

Weekly Writing Assignments  
Global Buddhism Seminar (RE 461 GG)  
Final Grade - 10 for a total of 20%

**Background:** On weeks you are not working on graded portions of your research project, you will write a 750-word paper addressing the proper day's prompt. Utilize 12-point font, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, and page numbers.

**Assignment:** Write a 750-word response to the following prompts. Due Fridays at 11:59PM.

**Week 1 (Course Goals)** - This is a course largely directed by you. Therefore, I want to know what you want to know. What do you specifically want to learn in this course? What do you need to learn to feel like this course was a success for you? **Due January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**Week 2 (Reading Scripture)** - Read "The Shorter Discourse on Emptiness" and the "Beginning of the Flower Garland Sutra" and analyze them. Which is Mahayana and which is Theravada? How can you tell? What images and/or ideas differentiate them? What do they tell you about the priorities of each of the strains of Buddhism? **Due January 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**Week 3 (Writing in Response)** - Pick one of the journal articles from either this week or last week. Analyze it as we did in class last week. Who wrote it? What's the thesis? Do you find it convincing? What might the article have done better? **Due February 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Week 4 (Methodology)** - We discussed a number of methodologies in class. Which methodology appeals to you the most? Explain what it is and why it appeals to you. Do you think you can use it for the final project? If so, explain how you might use it. If not, what alternative methodology would you pick? Why? **Due February 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**Week 5 (Final Paper Topic)** - Tell me what you plan to explore with your final project. You probably don't have a clear idea yet which is fine; what questions do you want to explore? How do you plan to do that (and has your idea of methodology changed from last week)? Why do you think this is a good topic? Why are you passionate about it? Why should other people care about it? **Due February 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**Week 6 (Book Review)** Choose an academic book that you plan to use for your final project. Following the conventions discussed in class, write an academic book review. You are welcome to then annotate this book for the Bibliography due next week. - **Due February 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Week 9 (Free Writing)** - Free write on your final paper topic. This isn't meant to be pretty, just to get some of your ideas down on paper now that you're more familiar with your topic. I suggest giving yourself an hour to write as much as you can; no proper citations, just ideas. You may go over the 750-word limit on this assignment. **Due March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

*Week 10 (Outline)* - A full (as possible) outline for your final paper including citations. You can organize it however it works best for you, but it must be readable and understandable by someone else (a/k/a Dr. Gillson). You may go over the 750-word limit. **March 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

*Week 11 (Pop-up Museum Ideas)* - Outline four objects/images that you plan to use for your pop-up museum exhibit. Explain why these items and how you plan to use them. **Due March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

*Week 13 (Orientalism and Buddhism)* -We've been discussing global interpretations of Buddhism and how Orientalism impacts that. Pick an object or event related to Buddhism and analyze how it represents Oriental understandings of Buddhism. **Due April 12<sup>th</sup>.**