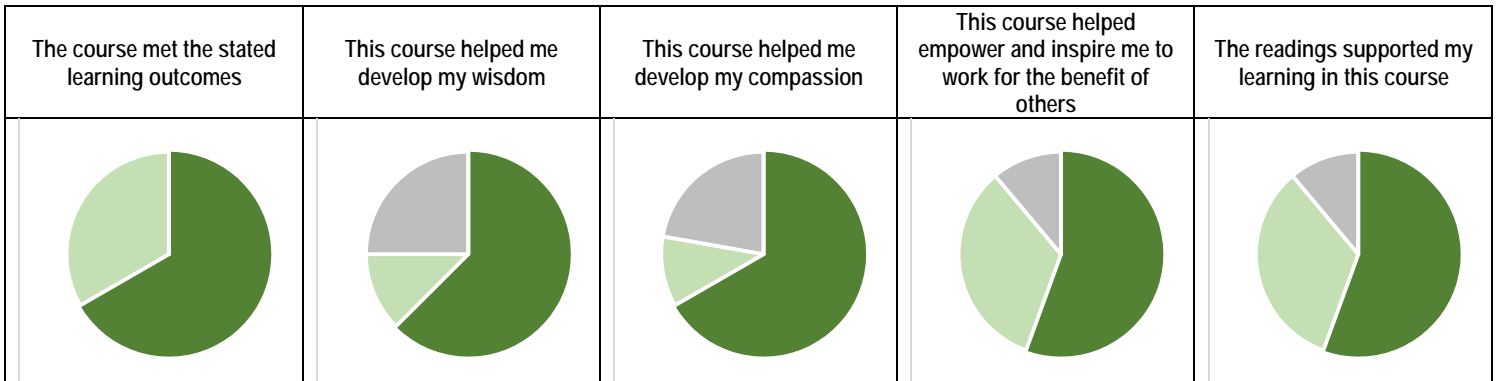
Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- None.
- I wish it were possible to take this course again -- not for credit necessarily, but for the learning and practice experience it provided.
- I would love to see more support for meditation overall throughout the degree program. It feels like it is very strong at the beginning and then drops off somewhat..

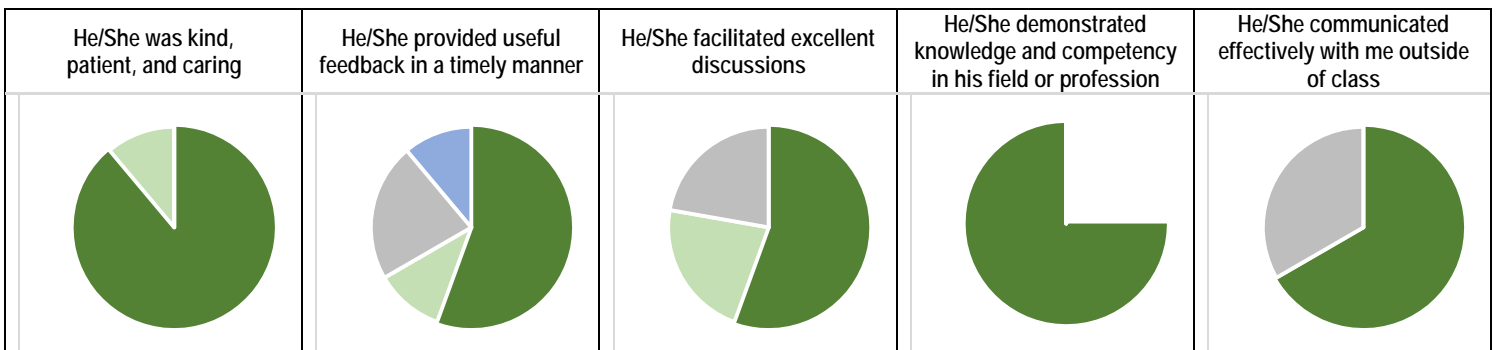
MED302: Techniques of Buddhist Meditation: The Medium & Great Scope with Yangsi Rinpoche (with Namdrol Miranda Adams) *(evaluations: 9)*

