



SPRING 2021 COURSE EVALUATIONS

APR504 (evaluations: 1)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

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

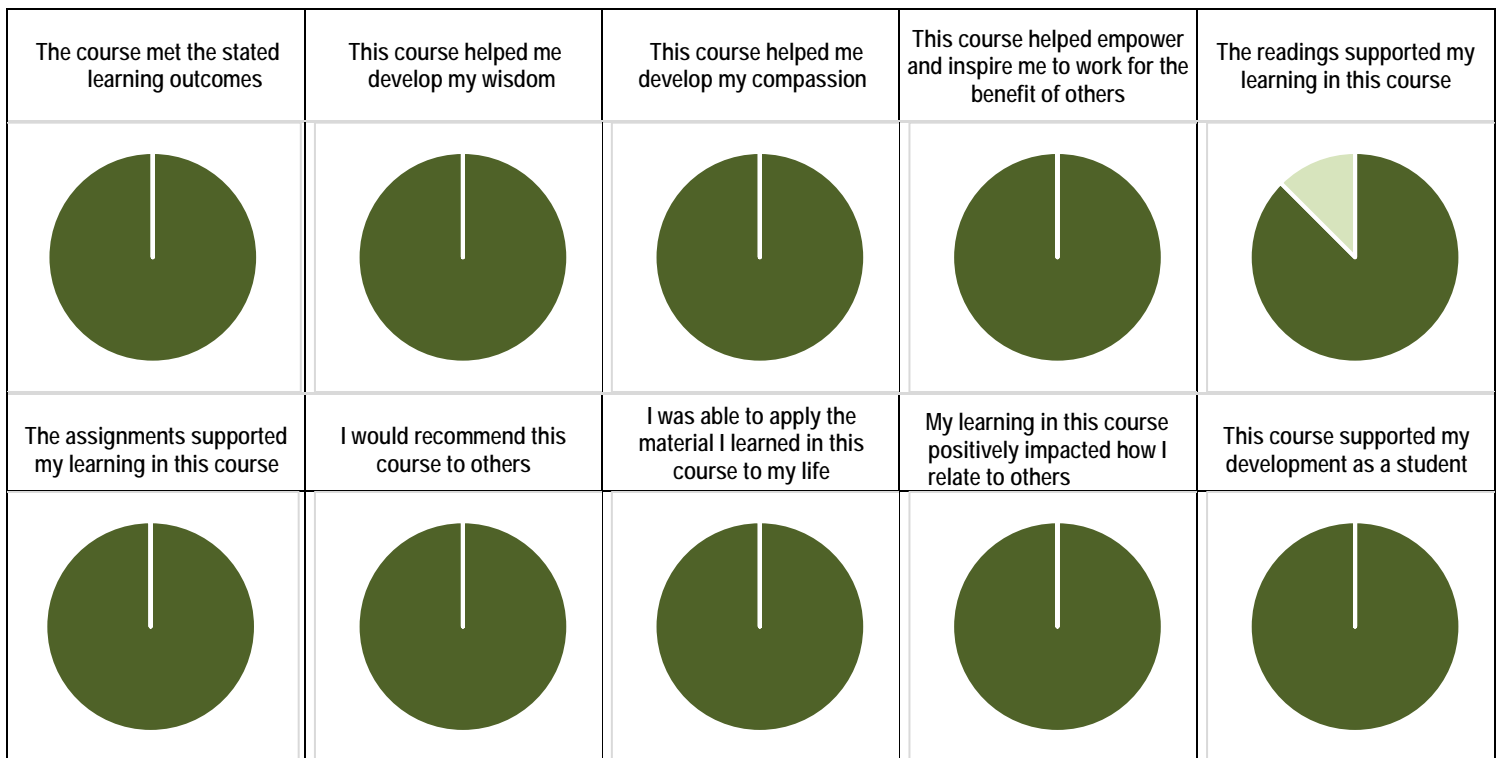
Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

*I was very thankful for Namdrol's comments on my paper drafts, which were initially more broad, and then moved into line edits. Her feedback was thoughtful and made my work much better. My suggestion for the future of this course is that the students know from the beginning who will be reading the paper. Had I known that there would be two more people reading the piece after my final draft was submitted, I would have given them much more time to read the lengthy paper! As it stood, though, I appreciated the feedback received from them. It was just a lot to ask them to read it in such a short period of time.

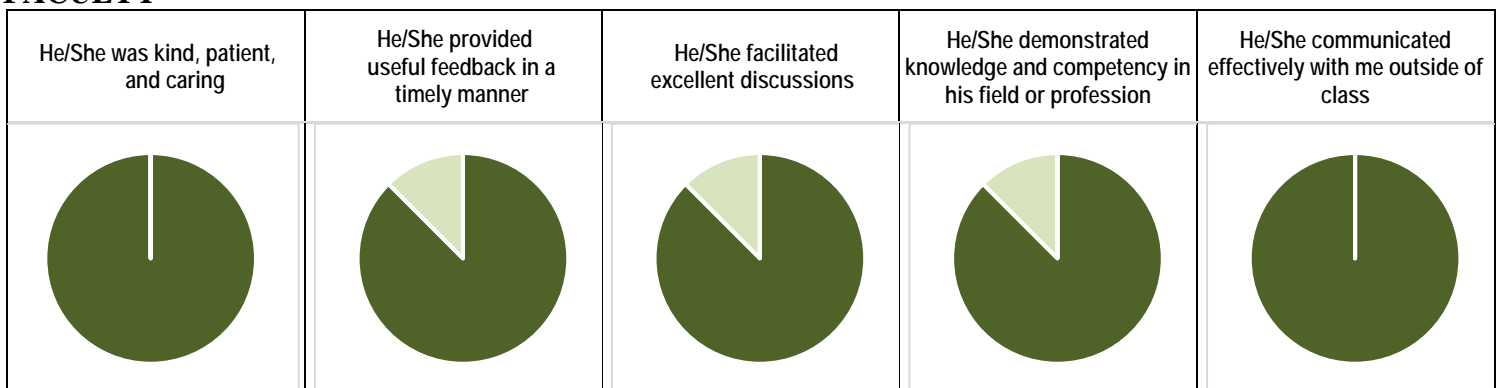
Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

How would you describe your on-line class experience compared to in person classes at Maitripa?

*I have been very isolated throughout the pandemic, so I feel that I am losing some of my social skills. I feel awkward on Zoom much of the time, though I know many are in the same boat. I would have much rather have had courses in person, but this is in part because I have seen so few people since the pandemic.



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?

*Thank you for your course Namdrol. Both of these service learning courses have been so valuable. I enjoy the teaching style, the interaction, and how I often made one point in class and later reassessed after taking in one of Namdrol's counterpoints. So valuable. Thank you!

*This class was a mystery school. Always surprising. Always deep. Always insight awakening.

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?

*Instructor very accessible which I appreciated. I liked group check in and learning by doing instead of lectures. I liked being put on the spot.

*Namdrol is a very masterful instructor wrapped in a humble, down to earth cloak. She manages to bring topics that open the student to herself/himself and to the other students, building community and awareness together. Feel so much gratitude. Pranams.

How would you describe your on-line class experience compared to in person classes at Maitripa?

*Can't compare, never taken in person class at Maitripa but overall, I feel the online format worked great.

*Very positive, however I also look forward to seeing others in person soon :).

*It was surprisingly better than I thought it would be. I would do it again online.

CS304 (evaluations: 6)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

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?

*I really enjoyed the readings. *Having spiritual care conversations, set up through Maitripa, was a precious way for our class to begin to generate actual experiences of offering spiritual care to others. I got so much from writing and reviewing the verbatims and feel that I have a good understanding to some more or the hands-on aspects of this career. Thank you! *The course content and assignments were challenging and really helped push me and my academic skills for communicating Dharma. *It was helpful to practice verbatim writing. It was also helpful to meet in person with humans.

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 is unfailingly kind and supportive and I enjoy her classes.

*Leigh is a great teacher that pushes students in developing very good skills that can be applied in our lives. The guest speakers she brought in were so amazing too.

