

Global Buddhism Seminar

RE 461 GG

Spring 2024
M/W/F 2:40-3:50 PM
Kirby 235

Dr. Gwendolyn Gillson

208 Kirby Learning Center

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:30-2:30PM; Tuesday 10-11AM

By appointment through Zoom at <https://gwendolyn.gillson.youcanbook.me/>

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Course Description

What is Buddhism? How does Buddhism get expressed around the world across different cultures and eras? This course will explore that vast web of interconnected Buddhist experiences that create Buddhism as we know it today on a global scale. We will pay particular attention to the contemporary interpretations of Buddhist scriptures and practices that have made it such a point of interest among both Buddhists and non-Buddhists.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will:

- Be able to talk about the basics of Buddhist philosophy and life in Asia
 - Talk knowledgably about issues in contemporary Buddhism and how they relate to historical events
 - Create, plan, and execute a research paper on a subject within Global Buddhism
 - Be able to identify and analyze the main aspects of academic articles and primary source documents
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Required Texts

There are no required books for this course. All required materials are available through Moodle on our class site.

Attendance Policy

This is a small seminar course. Attendance and participation at all sessions is mandatory. Missing more than 4 sessions (2 weeks) will result in an automatic failure. If you need to miss more than 4 sessions for medical or family emergencies, please reach out ASAP.

Grades

This is a discussion class. I expect you to come to class having read and thought about the reading assignments. It will be beneficial for you to write down thoughts and ideas as you read not only for class participation, but also because it will be much easier for you to complete your course proposal.

Late work will be accepted within 48 hours of the due date with 10% points automatically deducted, meaning the highest grade you will receive for late work is 90%. After 48 hours, no late work will be accepted except for emergency situations.

Your *participation grade* comes from actively participating in class. This can be speaking during small group and large group discussion, answering questions, participating actively in course activities, and coming to class having done the homework assignment and ready to talk about it with me or your peers. This may also be earned by coming to my office hours and discussing course content. Participation should be consistently high throughout the semester, but an increase can help your grade while a decrease may result in a lower grade. **Frequent use of electronic devices other than for note taking will result in a decrease in your participation grade.**

Grading weights will be decided in class:

Annotated Bibliography - 10%

Research Paper - 25%

Pop up Museum Exhibit- 15%

Lead Class - 20%

Weekly Writing - 20%

Participation - 10%

Grading Scale will be as follows:

A: 100-94% A-: 93-90%

B+: 89-87% B: 86-83% B-: 82-80%

C+: 79-77% C: 76-73% C-: 72-70%

D+: 69-67% D: 66-63% D-: 62-60%

F - 59% and below

Collaboration:

I expect the work that you turn in to me to be done on your own. *All written assignments* must have the Honor Code typed/written and signed (this can be done electronically by typing your name following the Code): "As a member of the Illinois College academic community, I hereby confirm that this assignment is entirely my own work, except where I have cited other sources." Failure to do so will result in my refusal to give you a grade until it has been done

Evaluation:

All written assignments will have a separate handout detailing the assignment further; these are intended merely as overviews. You will submit an electronic copy **ONLY** through Moodle site for all written assignments. **Written assignments are always due at 11:59PM.**

Your research project (40% of your final grade)

Annotated Bibliography (10%) - an analysis of eight sources you plan to use in your final paper. At least six must be academic sources. First draft DUE March 21st (the week before Spring Break).

Research Paper (25%) - a 10-15-page research paper on a topic of your choosing related to Buddhism. First draft due April 23rd. Final Draft DUE Saturday, May 18th at 9PM.

Pop-up Museum Exhibit (5%) - a museum exhibit based on your final research project. You will present the exhibit for 1 hour. DUE Monday, April 22nd.

Weekly Writing (20%) - a series of 750-word papers that respond to particular prompts. You will need to complete eight of them. These will always be due on Fridays at 11:59PM.

Leading Class (20%) - lead discussion every other Wednesday.