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE



FACULTY



MED302: *(continued)*

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- While I really enjoyed this class and found it very instructive, the assignments were far more than I was expecting from a meditation class. There was a great deal more to do with discussion questions, one more paper, and requirements that we go back and listen to the lessons for both the discussions and the papers. I did find going back and using my notes to look at what I'd learned very helpful. I do think that having three papers along with lengthy, detailed and somewhat demanding discussion questions a bit too much for the class. Maybe if we had only two papers, or did not have to do the discussions every week there would be a better balance. Also, I found having people in the class who did not take the philosophy class kind of frustrating and time consuming, because there were often complicated, in-depth questions regarding the meditation content which were already discussed in the philosophy readings. Requiring people to take both would probably be better for the class to go further and in more depth on concepts which we are all already familiar with.
- There was so much this term and we covered a lot of ground. I loved the flexible additions that Rinpoche brought in, and the various scholarly interpretations and writings of Bodhisattva practices, and the Foundation of All Good Qualities.
- I liked how the meditation really aligned with the philosophy class this semester.
- This was a wonderful and amazing course! I loved every minute of it. Rinpoche is an incredible meditation teacher and I hope to continue meditating with him in other courses in the years ahead. Thank you Rinpoche!!
- The meditations were incredible and helped me integrate the content from our philosophy class.
- I entered the course only doing an awareness/breath meditation. I have learned so much about cultivating calm-abiding and analytical meditation.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

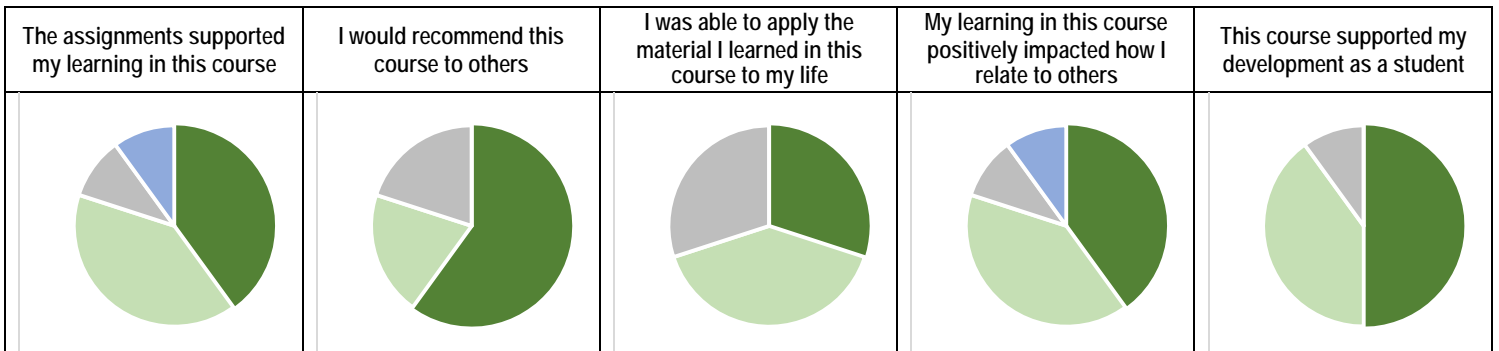
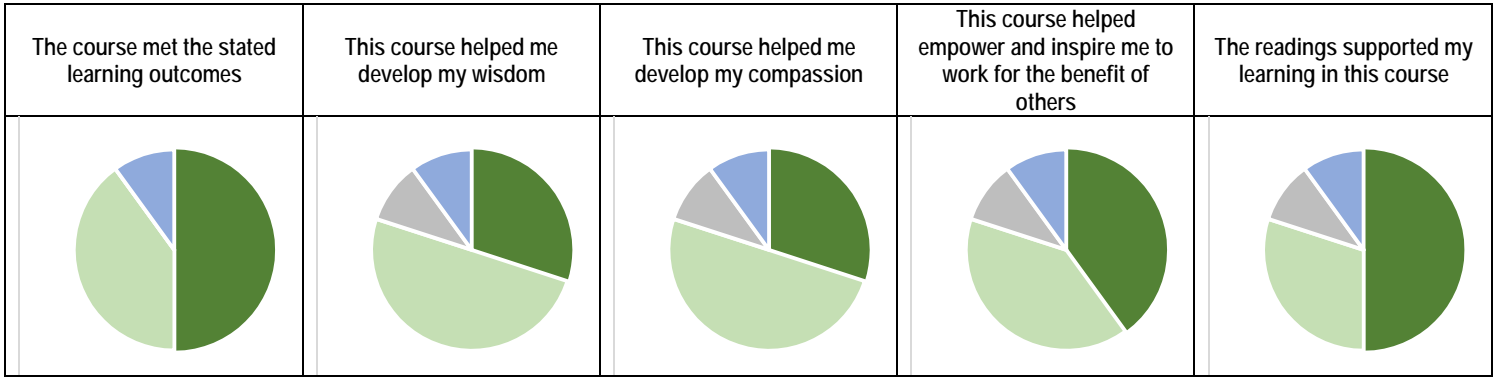
- Yangsi Rinpoche is a national and international treasure. If we can say that about a human being?! His flexibility, kindness, compassion and deep understanding were always welcome nourishment and medicine in this class. Incredible! The TA for this class, David Reeb, also shows continual kindness, care, humor and thoughtfulness, which is deeply appreciated. Thank you! What a team!
- I liked it when there would be good conversation happening with the students in class, so, anything Rinpoche can do to continue to make the extra effort to facilitate conversation would be welcome.
- My main complaint is that I never got feedback from Rinpoche on my second or third meditation reports. I was really hoping to have his feedback. I only received feedback on the first meditation report, about 3-4 weeks after I submitted it. Since we didn't have time with Rinpoche in person this term, the written feedback was meant to take the place of that, I thought, so it seems only right that we should receive that in a timely manner, especially so that we can apply what we tells us in our next report.
- Apart from that, the other thing I wish were different is the way the discussions were facilitated online. I really did not like the fact that we had to post something before we could see others' posts. That made me feel disconnected to the other students, and that maybe the TA was worried we would somehow "cheat" by reading what others wrote and use that in our own posts, which is not necessary. Because of that format, after I made my posts I never looked back because there was no real discussion. Also, the questions made me feel like I was being quizzed on the content of the class sometimes, and just wanted me to spit back what I'd learned (lists of things, for example), as if the TA wanted to check up if we were taking notes, which is not always easy (or desirable) in a meditation format.