*At the beginning of the term there seemed to be not enough time--we would meet and Leigh seemed to want to pack things in real

tight. Then, we mellowed out in the term. From midterm on the pace felt more at ease.

How would you describe your on-line class experience compared to in person classes at Maitripa?

*Zoom is a good alternative and I hope there will be a hybrid option available in the future. I am beginning to long for human contact!

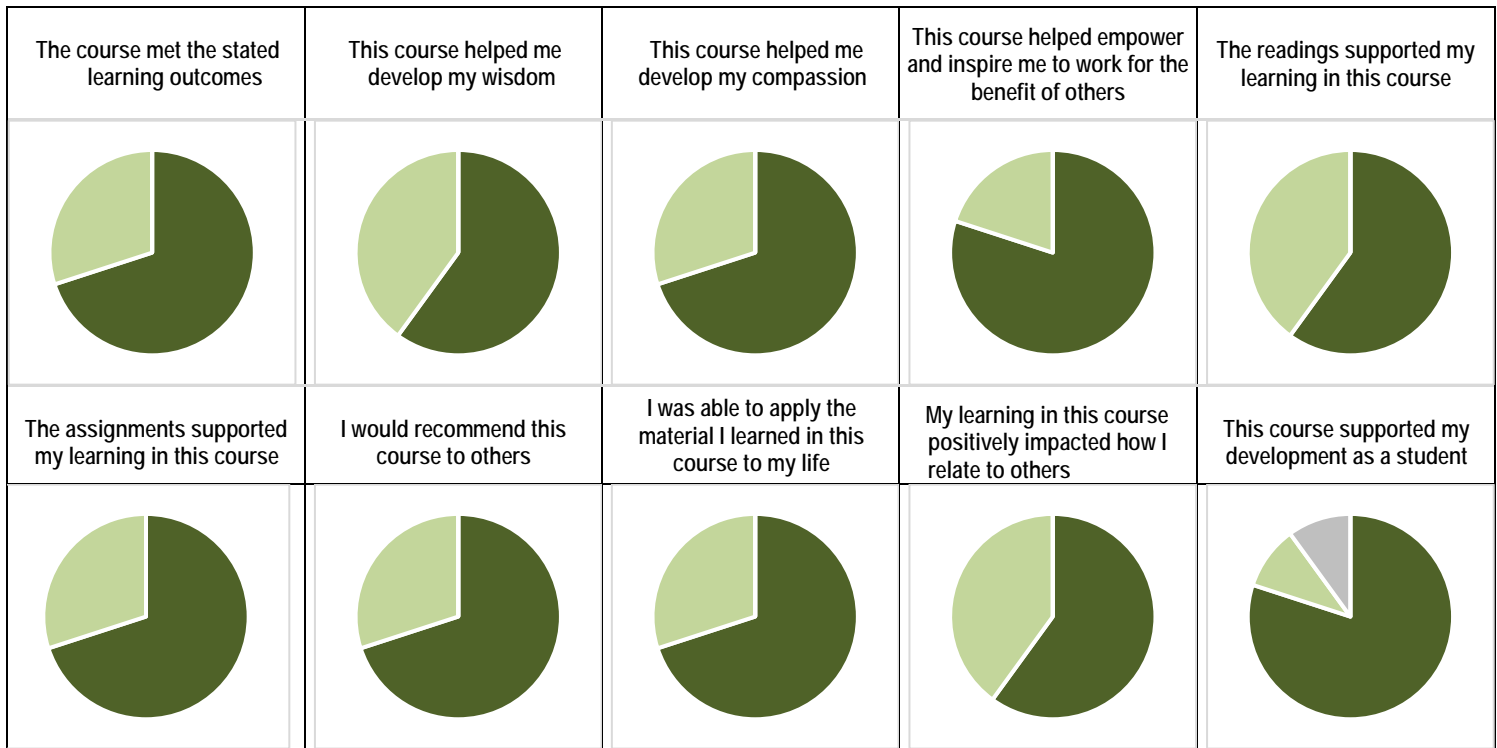
*I think the online learning experience comes in at a close second to in person classes. I feel this is mostly because we have so few students that when meeting online you can still see everyone's faces rather clearly. It would have been really special to have had the opportunity to offer a dharma talk in the Jokhang but, on the other hand, it took quite a lot of pressure off! ha!

*In-person is always better and would help speaking and using our voice better than online, but zoom is still an effective way to learn.

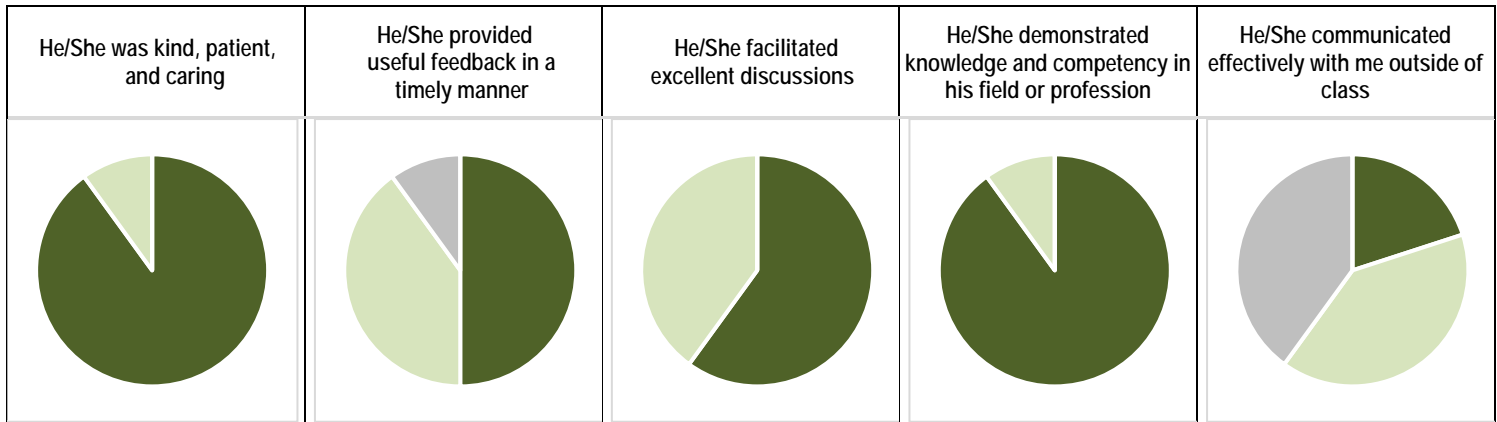
*I definitely like in person better than online. And, I am also glad we are still meeting (online) versus not meeting at all.

MED302 (evaluations: 10)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree



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?

* I appreciated Ven. Kadro's teachings as the guest teacher and all the time for discussion and questions and answers.

*I really loved this class. I did not take the Philosophy class during this term so there were moments when I think I could have benefitted from a discussion thread specifically on the readings. Some of the readings were quite dense and made me feel uneasy in even knowing what the main takeaway is supposed to be. At the same time, the readings in the Awakening Mind Series were amazing. I plan to buy all the other volumes of Geshe Tashi Tsering. I almost wish there were a whole class on what he wrote or maybe a mini seminar.

*An idea I have is what if we had mini meditation recordings for students - maybe a ""started set"" that offer 3-5-10 minute meditations when first introduced to a new topic. Could that be possible? I know that the first 2 weeks of any topic were an adjustment for me and something I could work with and work through on my own for a few days between classes could really help prepare me each week for the next step of the teachings.

*I found the 3 meditations that we received the day before spring break with Ven Yonten were amazing.

*This class was wonderful! I learned a lot from Rinpoche, Ven Yönten, and Ven. Khadro. I really enjoyed the way this content was presented, there was a solid breadth of material but we still got the opportunity to study it in depth.

*My only recommendation is to make studying the pictorial diagram of shamatha a regular part of the course, I found that to be extremely helpful!"

*While I missed the presence of Yangsi Rinpoche at the end of the term I also enjoyed and benefited from teachings from multiple teachers.

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?

