



REL 221: Buddhism

(CNW, GN, GPR, NW, WI)

Tuesday- Thursday — 12:30-13:45

MARY FOUST 118

Gregory Price Grieve

108a Foust Building

Office Hours: TR 11:15-12:15

(or by appointment)

Phone: (336) 334-4913

Email: gpgrieve@uncg.edu

Web: <http://www.gpgrieve.org>

Blackboard: <http://blackboard.uncg.edu>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/>

CREDITS: 3:3

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An old Tibetan saying maintains, “every valley has a unique dialect; every Lama has a unique Buddhism.” Through readings, lectures, discussion and writing, this course investigates that family of religions we call Buddhism. Relying primarily on material culture and lived experiences, we will analyze the cosmologies, aesthetics and religious practices that inform the lives of Buddhist women and men, both in the present and past. In the course you will become familiar with significant features that contribute to Buddhism as a religion, including basic terms and common concepts, worldly concerns, key teachings, images, ceremonies and architectures.

Three underlying but no less important objectives are (1) to become familiar with a theoretical “tool box” of methods and theories for the academic study of religion in general, especially as it pertains to the study of Asian traditions; (2) to understand the politics of knowledge by which we come to understand other people's religions; and (3) to see that our exploration will inevitably involve inquiry into our own culture and its religious traditions as reflected in our understanding (or misunderstanding) of Buddhism.

TEACHING METHODS AND ASSIGNMENTS FOR ACHIEVING LEARNING

OUTCOMES: This course is designed as a speaking and writing intensive workshop. Student participation is essential, and while the instructor will lead discussion and lecture, student-led discussion will drive the course. Besides gaining an understanding of Buddhism, the aim of the class is for students to demonstrate their ability to express themselves clearly and effectively in speech and in writing. Pursuant to this, students will engage in library research, the craft of writing academic research papers, as well as the practice of oral presentation and debate.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: While I want you to gain a general knowledge of Buddhism, it is also important that you learn how to understand and interpret religious traditions in an academic setting. Accordingly, our goal in this class is not only to learn about Buddhism but also to learn how to think critically about religion in general. In this class you will engage in discussion, listen to lectures, watch audio-visual presentations, take exams, work in groups, as well as read and write critically. In the class:

- ◆ students will demonstrate a working knowledge of some significant elements of Buddhism as they are manifested in particular traditions and cultures;
- ◆ students will become familiar with the ways in which Buddhism is shaped by contemporary social institutions;
- ◆ students will make critical comparisons among religious traditions, experiences, and practices across culture, time, ethnicity, race, and gender;
- ◆ students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between religion and other elements of society, such as the connection between religion and power, the role of religious movements as forces of personal and social transformation, and as social justice;
- ◆ and students will demonstrate a working knowledge of, and the ability to apply to Buddhism, various theories, methodological perspectives, and experiential approaches to religious studies.

IN CLASS RULES Each of the following offenses may lower your final grade by one half letter (e.g., from a B to a B-). Regular offenses may cause you to be expelled from the course.

- ◆ **Punctuality and Attendance at All Classes**— Attendance will be taken every class, and grades may be lowered on account of absences. After four absences your grade will be lowered by one half letter for each additional absence. Tardiness of more than ten minutes is considered an absence. The grade of those with perfect attendance will be raised by one half letter. Absences will only be excused with a written document —this includes doctor appointments and funerals.
- ◆ **Reading**— You must come to class with material carefully read. Not coming to class prepared counts as an absence.
- ◆ **No Cellular Phones or Instant messaging!** — Cellular phones must be turned off in the classroom. If your phone rings I will deduct one half letter from your final grade. If you talk on the phone or text message, I reserve the right to fail you. Turn them off before you enter the room!
- ◆ **No Chatter** — If I am lecturing, or if a student "has the floor," other talking is highly distracting. If you have something to add to the conversation, please raise your hand and I will call upon you in turn. If you have something to say which is not related to the class, please wait until the period is over.
- ◆ **No Hats, Sunglasses and Roller Skates** — Hats, sunglasses and Roller Skates are not appropriate in the classroom. Please take them off before you enter.
- ◆ **No Eating in Class**— It is not appropriate to eat in the classroom. Please eat outside of the class period.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Donald Mitchell. *Buddhism: Introducing The Buddhism Experience*

Donald Lopez. *Prisoners of Shangri-La*

*E-reserves

*In-Class Handouts

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

“What is Close Reading?”

(<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/documents/CloseReading.html>)

“Eight Speaking Competencies and Criteria for Assessment” (e-reserve)

“What is an Annotated Bibliography” (<http://library.umcrookston.edu/Annotate.htm>)

Abominable Snowman Method Of Writing: A Supplement To The *Craft Of Research* (e-reserve)

EVALUATION AND GRADING MATRIX: (100 points possible)*

EXAM (March 23) 30%

Written Work (TOTAL OF 50%)

Student Draft Review (April 27) 5%

Final Paper (May 3) 35%

Writing Portfolio (10%):

Informal Topic Due 250 words (March 2)

Topic Due (March 28)

XYZ problem (March 30)

Annotated Bibliography (April 4)

Claim (April 6)

Evidence / Sub-claims (April 11)

Warrants and Qualifications (April 13)

Paper Structure (April 18)

Rough Draft (April 20)

Re-written Introduction and Conclusion (April 25)

Polished Draft Due (April 25)

Oral Work (TOTAL OF 10%)

Seven-minute student presentations (April 25 & April 27) 5%

Speaking Portfolio (5%):

Three- Minute presentation of a Reading (Jan 17-March 26)

You are the expert! (March 28)

Three-Minute Description of Sources (April 4)

Test Drive: Informal presentation of Claim and Evidence (April 11 & April 13)

Three-Minute Description of paper (April 18 & April 20)

Class Participation and Visit to Writing and Speaking Centers (10%):

Reading Summaries and Bergman talk (5%)

Visit to Writing Center (<http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/>) (1%)

Visit to Speaking Center (<http://www.uncg.edu/cst/speakingcenter/main.html>) (1%)

Note: Group work and oral assignments cannot be made-up. All late papers in relation to the portfolio will be penalized one half-letter grade for each day late. No late assignments will be taken for topic, sources, question, claim, outline, draft introductory paragraph, student draft, and student draft comments.