- Lastly, I would encourage the TA to refrain from using all caps and bold in his instructions to students about assignments, etc. The tone made me feel that he was scolding us or saw us as immature, needing such reminders in that kind of language. We are all adults and he can take a softer approach with his instructions. Apart from that, David was an excellent, responsible TA and took his role very seriously (maybe just a little too seriously, at times, perhaps, but that is ok :-). Thank you all very much, it was a wonderful class!
- Yangsi Rinpoche explained all the material in a very clear way and led the meditation class in the most effective way I could imagine, and David the TA was an incredible help inside and outside of class.
- I loved Rinpoche. What a kind soul. As I said in my other evaluation, he is able to provide the teachings in an accessible way. I also love his kindness and sense of humor.
- David is great as well. I couldn't have asked for a better initial experience on my first deeper dive into Buddhism.
- Thank all of you so much. I am grateful.

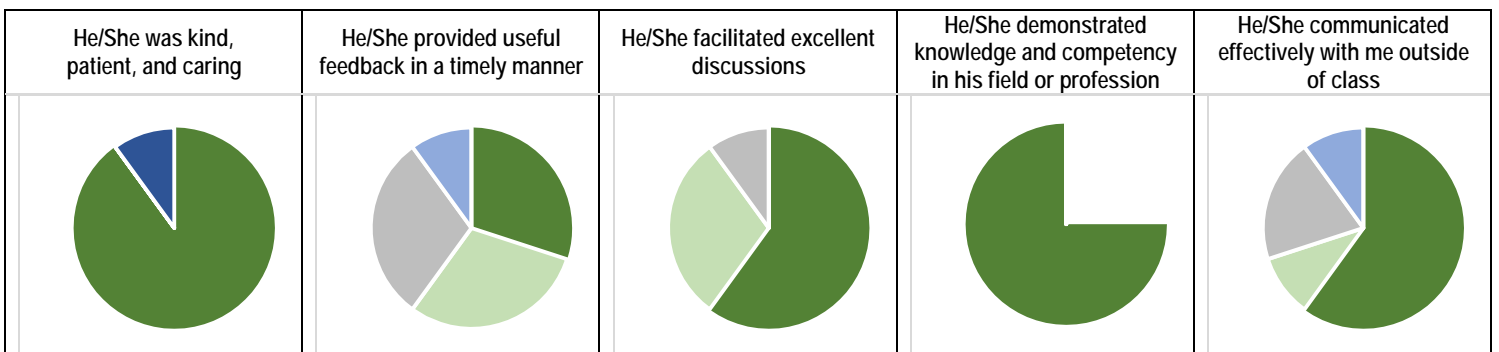
PHL404: Fundamentals of the Vajra Vehicle with Yangsi Rinpoche and William Magee *(evaluations: 10)*