*David Reeb was a fantastic TA. He always answered my questions and emails offline and over email and he was an excellent moderator for the online classes. Additionally, I really valued how he pushed us with his questions that were both playful and challenging and forced us to reflect. I have been in many discussion threads where the questions were ""throw away"" questions. I really liked how his questions forced us to synthesize what was on our minds and what we had learned and what questions we had.

*I also appreciated all of the other teachers we had: Ven Khadro and Ven Tsepel and Ven Yonten. I really appreciated their teaching styles and how they came to class with notes and outlines to work through. It was a departure from Rinpoche, but it was very useful as it forced me not assume that a subject is taught in a singular manner."

*David was an outstanding TA and all of the instructors were magnificent!

*I had a wonderful experience this semester, I wish I had constructive feedback to offer but I was just so content with the way the course went."

*All the teachers were exceptional. Please apply these answers to each of our course instructors for this term.

*It was a great honor to study with my instructors. Rinpoche is a gift and so are all the instructors.

*David is an excellent TA. He is skilled at reading the class and attending to where we are at. I feel well cared for by him and Rinpoche.

*Venerable's voice and tone is a little bit challenging for me. Some times it was hard to maintain interest. I wish she could project more and use some variation in her delivery.

*Finally, the analytical, guided meditations in the second half of the class sometimes felt more like lectures than meditations, with so much information and talking that I was listening to her voice and unable to do my own work in it. I would strongly recommend leaving more quiet between small bursts of instruction or guidance to enable the student to do the meditation and not just try to listen without taking notes and remember it all. When she left space, it was very effective!"

*Thank you to all the people that made this class happen!

*David was very timely with response and gave meaningful feedback on assignment and miscellaneous questions. He was a good facilitator over all and seemed organized. Thank you David!

*Yangsi Rinpoche style of leading meditation is very easy to follow and gentle and effective. Thank you Yangsi Rinpoche!

*Ven. Yoten was amazing as a guest speaker and I thought she did a great job unpacking several concepts and frameworks. Have her back if you can!

*Ven. Sangye Khodron was interesting shared many stories and insights that I found valuable. Thank you Ven Khodron!

*Hope everyone has a healthy, healing, fun summer. - tulusi"

How would you describe your on-line class experience compared to in person classes at Maitripa?

*Can't compare, never taken in person class at Maitripa but overall, I feel the online format worked great.

*I have not taken an in person class. I am very grateful that you offered this class online as it gave me the space to enroll and engage with the college.

*I do not have enough experience with in person classes to compare it with.

*I have not taken in person classes at Maitripa but I am very impressed with the way the Maitripa staff and faculty have navigated remote learning. It is not an easy thing to do, and the classes have been quite engaging, fulfilling, and educational!

*I actually enjoyed having it online. I usually have to have a bathroom break during long meditations, so having it online, I didn't feel I would disturb others by leaving the room.

*I would describe it as very positive. I do enjoy meditation at Maitripa in the company of other practitioners and I'm looking forward to that potential as well.

*This was my only class so far

*Haven't been in the class room so I cant compare.

MED308 (evaluations: 10)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

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?

*The variety of courses in meditation has been really helpful. It gives my practice new things to look at and to get out of my comfort zone.

*I haven't felt that the discussions have worked in any of my classes this year. Most of the time, questions weren't answered, and some people took up much of the time in the class at the expense of more participation. I found myself wishing that there were some other format for discussion questions, so they didn't feel like they were pointless, and that there was more of an attempt to have more voices participate throughout the semester.

*I appreciated the variety of course materials, which really integrated the material, by teaching by and for many points of view, and more and less heat centered approaches. That this be taught again.

*It was amazing having the class split between Rinpoche and Roger la. The beginning of the semester we had Rinpoche's unique and poetic guiding and then after having Roger la come in and take us through the text in a more direct way really helped bring together some of the more "magical" elements received first from Rinpoche!

*There are times when it is appropriate for an institution to acknowledge severe breaches of integrity; and FPMT has severely breached integrity but has not acknowledged it or been accountable. I am specifically referring to the handling of the Dagri Rinpoche matter; but there have been others.

*Even today, there is still a statement on the FPMT website that he is a ""holy being"". This statement was made with full knowledge that he was under criminal investigation for sexual assault, and that he had engaged with many others in a predatory way for years.

*When this was brought up in one class, I witnessed people making herculean efforts to justify calling him a holy being. The way we determine if someone is ""holy"" is by examining their deeds. The bottom line is that sexual assault and sexually predatory behavior are not the acts of a holy being. When these kinds of things come up, there needs to be a clear and firm statement about ethics and where Maitripa is on ethical behavior. Encouraging conversation about how perhaps Dagri Rinpoche is holy on the ultimate level but not on the gross level is frankly, ridiculous.

*I understand Roger is an academic and sexual assault and ethics are not his area. I do recommend that you do some kind of training for your teachers about how to clearly and firmly state that unethical behavior is - in fact - unethical.

*It is my hope that Rinpoche reads this and understands that to survive in the west, FPMT has to stop contorting itself to find ways to be complicit with sexual misconduct. Maitripa receives money from FPMT, and I understand there is a disinclination to directly disagree. I understand that Rinpoche is the president of Maitripa, not of FPMT. But there needs to be a public statement from Maitripa about what holy behavior is and is not. Otherwise, those of us who can think will leave."

*I loved this class so much!! It's been one of the best classes I've ever taken at Maitripa. It helped me deepen my meditation so much and understand Mahamudra practice, which I have wanted to learn for many years.

*The last few weeks on the Mind Only school were, however, very confusing for me in terms of what they were doing in this class on meditation, as we didn't apply it to meditation at all but instead continued on with our weekly plan (which I loved, more below), and the readings seemed irrelevant to the class. Apart from that, I thought the curriculum was wonderful."

*First, I feel blessed to be able to take place in this class. I met four of the five course objectives to some degree, but this one I didn't come close to: "Students will be able to meditate on the ultimate nature of mind through the awareness of conventional nature of mind." Put me down as incomplete here.

*Overall, I can't think of ways to improve this course."

*The course content was great.

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?

*I appreciate Rinpoche's skill and kindness.

*I appreciated that Rinpoche let us know his schedule coming into the term. It helped to know what to expect. I appreciated getting to know Venerable Yonten this term. I am grateful she was able to be with us, thanks to Covid.... all the way from Montana.

*Having only a week for most of our meditation reports was not ideal. Only suggestion to offer since we typically have two and that is what people are used to.

*If Rinpoche is unable to meet with students individually for 30 minutes, perhaps we could do so with Roger or Venerable Yonten. Was grateful for Roger's invaluable feedback on Meditation Report #3 but could have used some guidance in the first 3 months of the semester.

*Roger did an excellent job teaching meditations the last half of the semester. He incorporated components of Mahamudra in a way that I think I can replicate in my own daily practice. For this I am so grateful.

*Venerable Yonten comes with a strong teaching background; if she continues to work with Maitripa, I'd suggest giving her permission to give students feedback; this would be very helpful to us learners. I got the feeling that she was holding back, not wanting to overstep her boundaries as a TA. I hope in the future she can be given permission to step up and share her expertise and rich background.

*Thank-you for the course."

*Rinpoche was wonderful, as always. His half of the course helped prepare us for Roger, who was incredible and exceeded my expectations. I loved the way that Roger created a clear, step-by-step practice that we followed, with some minor variations, for the whole half of the term. I found doing that extremely beneficial, rather than doing something different every week. I also deeply appreciated how he read our discussion posts and directly and clearly answered them in class - so great!! And also that he responded to our meditation reports in a timely way was greatly appreciated. I think he is an amazing, skillful and caring meditation instructor and I would love to take more classes with him in the future. Thank you Roger!

*I also want to express my gratitude for Ven. Yonten, who was an exceptional TA. She went above and beyond her duties to make sure that we had everything we needed, she was responsive and clear, and she facilitated the class with ease and confidence. I hope that she comes back to TA or lead classes for us in the future."

*This class was amazing in many ways, the meditations that were lead by Rinpoche and the teachers were incredibly powerful and their knowledge is world class.

How would you describe your on-line class experience compared to in person classes at Maitripa?

*For me, online classes work. Obviously, the community element isn't the same.

*It was okay; I would much rather do all of this learning in person.