What you can expect from me:

I will arrive on-time and prepared. I will invite and encourage you to participate and contribute. I will always strive to allow for diverse viewpoints and arguments. I will respectfully listen and respond to your questions and comments. I will be available both inside and outside class to answer questions or concerns you have.

CLASS SCHEDULE (topics and spacing subject to change)

Date	Topic	Reading	Due
Jan 17 (W)	Syllabus, class policies		
Jan 19 (F)	Buddhism Review	Gillson, Gwendolyn. "Buddhism: Overview." In <i>Buddhism: The Basics</i> . London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021.	Course Goals
Jan 22 (M)	Buddhist Scripture	Green, Ronald S. "Buddhist Scripture." In <i>Buddhism: The Basics</i> . London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021. Lowe, Brian D. "Contingent and Contested: Preliminary Remarks on Buddhist Catalogs and Canons in Early Japan." <i>Japanese Journal of Religious Studies</i> 41, no. 2 (2014): 221-253.	
Jan 24 (W)	Reading Scripture	Jataka Tales Part III , Heart Sutra , Questions of King Milinda Walker, Trent. "Theravada Literature after 'Roads Taken and Not Taken': Reflections on Recent Textual Studies." <i>Journal of Global Buddhism</i> 22, no. 1 (2022): 199-209.	
Jan 26 (F)	Analyzing Scripture	Excerpt from the "Flower Garland Sutra" "The Shorter Discourse on Emptiness"	Reading Scripture
Jan 29 (M)	Buddhist Meditation	Kittisenee, Napakadol. "Buddhist Meditation." In <i>Buddhism: The Basics</i> . London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021. "The Practice of Loving-Kindness." Translated by Ñānamoli Thera.	
Jan 31 (W)	Rethinking Meditation	Shulman, Eviatar. "Mindful Wisdom: The <i>Sati-Paṭṭāna Sutta</i> on Mindfulness, Memory, and Liberation." <i>History of Religions</i> 49, no. 4 (2010): 393-420. McMahan, David. Chapters 2 and 3 from <i>Rethinking Meditation</i> . 27-58.	
Feb 2 (F)	Reflecting on Meditation		Writing in Response
Feb 5 (M)	Women and Motherhood	Langenberg, Amy Paris. "Introduction." In <i>Birth in Buddhism: The Suffering Fetus and Female Freedom</i> (London: Routledge, 2017): 1-25. Andaya, Barbara Watson. "Localising the Universal: Women, Motherhood, and the Appeal of Early Theravada Buddhism." <i>Journal of Southeast Asian Studies</i> 33, no. 1 (2002): 1-30.	

Feb 7 (W)	Nuns	Cheng, Wei-yi. "Gender Roles in Transmitting Vietnamese Buddhism to Taiwan: Two Case-Studies of Vietnamese Buddhist Nuns." <i>Journal of Global Buddhism</i> 23, no. 1 (2022): 31-44. Watch: A Thousand Mothers (documentary)	
Feb 9 (F)	Finding Sources	Meet with McKenna Jacquemet (librarian) to talk about sources for your paper.	Methodology
Feb 12 (M)	Masculinity	Powers, John. "The Company of Men." In <i>A Bull of a Man: Images of Masculinity, Sex, and the Body in Indian Buddhism</i> (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009): 141-163. Keeler, Ward. "Being a Man vs. Being a Monk: Alternative Versions of Burmese Buddhist Masculinity." In <i>Buddhist Masculinities</i> , edited by Megan Bryson and Kevin Buckelew (New York: Columbia University Press, 2023): 183-205.	In Kirby 211
Feb 14 (W)	Sexuality	Gyatso, Janet. "One Plus One Makes Three: Buddhist Gender, Monasticism, and the Law of the Non-Excluded Middle." <i>History of Religions</i> 43, no. 2 (2003): 89-115. Cabezon, Jose. "The Deconstruction of Sexual Desire: Wisdom as Antidote." In <i>Sexuality in Classical South Asian Buddhism</i> (Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications, 2017): 249-296.	
Feb 16 (F)	Writing Book Reviews		Final Paper Topic
Feb 19 (M)	Orientalism in the US	Arjana, Sophia Rose. "Cultural Colonialism, Muddled Orientalism, and the Mystic Poor." In <i>Buying Buddha, Selling Rumi: Orientalism and the Mystical Marketplace</i> (London: Oneworld Academic, 2020): 69-112. [asynchronous]	
Feb 21 (W)	Living Tibetan Buddhism	SLICE. "Tibet, the Path to Wisdom." Youtube. 51 minutes. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CV4DmbagWHQ . [asynchronous]	
Feb 23 (F)	Analyzing Sources		Book Review
Feb 26 (M)	Death and Dying	Prude, Allyson. "Death and the Afterlife in Buddhism." In <i>Buddhism: The Basics</i> . London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021. Gillson, Gwendolyn. "Traversing the <i>Nenbutsu</i> : The Power of Ritual in Contemporary Japanese Buddhism." <i>Japanese Journal of Religious Studies</i> 41, no. 1 (2019): 31-51.	