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE



FACULTY



PHL404: *(continued)*

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- It was a good introduction to tantra for me. During the course of the semester, I did lose the line between learning tantra as a student academically versus a student examining whether this is a practice I see myself practicing down the line. I wonder what we could be done not to lose sight in that or how to be explicit about this for us as students.
- To me, there seems to be some level of conflict between what Rinpoche wants to teach versus our reading. In the readings, I felt bogged down with detail while Rinpoche wanted to take a step back and look at the bigger picture. What would be beneficial is readings on tantra from a broad and spiritual view, the benefit and purpose. This may have been on the readings but I felt I needed more of this. Maybe more readings that are not technical in nature.

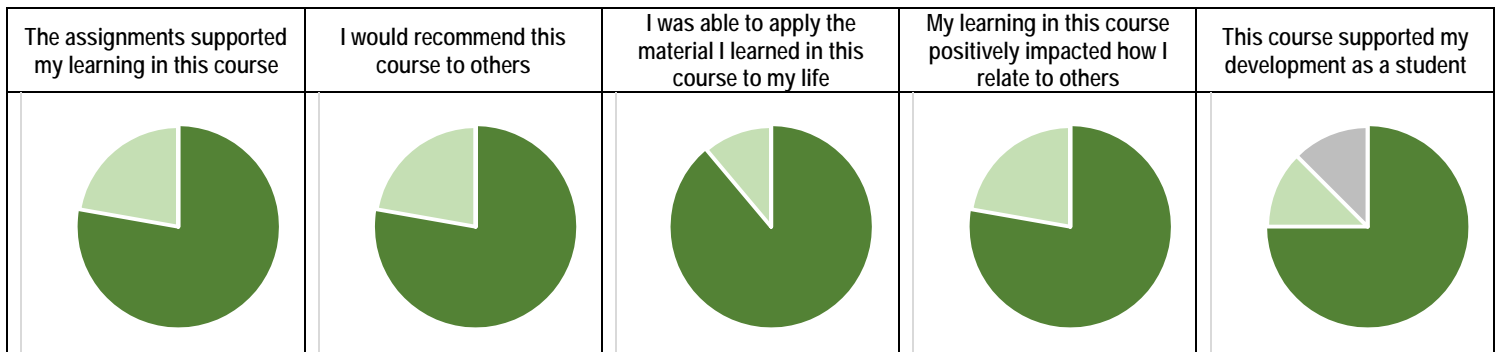
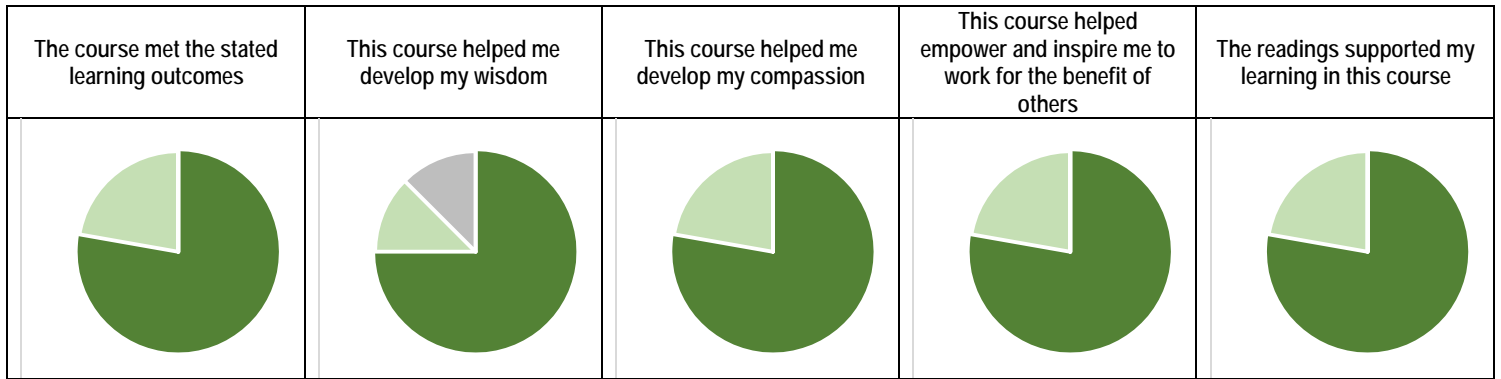
Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- None.
- Thanks for all the work! I wish Rinpoche had led us in a death meditation. Not sure why he was so resistant to that.
- Bill Magee did fine job of teaching during the second part of the class. He strongly demonstrated both knowledge and competency in his field and his familiarity with the online platform served him (and us, his students) well.
- Occasionally I had a little trouble getting to the readings in time to prepare before class.
- There was no midterm in the course, so having the feedback in the middle of the term did not happen--but that is understandable given the situation this semester. Having a balance between focus on the highest yoga tantra as practiced traditionally and how it might manifest in a Western context would be a good way to approach the course. How can the gifts of the practice be brought here in a way that we reap and send on the benefits to others without thinking that it is archaic because there is a cultural mismatch? Without thinking and discussing this subject in the context of contemporary society as lay practitioners in secular contexts, the danger of presenting the subject without it is that the practice itself becomes dismissed or trivialized as something too strange to be taken on in the present day.!