*I prefer in person courses--and I also appreciated having people, such as our TA, and our guest Professor, from other places in the country and the world.

*I found it harder to focus while meditating. Mostly because my meditation environment ended up being my office.

*OK. Better than nothing. Would prefer to be in person.

*As good as it could get! I lost a very close friend this semester and had much strong depression so having the chance to stay at home and still practice was nothing short of a blessing.

"Online offerings will never replace in-person meditation classes, but has been a strategy to deal with the covid quarantine.

*Venerable Yonten's Jorcho, 9 round breathing, and meditation recordings were extremely helpful – complete with visuals and audio recording so we can practice it again outside of class. Thank-you.

*Sharing air space can be a challenge in class, with one person using far more air than others, limiting space inclusive of more voices. One class member repeatedly posted and repeatedly asked questions orally that were not answered to her satisfaction. She continued asking it again and again (with increasing frustration at times) that became a bit distracting for the class. Would this be a time to suggest that she have a 30-minute private meeting with Rinpoche or Roger?"

*I prefer in person for meditation classes.

*I really like taking meditation classes online. It allows me to be in the comfort of my own home while practicing, rather than having to sit uncomfortably in the jokhang, though in-person certainly has other benefits, such as doing prostrations and having the connection with othe students and with Rinpoche in person.

*The experience was better for me because I got to see everyone's faces and read their comments.

*Not as good as in-person and I think the MTD classes miss the most not being in-person.

PHL302 (evaluations: 10)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

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?

*I would have preferred a consistent TA and teacher and format for class. Sometimes we had discussion groups, sometimes we didn't. I like small group discussion groups and would have liked to have more of them.

*Only that a little more preparation for the transition from Rinpoche teaching the class to Venerable Robina and then Geshela could have been helpful, but I'm not sure.

*loved the readings !

*The 4-page reading (week 4) on the "mind only school" was particularly confusing.

*Perhaps we could have first had a lecture on the main points Rinpoche was hoping we'd get."

*I was very happy with the course content. There was obviously some challenge and disorganization involved with Geshe-la taking over the last few weeks of class, but that is to be expected with a shift in instructors. My only real challenge with that was the struggles coordinating class content and reading.

*It would be nice to have the reading materials slightly more refined at the beginning of the semester, I'm not sure which classes now, but I have purchased required texts that end up not getting used. It's hard to know what I can wait to purchase until the syllabus comes at the beginning of class so I prefer not to wait."

*I find some of the traditional material and commentary dry and hard to connect with, although I do love the Padmakara translation of the Way of the Bodhisattva. I have used supplementary materials, including commentary on this text by Pema Chödrön, to help me to connect more fully with the content and meaning in my life. I don't think it would be a bad idea to offer this as optional reading in the future. She really speaks to Western mind without diluting.

*I like how the course content synched up with the MDT 302 course.

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?

*TA's were very accessible. It was challenging at times to follow Geshe's translation of Shantideva because it was different than ours.

*I believe including more time for questions would be helpful

*The class was never forewarned that Rinpoche would not teach the second half of the semester so this came as a surprise. This jerky transition could have been avoided completely by letting the class know of the coming change.

*We suddenly needed a different book to read. And were told that we no longer needed the book I'd already ordered, The Bodhisattva Vow.

*There were at least 4-5 weeks when the online discussion board was not ready until the last minute. It would be helpful for the discussion board to be posted the day after class so people have 4-5 days to submit comments/questions.

*I'm very grateful Rinpoche responded to concerns about the role of women in Tibetan Buddhism during one class. Apparently he invited Venerable Robina Courtin in the following week to address these issues -- however, she did not. Then suddenly Rinpoche disappeared and we had a different teacher. The timing led to uneasy feelings and confusion.

*Particularly enjoyed the Buddhist Psychology book and content of this course. Thank-you."

*I love taking class with Rinpoche! The perspective and energy he brings to class is always enriching and enjoyable.

*I would love some manner of direct facilitated engagement as part of the course, whether that is feedback on written assignments or some kind of topical direct meeting. Sometimes I struggle to know what questions are worth asking Rinpoche but would love an opportunity for discussion!"

*Yangsi Rinpoche is the embodiment of non-reactivity. He sets a really great example, while never feeling like he is super human; this is a rare gift. I very much missed him in the second half of the class.

*Tiffany was a great TA and sometimes translated/mediated to facilitate understanding between the students and Rinpoche, bringing a higher degree of clarity where it was needed.

*Geshela was delightful, his English quite good and such a happy presence."

*Thank you all for this class - I learned a great deal about Buddhism and about myself. For someone new to looking closely at any Buddhism this was a nice deep dive.

*This feedback is a bit challenging since we have had 4 different teachers/TAs! And for example I have no idea who will read this! (I am assuming it is you Namdrol. The doer of all things. There must be a deity for that. Maybe we should make one of you. Haha.)

*Tiffany and Namdrol responded timely to emails. I hope Tiffany is okay and I had wished we could have an update from her farm life! I will send her a note wishing her well.

*Tiffany said Yangsi Rinpoche doesn't read his emails so perhaps that is why no response there. I did not communicate directly with Geshela but I will send him a thank you note via the email provided.

*Geshela had wonderful things to share and was very sweet. But he did seem a bit nervous and not able to get the class going with questions so our class time often ended early. Maybe Maitripa could give him a cheat sheet of strategies for stimulating discussion (like asking the class questions to get things going - I always found this helpful when the class seemed bored or overwhelmed - which can look

the same from the podium). There are so many best practices in teaching - I think I have heard them called teaching ""hacks"" to keep the classroom moving. What I came to call ""eyes wide, butts in seat"" strategies so my student were not squirming to get out of class and hating me for boring them. Not that Geshela was ever in danger of being boring - I just wished we had all the time with him we could have!

*Yangsi Rinpoche - he doesn't seem to like people fawning over him so I won't. But it is worth saying - thank you - the college you and your team have created is cool. Despite my critical nature (which I am working on!) I am coming back for more in the fall either as a CE student or to start my MDiv (if admitted). There is something very special here - a world of discovery - and I am grateful you have dedicated your life in this way and that you keep coming back to that dedication. For you and your team it must be a challenge at times but you all don't give up and that is a marvelous thing.

*For this class there hasn't been any feedback yet on assignments. I completely understand how hard it is to keep up with the number of papers to assess and give written feedback on. I do wonder what might be a better system so that students have some direct input (we did get some in MDT 302 both from the TA David and Yangsi Rinpoche!). I use to do conferences and students loved it. Something about having that face to face - I think because I had around 30 students per class they were only 30 minutes each at midterm and final but they seemed to satisfy some aspect of what the students wanted and needed in terms of encouragement and feeling seen. We would discuss their work/writing to date. Maybe a peer to peer review on the longer writing with a group of 3-4 people as a way to manage the need/desire for input midterm? It might change the writing a bit because the audience shifts but I always think peer input took the intense focus off me as a teacher and puts the students in the more realistic audience of their comrades (of course I am not sure this is what Maitripa is going for - when teaching business and leadership is a very relevant strategy). Of course teachers/TA input can't be replaced by peers but it can still create that feeling of being witnessed and getting new perspectives. We had ground rules for feedback related to words of appreciation and careful critic. Anyhow just some ideas.

*A few words about the midterm flurry of emails both from me and another student (that I know of) that was born out of an in class discussion right before spring break. I am not interested in complaining about whether or not my communications were addressed by the lead instructor (that seems too obvious). But there are a couple of things that might be useful to consider moving forward:

*Ven. Robina was very intense and maybe not an appropriate input after a sensitive subject was raised. I still do not believe her behavior towards Andi was okay inside of an academic classroom setting (honestly I can't think of a place that would be appropriate). I know I was not the only one who was distressed by the dharma thumping mood brought in on the heels of big vulnerable discussions where several questions with personal relevance were raised.

