

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Jeffrey Dodge

Humanities Discipline: Philosophy

Date: December 9, 2016

World Religion: Buddhism

General Philosophy (PHIL 101)

The Philosophy of Religion: Buddhism (PHIL 220)

Introduction to the Ethics of Buddhism (PHIL 102)

Teaching Module Title: Buddhist Religious Traditions

Teaching Module Goals:

1. (PHIL 220) Introduce students to Buddhist thoughts on Religious Ideas and Experiences.
2. (PHIL 102) Introduce students to Buddhist moral thinking.
3. (PHIL 101) Introduce students to Buddhist Philosophy, especially on Religion and morality.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. Bowker, *World Religions: The Great Faiths Explored and Explained*, "Buddhism," pp. 58-81

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What has shaped Buddhist thoughts and practices? Give a brief explanation of how they have changed or adapted?
2. As Buddhist peoples have immigrated around the world, what events, beliefs, & practices shaped their identity? How have those beliefs and practices changed over time?
3. What are the major works of Buddhist sacred texts? Explain a major Buddhist belief from each of those texts, and which groups view a particular sacred text as the most important for them.
4. What other major Buddhist religious works, other than *The Three Jewels or Refuges*, have influenced the development of Buddhism? List and explain the importance of each text.
5. What is the connection between Hinduism and Buddhism? What beliefs do they have in common?
6. Who are the major Celestial Beings in Buddhism and what is their role in Buddhist life?
7. Explain what it means when Buddhists state that Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment.
8. What is the importance of nirvana in Buddhist thought and practice?
9. Explain the importance of *Buddha sasana* and *Buddha dharma*.
10. Explain the importance of The Four Noble Truths (PHIL 220).
11. How did the Buddhist understanding of Cosmology affect Buddhist thought and practice (PHIL 101, PHIL 220)?
12. List some of the major moral values of Buddhism (name the source), and explain their importance (PHIL 102).
13. Explain the meaning of the life of Buddha and the Buddha image and how it affected worship for Buddhists (PHIL 220).
14. Explain the Forms of Buddhism such as Theravada, Mahayana, and what role monks play, and what impact did these groups have had on Buddhist society (PHIL 102, 220).
15. What are the key features of Chinese, Japanese, and Tantric Buddhism?
16. What is the purpose of stupas, relics, and temples in Buddhism?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

1. (PHIL 220) Black Board Journal entries (essay minimum 500 words each).
2. (PHIL 102) Black Board Discussion Board (minimum 500 words).
3. (PHIL 101) Black Board Discussion Board (minimum 500 words).

Additional Resource information:

Harris, Stephen E., "Suffering and the Shape of Well-Being in Buddhist Ethics," *Asian Philosophy*. Aug2014, Vol. 24 Issue 3, p242-259. 18pages (copyright permission pending for attached article below).

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