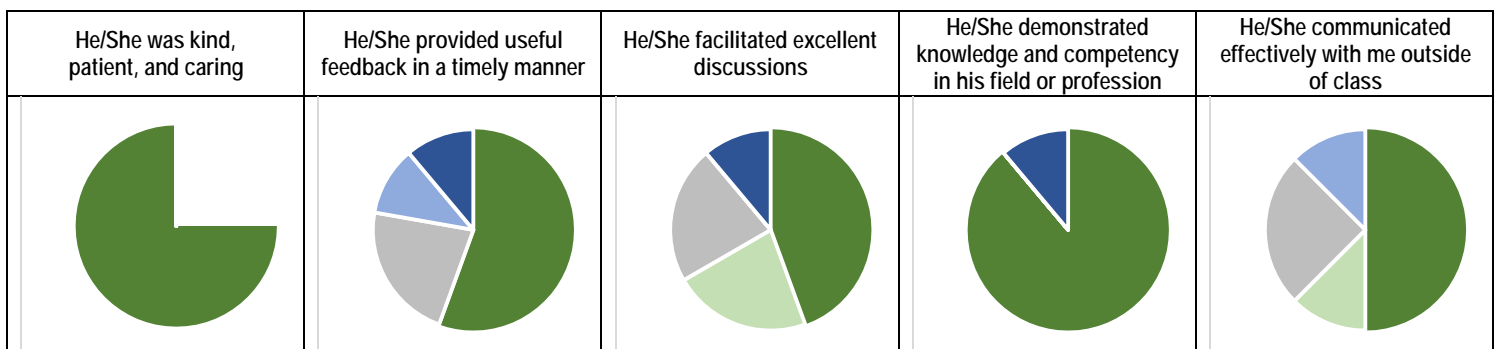
THL424: A Good Death: Approaching the End of Life with Yangsi Rinpoche (with guest instructors) *(evaluations: 8)*

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE



FACULTY



THL424 *(continued)*

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- I thought it was a nice combination of both learning of how to prepare for our own death and how be there for others at the time of death. I loved having the speakers. I liked Holly Hashimoto's class. She was great at balancing facilitating group conversation (of us learning from on another) but still sharing her experience.
- Both parts of the class (pre- and during the pandemic) were seriously powerful learning experiences. The spiritual grounding of the first part provided an excellent platform for the more other-directed learning of the second part.
- I liked Lati Rinbochay's Death, Intermediate, and Rebirth. I probably wouldn't have read that on my own so assigning it was helpful. I also liked Kristen DeLeo's Present through the End. I found that practical and a useful resource that I will likely tap into in the future.
- I really liked having to put together the Death Kit. I wouldn't have done it on my own either. I believe we were supposed to have a class where we workshop it together. I would have liked to have had that. Two class I would even say. First as a thorough draft. Second, to give us time and space to think about it and modifications after the first thorough draft.
- The periodic self-evaluations and the Death Box project were especially helpful and powerful ways of learning to think about death and dying from a variety of perspectives.
- This course is such a lovely offering! I have really just started my process, here. And, I am very glad that I took this class. I liked how we were met wherever we were in our process. Enjoyed the projects!
- As in all of my classes, I think that having an extra week following the last week of classes would have been very beneficial. As it stood, I had many things to do while classes were still going and had to rush through some of them more than I would have liked in order to get them finished on time. Especially as much of the content we are learning is about letting things sink in, having the time to really go through the material without the distractions of class time would have benefitted my mind and my assignments.
- This was quite possibly the best course I've taken so far at Maitripa, and I have taken many wonderful courses. It was arranged so perfectly, with half the time for Rinpoche to talk about Tibetan Buddhist views on dying, and the other half with guest speakers by chaplains, who were all amazing and varied and had so much wisdom to share. The Death Kit was an extremely useful assignment and brought together so much of what we learned. The only suggestions I would make for next time are that we consider making it just about death and dying from a Buddhist tradition (not necessarily just Tibetan Buddhism, but from all traditions) and put the other parts like talks from chaplains into other courses specifically for chaplaincy. There was so much material to cover from a Buddhist perspective that we couldn't delve that deeply into any of them, so in the end it felt a bit rushed and superficial for such a profound subject, about which there is so much literature. The other small suggestion I would make is that we include more online discussion, to allow people to process and talk more together about what is coming up for them as we go through the course. Thank you Leigh, for putting together such an incredible experience for all of us, and I hope we offer this course many times again in the future.
- It was a wonderful course. Thank you so much!