*This is a more vulnerable environment than I imagined. Something about the combination of deep personal work and the academic setting makes it especially tender. I discussed this with one of the other students - and while I can not speak for her - we both reviewed that the combination of having an intense (and special!) person, Yangsi Rinpoche with all sort of opaque social etiquette placed at the center of our classes and then after a big discussion and reaction to that discussion and how awkward it was to have no words from him! I believe this left us both feeling a range of emotions from insecure and disrespected to just plain mad and hurt. I know this may sound immature but even as a professional I have some pride so I think it's natural. Like there was an invitation to express, connect and then it felt like rejection to not hear anything. Then he disappeared for the rest of term! Only to reappear at the end, which was nice. Maybe consider the intimate environment that is being created and have very clear ground rules so that expectations are not missed.

*I feel like I have recovered and am fine but it was all a bit difficult. If I knew ahead of time for example that I wasn't to send emails to Yangsi Rinpoche (I am still not clear about this) or that he was having something personal come up this term and would not be available to students - or simply is not available - these would have been nice things to know. Maybe in general, diffuse the focus on him - for him and for the students.

*Anyhow those are my wordy thoughts (as usual). Hope something in there is helpful. I do feel very grateful to have found Maitripa and have this new direction to take my personal and professional development. It has opened up so many beautiful conversations in my social circles and instigated positive shifts for me personally.

*I hope each of the people that brought this class to fruition knows they are appreciated. I think you are all very brave to have leaped into online learning with Zoom - I have only facilitated small meetings and been a participant in larger ones - I can only imagine what a big learning curve it is to do full classes! Thank you and please wish your team a healthy and wonderful summer. - tulsi"

How would you describe your on-line class experience compared to in person classes at Maitripa?

*Can't compare, never taken in person class at Maitripa but overall, I feel the online format worked great.

*I don't know, didn't have enough in person classes to compare.

*Overall it has continued to be very positive. I do look forward to seeing folks in person though.

*I found the benefit of having it online because it was recorded. I don't know if in-class is recorded or not, but with the course content being difficult to absorb (sometimes), I liked being able to go back and listen again.

*it was frustrating but worth it...I could not be at Maitripa without it

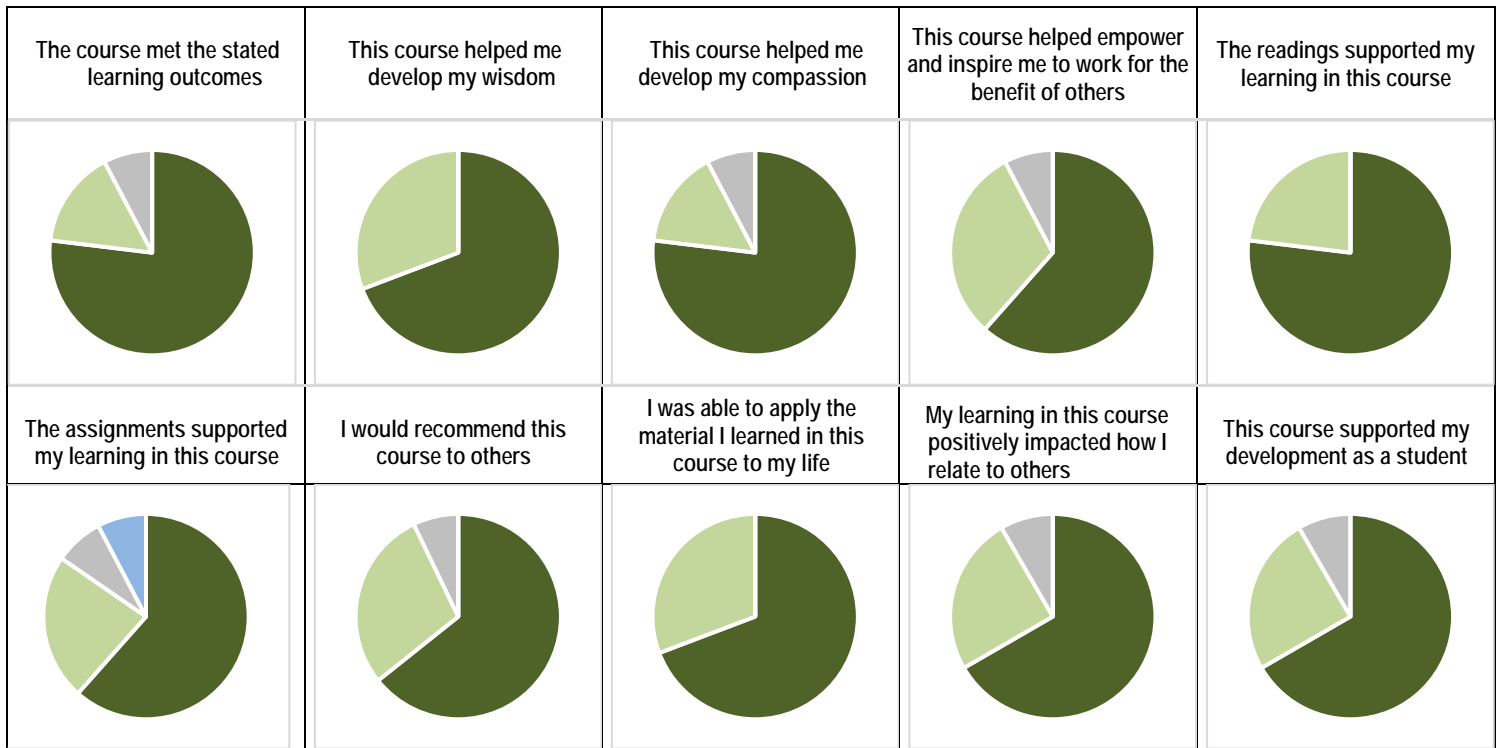
*Grateful we had the option of an online class during covid, but in-person is best.

*I have never taken in person classes at Maitripa. From everything I've heard from students in other online programs, the quality of Maitripa's online classes is stellar. I can't wait to take in person classes, but I am very happy with my online experience.

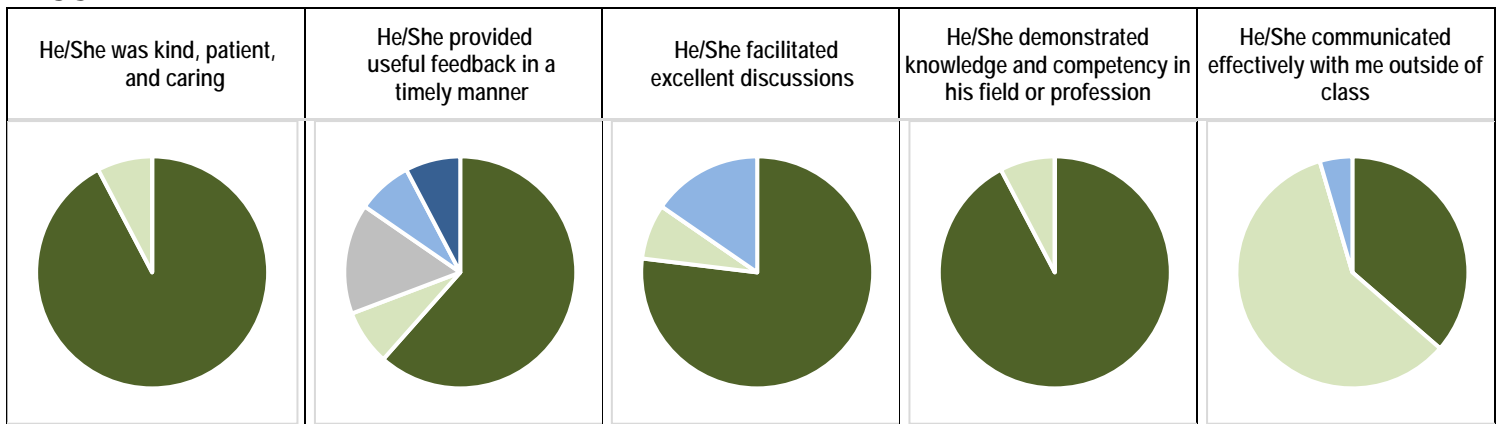
*I have never been to Maitripa so I can't say.

*I don't yet have in-class experience so I cant comment here.

PHL308 (evaluations: 13)



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?

*I appreciate the course content given that this is Mahamudra and is, at least to me, new. Another aspect that would have been great was to discuss more in detail the philosophical differences between emptiness and other emptiness.

