

Review of the Hinayana Course:  
Dec. 19 (begins at 7 p.m.)

The last class in the Hinayana Course on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> will give us a chance to go back over the material, look at major themes, and have a group discussion. A brief summary of the main points of the course is provided to help you in your preparation. Please review the questions below and prepare brief answers. You can write them down and bring them to class if you wish. We will go around the room and allow each person to provide an answer to one of the questions with other students contributing from their own understanding. This is not meant to be an intimidating process but a way to focus our energy on the material and check our own understanding. Please come even if you missed some classes and haven't been able to make it up. The exam is not graded.

The group exam will be from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will be followed by a joint party with the book discussion group.

1. Bringing study to the path: Explain the three prajnas of hearing, contemplating and meditating.
2. What is the problem with studying without meditating, or meditating without any study of dharma?
3. Renunciation: What is renunciation, and why is it important? What is it that we renounce and why?
4. First seal: Why do we study impermanence? How does this teaching transcend conventional wisdom on the transitory nature of human life?
5. Second seal: Why does Buddhism make a big deal of suffering? Isn't it obvious? Why do we need to apply awareness to our experience to understand this teaching?
6. Why are the two veils of kleshas and primitive beliefs said to be the cause of suffering? Which is the visible cause and which the underlying cause?
7. Third seal: What does it mean for there to be a self? What sort of analysis is used in searching for such a self?
8. What is the wheel of samsara? How does it perpetuate suffering? Where on this wheel is the best opportunity to break the cycle?
9. Fourth seal: Why is nirvana said to be ungraspable, beyond conceptions? How do you make use of this teaching?
10. What is vipashyana? Have you had glimpses of it?

11. What is the most important thing that you have understood and personalized in this course?