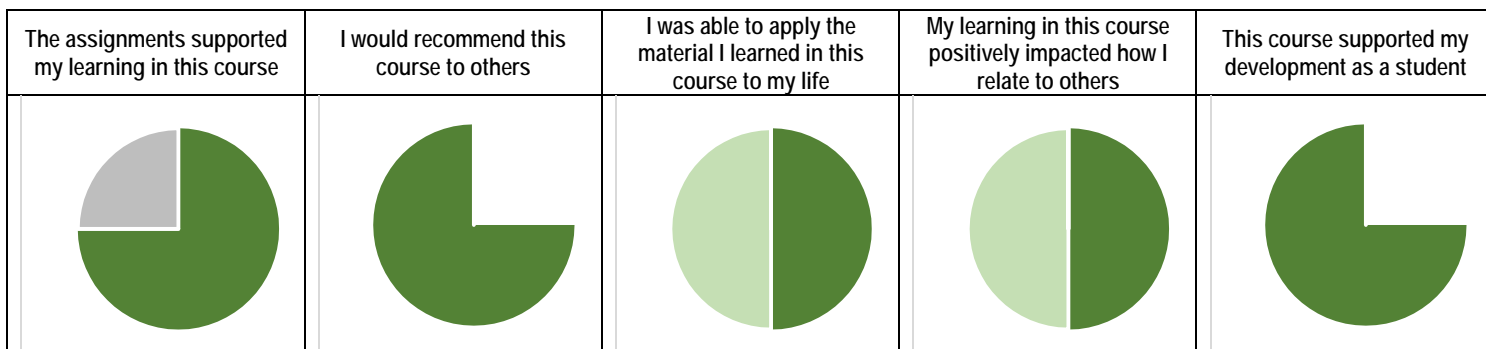
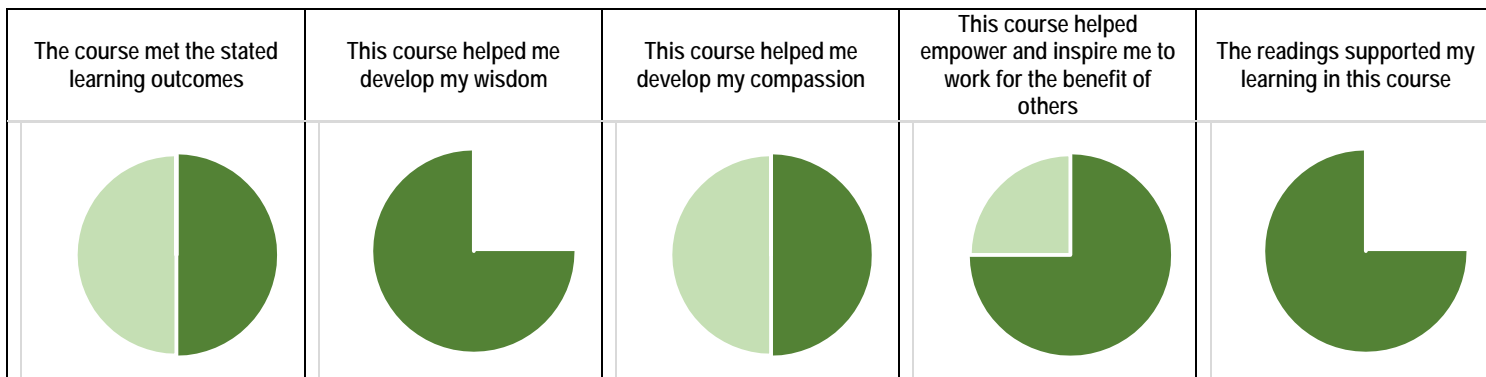
Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- Rinpoche was hesitant to lead us through a death process meditation. I know the information is out there but I think it would be meaningful coming from Rinpoche who has lead us through our education here at Maitripa.
- It was super helpful to have Rinpoche share his knowledge and lived experience. The TA, Leigh Miller guided our process through the whole term and hosted many guest speakers who also deepened my process and understanding of how to apply this material to service in the community. I appreciated the thoughtfulness about the diversity of voices who joined us. Thank you to all who planned and coordinated this class!
- Great job! I wish Rinpoche had led us in a death process meditation. Not sure why he seemed so resistant to that. Oh well. Really enjoyed the class.