Feb 28 (W)	Approaches to Death	Visalo, Phaisan. "The Seven Factors of a Peaceful Death: A Theravada Buddhist Approach to Dying." In <i>Buddhist Care for the Dying and Bereaved</i> , edited by Jonathan S. Watts and Toshiharu Tomatsu (Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications, 2012): 131-148. Tsomo, Karma Lekshe. "Death and Enlightenment in Tibet." In <i>Into the Jaws on Yama, Lord of Death: Buddhism, Bioethics, and Death</i> (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2006): 79-98.	
Mar 1 (F)	No Class	Dr. Gillson at Midwest Academy of Religion Conference. Work on your annotated bibliography!	Annotated Bibliography
		SPRING BREAK	
Mar 11 (M)	Engaged Buddhism	Deitrick, Jim. "Socially Engaged Buddhism." In <i>Buddhism: The Basics</i> . London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021. King, Sally B. "Human Rights and Criminal Justice." In <i>Socially Engaged Buddhism</i> (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2009): 137-158.	
Mar 13 (W)	Thinking through Engaged Buddhism	Hsu, Alexander. "Coming to Terms with 'Engaged Buddhism': Periodizing, Provincializing, and Politicizing the Concept." <i>Journal of Global Buddhism</i> 23, no. 1 (2022): 17-31. Samuels, Jeffrey. "Buddhist Disaster Relief: Monks, Networks, and the Politics of Religion." <i>Asian Ethnology</i> 75, no. 1 (2016): 53-74.	
Mar 15 (F)	Starting the Essay	Ryan, Hugh. "Making History Cool: The Pop-Up Museum of Queer History." <i>National Council on Public History</i> . July 29, 2013. https://ncph.org/history-at-work/pop-up-museum-of-queer-history/ . Smith, Matt, and Catherine Flood. "Disobedient Curating." <i>Art Journal</i> 76, no. 3/4 (2017): 92-100.	Free Writing
Mar 18 (M)	Violence	Jerryson, Michael. Chapters 1 and 3. In <i>If You Meet the Buddha on the Road: Buddhism, Politics, and Violence</i> (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018): 17-48 and 80-109.	In Kirby 211
Mar 20 (W)	Self-Immolation	Ohnuma, Reiko. "To Extract the Essence from this Essenceless Body: Self-Sacrifice and Self-Immolation in Indian Buddhism." In <i>Martyrdom, Self-Sacrifice, and Self-Immolation: Religious Perspectives on Suicide</i> , edited by Margo Kitts (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018): 241-263.	