*The standards for grading are those described in the Undergraduate Bulletin, pp. 37-40, and at <http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Catalog/0001/uncgGradingSys.html>.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE: Each student is required to sign the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work submitted for the course. Refer to the UNCG *Undergraduate Bulletin*. If the student has any questions, he or she should speak with me or consult the ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY at <http://saf.dept.uncg.edu/studiscp/Honor.html>.

Week #1 — Introduction

Tuesday, January 10 — What is the academic study of religion?

CLASS HANDOUT: "Introduction." In Jonathan Z. Smith. *Imagining Religion: From Babylon to Jonestown*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1-4.

Section I: Studying Other Peoples' Religion?

Thursday, January 12 — Interpretation and the insider/outsider problem

READ: Miner (e-reading #1)

Muesse (e-reading #2)

Week #2 —

Tuesday, January 17: Orientalism or the case of the Monk's tennis shoes.

READ: Said (e-reading #3)

FILM: *Edward Said On Orientalism*

Thursday, January 19:

One Third of Class READ: Thurman (e-reading #4).

One Third of Class READ: King (e-reading # 5)

One Third of Class READ: “Offering the World-Mandala to One’s Guru”
(reading # 6)

Section I: Laying the Foundations

Week #3—

Tuesday, January 24: *The Life of Gautama Buddha*

READ: Mitchell, 9-32.

“The Great Departure and Enlightenment” (reading # 7)

Thursday, January 26: *The Teachings of the Buddha*

READ: Mitchell, 33-60.

“Suffering, Impermanence and No-Self” (reading # 8)

Week #4—

Tuesday, January 31: *The Way of the Elders*

READ: Mitchell, 64-92.

“The Mahasamghikas on the Buddha” (reading # 9)

Thursday, February 2: *The Great Vehicle*

READ: Mitchell, 96-125.

“The Mahayana Sutras”

Week #5—

Tuesday, February 7: *The Indian Experience Of Buddhism*

READ: Mitchell, 126-150

“Excerpts from Nagarjuna” (reading #10)

Thursday, February 9: *The Tibetan Experience of Buddhism*

READ: Mitchell, 151-173

“Mandalas, Mantras and Mudras” (reading #11)

Week#6—

Tuesday, February 14: *The Chinese Experience of Buddhism*

READ: Mitchell, 178-213

“The First Monk, The First Temple, and the Emperor Ming”
(reading #12)

Thursday, February 16: *The Korean Experience of Buddhism*

READ: Mitchell, 218-237

FILM: *Why Did Bodhi-Dharma Leave for the East?*

Week#7—

Tuesday, February 21: *The Japanese Experience of Buddhism*

READ: Mitchell, 241-279

“Hakuin’s First Satori” (reading #13)

Thursday, February 23: *Modern Buddhism in Asia*

READ: Mitchell, 283-310

FILM: *Buddhism: The Land Of The Disappearing Buddha-Japan*

Week #8 —

Tuesday, February 27: *Buddhism in the West*

READ: Mitchell, 316-343
“Smokey the Bear Sutra” (reading #14)
Choose Small Groups (A, B, C, D)
Thursday, March 2: EXAM #1 (Short Answer)

Section I: Applying Theory to Practice

Week #9 —

Tuesday, March 14. *The Name*
READ: Lopez, 15-45
Thursday, March 16. *The Book*
READ: Lopez, 46-85

Week #10

Tuesday, March 20. *The Eye*
READ: Lopez, 86-114
Thursday, March 23. *The Spell*
READ: Lopez, 115-135

Week #11

Tuesday, March 28. *The Art*
READ: Lopez, 135-155
Thursday, March 30. *The Prison*
READ: Lopez, 156-181

Week # 12 — *The Craft of Research* (and Mandalas)

Tuesday, April 4 — Sources
READ: Booth, 1-82
DUE: Annotated Bibliography
3 Minute presentation of sources

Thursday, April 6 — Staking your claims
READ: Booth, 85-92
DUE: Claim

Week # 13 — Working with Evidence (DUE: *Test Drive*: Informal presentation of Claim and Evidence)

Tuesday, April 11 — *Evidence*
READ: Booth, 94-110
DUE: Evidence/Subclaim

Thursday, April 13 — *Warrants and Qualifications*
READ: Booth, 111-148

DUE: Warrants and Qualifications

Week # 14 —Revising (DUE: 3-minute presentation of paper)

Tuesday, April 18 — ~~*Doing it again*~~ *Revising*

READ: Booth, 201-233

DUE: Paper Structure

Thursday, April 20— *Introduction and Conclusion*

READ: Booth, 234-254

DUE: Rough Draft

Week # 15 —Presentations (DUE: 7-minute student presentations)

Tuesday, April 25— *Student presentations*

DUE: Polished Draft (four copies) and Rewritten Introduction and Conclusion

Thursday, April 27— *Student presentations*

DUE: Student Draft Review

WEDNESDAY MAY 3 EXCELLENCE DAY

DUE: *Student papers and Portfolios*