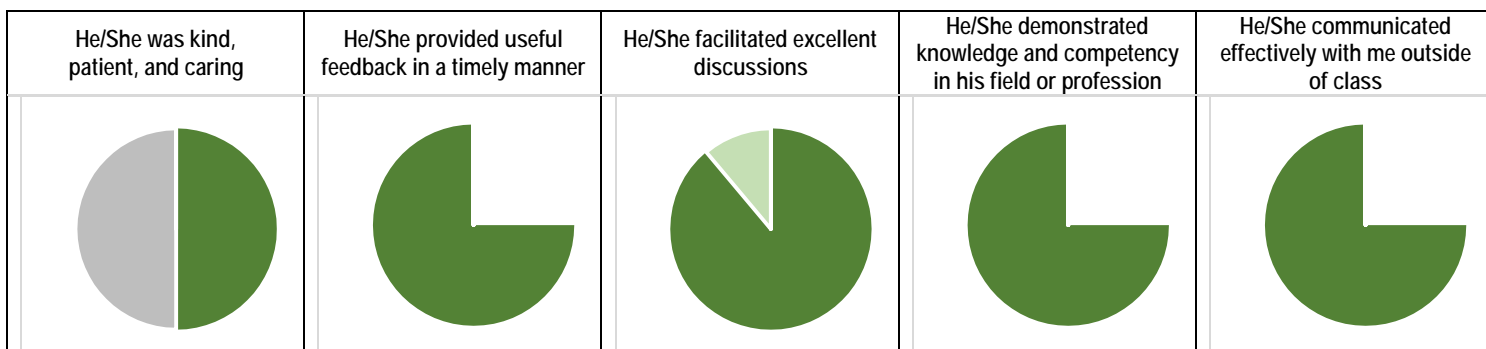
TIB202: Classical Tibetan Language Intermediate II with William Magee *(evaluations: 4)*

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE



FACULTY



TIB202 *(continued)*

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- I loved the text, Learning Classical Tibetan by Paul Hackett. I loved parsing the sentences. It helps me understand the dharma to see exactly what relationships clauses have. I got so much better at translating this semester. The repetition in the text afforded the opportunity to actually recognize Tibetan phrases on sight. Wide-ranging philosophical insights abound. Bill fosters a great learning community. I'm so happy to have this in my life.
- I think the course would be more effective if there were more structure. It would be nice if we picked a text and stuck with it a little more consistently, and if we were reviewing it would be done more systematically.
- The E-learning had its advantages. We had more than a few occasions of Paul Hackett and a little bit of Craig Preston join us. That was interesting for me to get other input from other translators.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- Great class. Great instructor. Everyone should take. Very grateful.
- Bill is a wonderful teacher and person and studying with him is a great experience. I've learned so much. I have felt at times that the class is a little loose, and we spend a lot of time chatting. It would be nice if we stayed on task more. There's also been a tendency for one student to dominate the class and not always be mindful of other people's needs, which is a little challenging. But overall very grateful.
- I appreciate the Bill makes this more than just about translation. I find the class enjoyable as there is a spiritual and philosophical spin to it at times when Bill may appear to be going tangent. I also appreciate that Bill is actually offering more than the class schedule. We do four hours as opposed to the two hours on the schedule.