*I also appreciate being able to go over the Uttaratantra."

*Of course having Rinpoche teach the beginning classes but Roger and Bill are amazing teachers and have so much knowledge to offer. My only request is that there be more preparatory discussions about the sexual assault allegations within Buddhism; it's a hot topic when we got into Guru Yoga and I believe we kinda got too off topic from the class.

*Most readings were helpful -- a couple were extremely confusing on the Mind Only School.

*After working on the final exam, I wonder if it might have been helpful to have had more readings from Roger's book Mind Seeing Mind."

*I am still working on understanding conventional and ultimate nature of mind from the Yogacara and Madyamika perspective." I view this course as more an inspirational overview of Mahamudra than a way of meeting the explicit objectives laid out in the

syllabus.

*I would like, in addition to the readings, a brief outline of each class."

*I really enjoyed Rogers' introduction to the poetry. And Rinpoche's inclusion of the Uttaratantra was a delight. Bill's reading choices on Mind-Only were helpful for me (I have always found Mind-Only somewhat confusing before).

*I loved that we had multiple sources from which to learn. I saw that different students were drawn to different sources.

*The discussions were dominated by only a very few, and the discussion questions were rarely answered. Some very important issues, such as cultural dissonance with regard to traditional practices and expectations, were not welcomed. It felt as though these concerns were received with trepidation and containment, rather than the open, welcome thought-provoking discussions that should take place in a graduate school setting.

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?

*I thought Rinpoche worked well as always. He appreciate leaving with more questions that answers which help us deepen our practice. I also appreciate having Roger and Bill coming from different perspectives.

*I loved how we broke up the classes with Rinpoche, Roger la, and Bill la. I found it very helpful to have Roger and Bill's expertise after having first looked at the text with Rinpoche. Really incredible who all teaches at Maitripa or comes through to teach, my good fortune is too much!

*Rinpoche and the teachers were great, I couldn't imagine any improvements can be made.

*After the lecture, Rinpoche usually asked Daryl what we should discuss in small groups. Daryl usually had no idea what question to pose. I humbly suggest that Rinpoche pose a question for discussion based on his knowledge of the curriculum content and seeing where the class was confused based on questions asked in class and on the discussion board.

*Would love feedback on the mid-term. Would love a 3- minute appt. with Rinpoche. Have a back log of questions!

*Roger's instruction was exemplary. He held the class together by attending all sessions -- greatly appreciated. He read the discussion board questions and responded accordingly. He effectively used the small discussion format. Very helpful to have his outline of main points.

*Bill was humorous and knowledgeable. His lectures, however, were confusing and difficult to follow the main points."

*I was honored to spend time with Roger Jackson, Bill Magee and Yangsi Rinpoche. Daryl Dunigan also did a very good job.

*I had some doubts about having three teachers for the same course, but it worked out just beautifully! To have 3 such experienced and excellent teachers was a remarkable and very enriching experience. Daryl did a great job as a TA and I especially appreciated his email reminders whenever anything changed or new material was posted.

*It was a bit harder to connect with a new (to me) TA over Zoom. I liked that y'all were open to feedback. Some break out rooms early in the term, and later we mostly held class all together. I appreciated the team teaching!

How would you describe your on-line class experience compared to in person classes at Maitripa?

*On-line worked, however, I am hopeful classes can resume back to in-person in the fall.

*I think it was great. The content itself works online as much as in person. Obviously, the community part isn't just the same.

*It worked well. This was my first time studying Mahamudra so I do not have anything to compare it against.

*Went pretty well. Seemed to facilitate different kinds of interactions that are not possible in-person.

*Online is definitely not as good as in-person learning but does work for now until the end of the pandemic. It's really great that students can participate from all over the world.

*In person instruction is always best -- better interaction with the instructor and our colleagues. I particularly missed building relationships with my colleagues; online just doesn't promote this.

*I loved the Zoom experience, though I missed informal interactions with fellow students.

*The Zoom classes went well -- it was nice to meet students from other places and study with them. Screen time is, however, tiring (nothing to do about that). I think discussions are much richer in FTF classrooms, though. I miss learning from other students as well as my three brilliant teachers.

*I like that we could have a Professor from MN and in IL, and classmates from all over: FL, MD and (was it) Iceland?! I also like in person learning.

*I would much rather take courses in person.

PHL450 (evaluations: 9)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

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?

*Ambitious but well executed.

*Less reading, please. I often felt I missed out on the depth of an article because I had to quickly get through to get to the others. I know there is a lot out there, but to skim down on the reading.

*I loved having guest speakers, learning about the influences that determined how Buddhism is portrayed, and learning about positionality and self-reflexivity.

*The content was very high level and field-specific. I often felt it was over my head and had a hard time connecting with the content based on the delivery. How much of that is related to my personal health issues and cognitive challenges during the past month or more is unclear to me.

*What works best for me is material that has a feeling associated with it so I can connect even if I feel overwhelmed by new language and terminology..."

*I appreciated all the guest speakers and time for class discussion and questions. I would recommend slightly more time for in class discussion separate from specific speakers

*This class was so helpful in learning how to research more deeply. Really appreciate the content and effort put into designing the course work. Thank you.

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?

*This was an ambitious class but worth the effort. It forced me to go beyond my comfort level and challenge some of my basic assumptions. At the same time it helped me to build my goals of becoming a scholar practitioner. Thanks Leigh!

*There was no TA, and I think that could be a great addition!

*She is brilliant, articulate, insightful, compassionate and has a high view, yet clearly knowledgeable in her field and not missing a detail. I love her lectures and discussions, and look forward to taking more classes with her.

*I would have appreciated slightly more timely feedback on general communications and assignments and more comprehensive feedback on written assignments. I did appreciate what I did receive.

How would you describe your on-line class experience compared to in person classes at Maitripa?

*Getting a little fatigued and looking forward to being back in person.

*Some computer glitches but I couldn't have attended this class without on-line presence!

*I don't think there would have been much of a difference, if any, if it would have been in person.

*I don't know, I wasn't in person enough to compare it.

*I can't compare them because I started Maitripa post-pandemic.

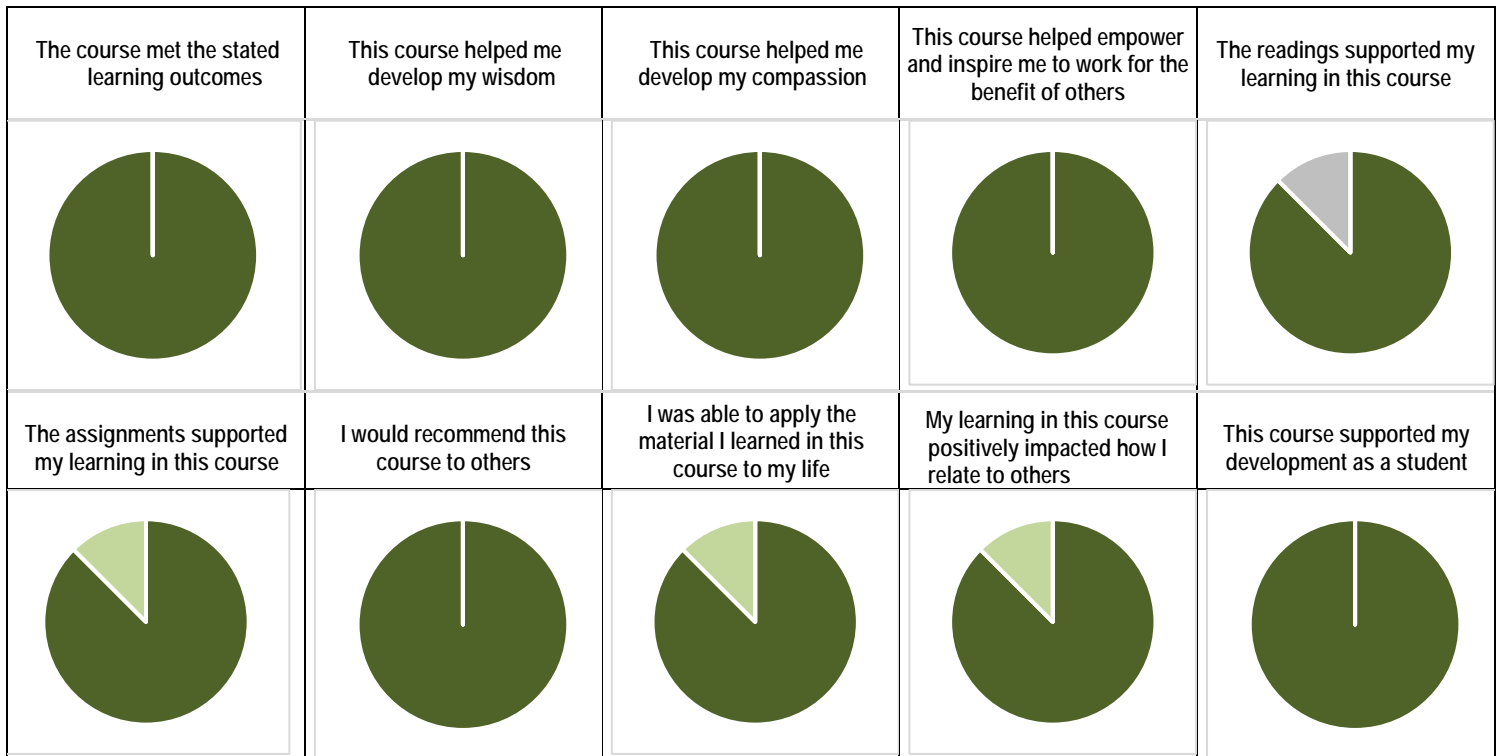
*I will say that the instructor makes great slides, and that less is more... Specifically, if there is a lecture, it's very hard to listen and take in lots of information while reading slides that are filled with text.

