

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Jonathan Arbuckle

Humanities Discipline: Anthropology

Date: January 19, 2017

World Religion: Buddhism

Teaching Module Title: Buddhism Part 2

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Review basic tenets of Buddhism (theology, rituals, practices, material culture...).
2. Introduce Dalai Lama and importance to Buddhism.
3. Explore the origins of Buddhism in America.
4. Discuss current socio-political climate in the United States and how Anthropology and learning across religions can be beneficial moving into the future.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. Mann, Numrich, and Williams: Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in America, pages, 1-42.
2. Dalai Lama video: <http://www.dalailama.com/webcasts/post/359-compassion-and-universal-responsibility>.

Class outline/Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts/Assessments for Students:

General Class Lecture/Discussion

1. Discuss origins of Buddhism in America.
2. Background and importance of Dalai Lama.
3. Watch and discuss clips from Dalai Lama webcast on compassion and universal responsibility.
4. Explore current socio-political climate in the U.S. and brainstorm answers to the following question: how can the Dalai Lama's ethics of universal responsibility address various public policy or political challenges in the United States?

Assessment:

Students will prepare a brief, five-minute speech to give to the class during the next meeting. Students are to give the speech as if they are an elected public official (either at the state or federal level) and outline how their public policies are informed by the Dalai Lama's ethics of universal responsibility. Students will have to research an elected office focus on three public policies.