		Soboslai, John, and Joel Gruber. "The Bodhisattva, the Dharmarāya, and the Dalai Lamas: Evaluating the Religious and Political Causes of Tibetan Self-Immolation." <i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i> 86, no. 3 (2018): 759-788.	
Mar 22 (F)			Outline
Mar 25 (M)	Economics	Bruntz, Courtney. "Buddhism and Economics." In <i>Buddhism: The Basics</i> . London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021. Caple, Jane. "Monastic Business Expansion in Post-Mao Tibet: Risk, Trust, and Perception." In <i>Monks, Money, and Morality: The Balancing Act of Contemporary Buddhism</i> , edited by Christoph Brumann, Saskia Abrahms-Kavunenko, and Beata Świtek (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021): 159-176.	
Mar 27 (W)	Troubling Capitalism	Abrahms-Kavunenko, Saskia. "Zombie Rubbish and Mummy Materiality: The Undead and the Fate of Mongolian Buddhist Waste." In <i>Buddhism and Waste: The Excess, Discard, and Afterlife of Buddhist Consumption</i> , edited by Trine Brox and Elizabeth Williams-Oerberg (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2022): 145-166. Clayton, Barbara and Della Duncan. "Gross National Happiness: Capitalism under Buddhism in the Kingdom of Bhutan." In <i>Buddhism Under Capitalism</i> , edited by Richard K, Payne and Fabio Rambelli (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2023): 147-166.	
Mar 29 (F)		Easter Break!	Pop-up Museum Ideas
Apr 1 (M)	D.T. Suzuki and Western Buddhism	Suzuki, D.T. Excerpts from <i>Introduction to Zen Buddhism</i> . Pages 1-57. Introduction written by C.G. Jung.	
Apr 3 (W)	Reassessing D.T. Suzuki	Hori, Victor Sōgen. "D.T. Suzuki and the Invention of Tradition." <i>The Eastern Buddhist</i> 47, no. 2 (2019): 41-81. Iwamura, Jane Naomi. "Zen's Personality: D.T. Suzuki." In <i>Virtual Orientalism: Asian Religions and American Popular Culture</i> (London: Oxford University Press, 2011): 23-62.	
Apr 5 (F)		Workday on your draft	First Draft due

Apr 8 (M)	Science and Buddhism	Lopez, Donald. Introduction and Chapter 4. <i>Buddhism and Science: A Guide for the Perplexed</i> .	
Apr 10 (W)	Reconciling Buddhism and Science	Cho, Francisca. "Buddhism, Science, and the Truth about Karma." <i>Religion Compass</i> 8, no. 4 (2014): 117-127. Scott, Gregory Adam. "Buddhism and Biomedicine in Republican China: Taixu's 'Buddhism and Science' (1923) and Ding Fubao's <i>Essentials of Buddhist Studies</i> (1920)." In <i>Buddhism and Medicine: An Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Sources</i> , edited by C. Pierce Salguero (New York: Columbia University Press, 2020): 87-93.	
Apr 12 (F)	Tying Together Ideas	Dr. Gillson at ASIANetwork Conference in Atlanta	Orientalism and Buddhism
Apr 15 (M)	Western Mindfulness	Purser, Ronald E. Chapters 4 and 5. In <i>McMindfulness: How Mindfulness became the New Capitalist Spirituality</i> (London: Repeater, 2019):	
Apr 17 (W)	Race	Lopez Jr., Donald. "Buddhism and the Science of Race." In <i>Buddhism and Science: A Guide for the Perplexed</i> . McNicholl, Adeana. "Buddhism and Race in the United States." <i>Religion Compass</i> 15, no. 8 (2021): e12412.	
Apr 19 (F)	Celebration of Excellence	No class! Attend the Celebration of Excellence	
Apr 22 (M)	Pop up Museum	Docent your pop-up museum in Kirby	
Apr 24 (W)	Review and Reflect	No readings.	
Apr 26 (F)	Work on Final paper	Dr. Gillson will be available in her office to answer questions about the final paper.	

Final Paper due Monday, April 29th at 11:59PM.