*I strongly recommend breaking down slides to one point at a time or simply giving the slides as handouts ahead of time and then referring to them because I found that sort of multitasking on Zoom very tiring."

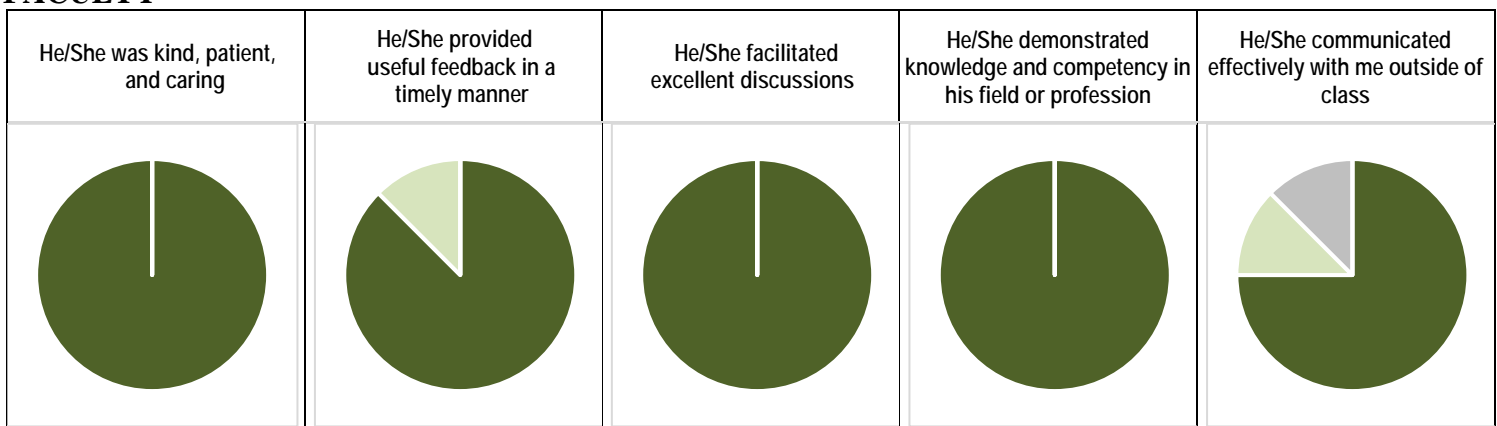
*Can't compare, never taken in person class at Maitripa but overall, I feel the online format worked great.

*Very engaging class and the guest speakers were over the top. All of the material was practical and applicable.

THL339 (evaluations: 9)



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?

*Great class all around. Lashelle has the content dialed in. All so valuable. Thank you.

*This course is well thought out, and has embodied heart, throughout. This material worked and was flexible and continues to change and evolve.

*I loved the content of this course and the way it was arranged. The group exercises in the breakout rooms were always a delight, and allowed for so much closeness and connection to develop among the class. We were able to practice what we were learning immediately, which I really appreciated. LaShelle's explanations of the different patterns were always clear and filled with such deep wisdom. The pacing was perfect as we covered all the material in just the right time.

*A few things that could be improved:

*The group exercises sometimes needed more explanation and set-up to be fully effective. Sometimes we were unsure what we should be doing.

*There were no readings, and I found myself really wanting to learn more and do some reading on this topic, but was unable to find anything. Providing readings to give us more insight into the different patterns would be super helpful.

*There could have been more assignments, e.g. a quiz from time to time, to help us remember what we were learning and to assess our own progress and learning."

*My suggestion for further online coursework would be to send out the documents in a different way. I spent a lot of time trying to submit work in formats which were not easy to come up with. If they were sent out in a form that we could write on, that would have been much easier.

*Pretty much everything worked. This was a life-changing class.

*PLEASE PLEASE offer more of LaShelle's classes. Seriously, this was the most healing experience I have ever had."

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?

*I am so grateful to have had this year of studies with Lachelle. I learned so much about myself and how best to be in service to others. Such a good job building community within the class. Thank you.

*LaShelle is kind, caring, compassionate, and her Bodhisattva intention to help transform our habit patterns with kindness really came through throughout this entire course. I would make a request that this material and this class with LaShelle Lowe-Charde teaching, become a permanent part of Maitripa's annual offerings. I make this request since the material is so integrating and engaging with the other classes we take. LaShelle knows how to connect and embody good boundaries as well as embody simultaneous care and compassion.

*LaShelle is an absolute miracle - as a person and a teacher. As one student shared in class today, I also cannot imagine education at Maitripa without her classes. They should be required for all students, not electives. I really believe that, because these classes are the foundation of empathic service to the world. They provide a shared language for all of us at Maitripa, and I can tell right away those who have not yet had the honor of taking one of her classes.

*LaShelle has so much to offer, I can easily imagine her facilitating and teaching a wide variety of classes for us. May she live long and come back to teach again and again soon!"

What a love Lashelle is, modeling the kind of best-self we all strive to be. Well done, and the love is felt and appreciated. It is very clear that she lives what she teaches.

"LaShelle is one of the best communicators I have ever experienced. She is a great listener and processor. I can't say enough about her gifts!

*I hope Maitripa offers classes with LaShelle next semester.

*I would like to class to be longer. :-)

*Possibly a retreat weekend on zoom.

*I looked forward to being in LaShelle's company every week."

How would you describe your on-line class experience compared to in person classes at Maitripa?

*Excellent online experience, however, I can see where having such a class in person would have been so much better.

*Can't compare because i have never taken a class in person at Maitripa but in general, the online model seemed to work very well.

*I think the online experience went well.

*I generally prefer in person--and the teacher of this course is very skillful--to help us feel connected regardless of where we are. Other teachers could learn some things from her.

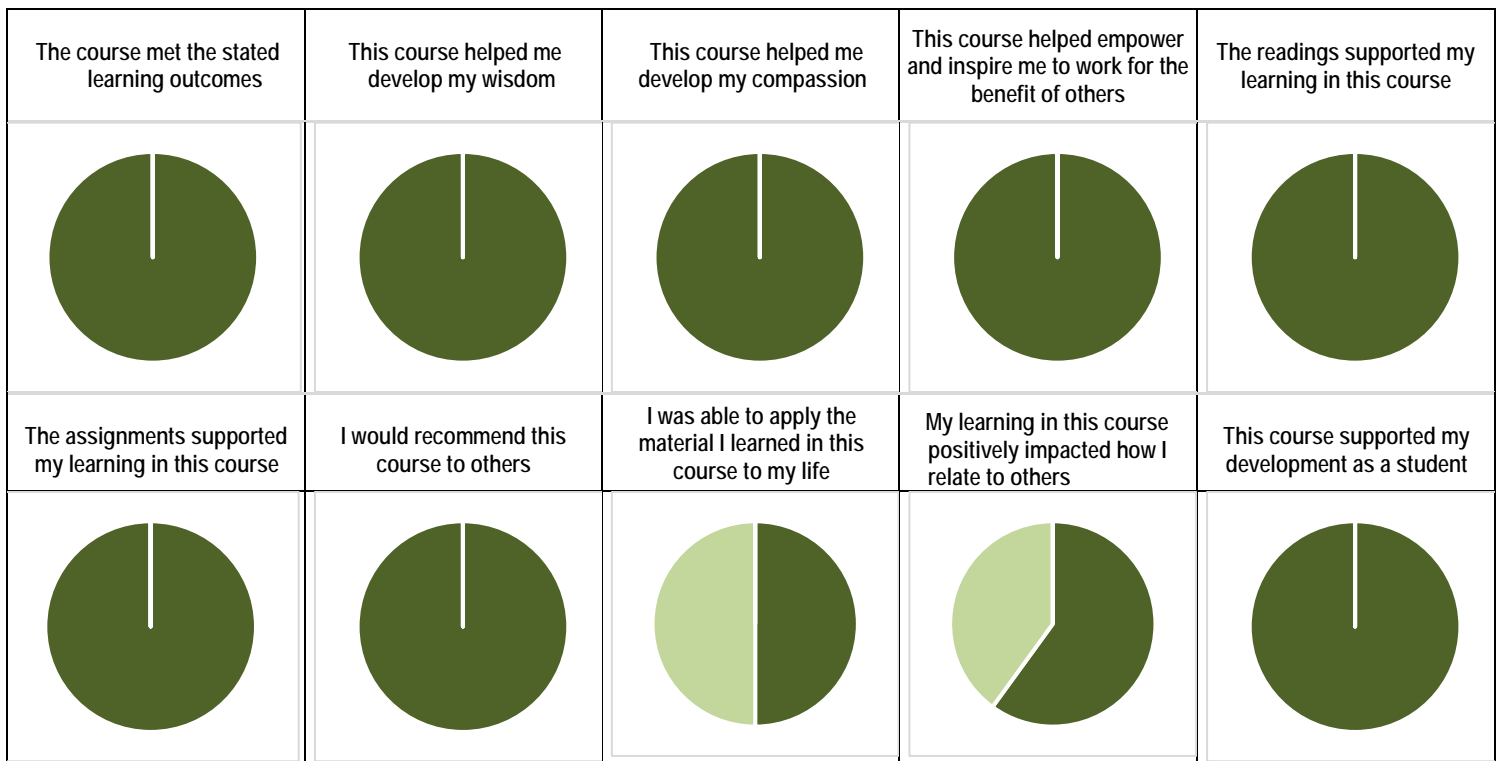
*Having this class online was really quite good for me. The breakout rooms are actually really effective and feel more intimate than in a classroom full of bodies. In the classroom, it can be awkward to be in small groups and share something tender or sensitive, because of the other people talking away in other groups nearby and possibly overhearing. Breakout rooms provide more confidentiality and safety for such vulnerable and deep discussions.

*This was a tough one to do online, but Lashelle made it work as best she could. For me personally, it was tough because of the pandemic. The isolation made me more awkward than normal, because I don't have much social intensity with anyone, so being required to launch in after a week of mostly being solitary, it was a challenge. All in all, the experience was as positive as it could be, given the circumstances.

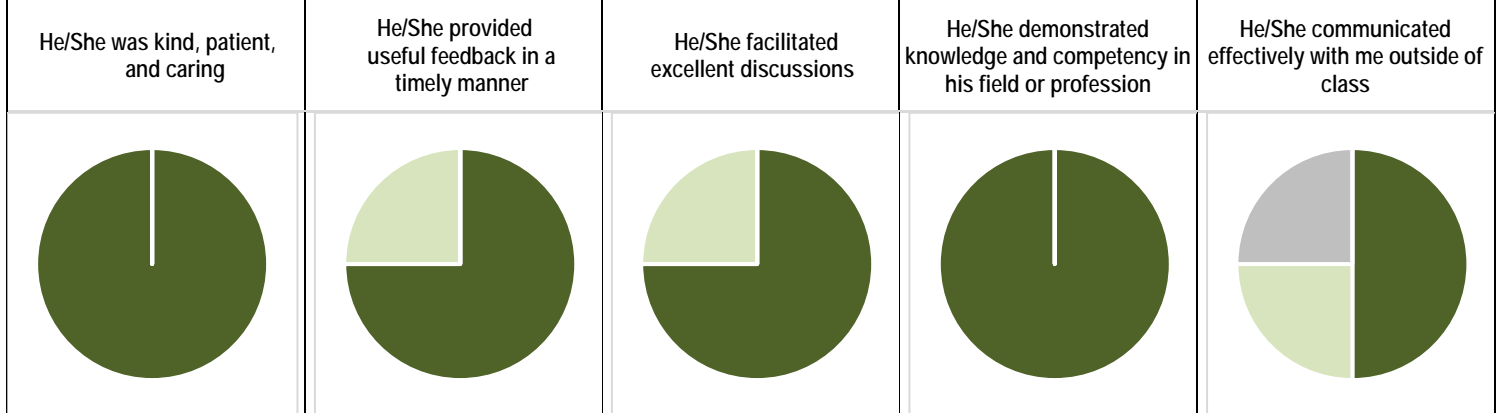
*I loved the online class. It felt intimate and efficient. I would sign up again for the online experience.

*Didn't miss being in a room."

TIB301r (evaluations: 4)



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?

*I think we figured out a good rhythm with it. I really appreciated all of the insights from Rinpoche and the other students! I think we have developed a good system in class and it works great. No other request.
 This course is amazing and such a rare offering. I really rejoice that Rinpoche is doing this with future translators, during the year I realized that I wouldnt be headed towards translation work but I stayed in the course due to how much I was learning listening to Rinpoche's explanation and insights.

"Our group study sessions with one live shared google doc worked really well. In other classes, the insistence on Word docs has led to duplication of effort. The google doc always being live and impossible to accidentally open a private copy of makes it great for the group, and the comment feature was heavily used.

I enjoyed the text, learning what it takes to be a bodhisattva seems useful. I get bogged down with all the minutiae, but that's the genre."

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?

*Very grateful! Thank you very much!

No.

I think the class found it's rhythm halfway through when we landed on a class pattern of Rinpoche reading, us giving our translations of that section back to him, and then all of us discussing together what the best word and meaning translation might be. Rinpoche never failed to offer up a fresh perspective or to encourage us to get creative in translation. My only suggestion would be to add in a weekly group session that meets outside of the class. We set something like this up on our own but it might be beneficial to have it as part of the class from the get go.

Roberta and Sunitha are kind and helpful. Rinpoche is, what do you say, a treasure. I was very fortunate to take the class. As I said above, this time slot would have been unavailable to me before the online shift, and I had never taken a class with Rinpoche before this year. I'm so glad I was able to take this one. Rinpoche is patient, kind, very humorous, and full of knowledge.

How would you describe your on-line class experience compared to in person classes at Maitripa?

*Meh. I don't like online much. I'm grateful for the opportunity to keep learning but it's not the same as being in a community and being in the presence of each other.

I think this class works pretty well online because we can share screen much easier. We could have technical difficulties if this was an in-person class. Additionally, since the interest in translation is much smaller, having it online is great so people outside of Oregon can join.

Of course nothing beats being in person at Maitripa but having the opportunity to welcome Rinpoche into my home virtually every week was a delight. The zoom setup worked well, our class is small in number. I get very fatigued due to Zoom burnout but overall I thought that the online classes worked well.

I love online classes. The reduction in commuting, lugging books and equipment, is really nice, and I would have had schedule conflicts had commuting been necessary. I don't feel like I really lost anything.