

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module



Teacher Name: Tanya A. Martin

Humanities Discipline: Philosophy [Philosophy of Religion, Ethics]

World Religion: Buddhism

Date: January 17, 2017

Teaching Module Title: "Discourse on how Buddhism contributes to the quest for an ethical world"

Teaching Module Goals: The goal of this teaching module is to discuss Buddhism as a religion and meaningful way of life

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. <http://online.sfsu.edu/rone/Buddhism/BUDDHIST%20IDEAS%20FOR%20ATTAINING%20WORLD%20PEACE.htm>
2. http://www.buddhanet.net/pdf_file/damachak.pdf
3. DHAMMACAKKAPPAVATTANA SUTTA: THE GREAT DISCOURSE ON THE WHEEL OF DHARMA" The Venerable Mahasi Sayadaw
4. <http://www.lionsroar.com> *LION'S ROAR: Buddhist Wisdom for Our Time*
 - a. <http://www.lionsroar.com/lets-stand-up-together/> "Let's Stand Up Together" BY BHIKKHU BODHI | JANUARY 18, 2017
 - b. <http://www.lionsroar.com/buddhists-take-a-stand-the-march-on-washington-and-beyond/> "BUDDHISTS TAKE A STAND: THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON" BY LION'S ROAR STAFF | JANUARY 16, 2017
 - c. <HTTP://WWW.LIONSROAR.COM/THE-BODHISATTVA/> "The Bodhisattva" BY CHÖGYAM TRUNGPA RINPOCHE | JANUARY 17, 2017
5. Full "Beyond Religion: Ethics for the Whole World" Dalai Lama Speech
<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Dalai+Lama+on+You+Tube+Beyond+Religion&view=detail&mid=3E3C0377E08E181948453E3C0377E08E18194845&FORM=VIRE>
 - a. Beyond Religion: Ethics, Values, & Wellbeing, Part 1 of 3, with the Dalai Lama (Oct. 14, 2012)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdv6PXL1I7Y>
 - b. Beyond Religion: Ethics, Values, & Wellbeing, Part 2 of 3, with the Dalai Lama (Oct. 14, 2012)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3eJVjz85FI>
 - c. Beyond Religion: Ethics, Values, & Wellbeing, Part 3 of 3, with the Dalai Lama (Oct. 14, 2012)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llaiMOCfFGk>
6. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-loy/transcendence-or-immanence-balancing-heaven-and-earth_b_3166015.html *Transcendence or Immanence Balancing Heaven and Earth* by David Loy May 13, 2013

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What practice of Buddhists is appealing to Americans regardless of religious affiliation? How can this practice contribute to a better state of being for individuals and society in general?
2. What does the Dalai Lama say about the practice of religion in these times and why does he address this?
3. Like Hinduism, one of the key features of Buddhism is the belief in reincarnation. People are answerable to the law of karma, which determines the manner of one's rebirth. In your view, is the concept of reincarnation conducive to human flourishing, ethical human actions, and social justice?

4. In Islam and Christianity humankind is answerable to God for all their actions, and each individual will be called upon to render an account of their bad deeds in the afterlife. There is a Heavenly paradise or Hell where human beings go after God's judgment, depending on how one has lived his/her life. Is there anything akin to this in Buddhist tradition? Explain the differences and similarities among Buddhist, Christian, and Islamic doctrines on what happens after death.
5. What are the Eight-Fold Path and the Four Noble Truths and how do these moral codes compare to the Ten Commandments of the Bible and the ethical teachings found in the Qur'an?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

The assigned readings/videos will be discussed in class. Students will then answer the four questions above in a Wiki assignment or Course blog. Students will also be assigned a 3-5 page essay that explains their personal take on the Dalai Lama's message to the world presented in the video Beyond Religion: Ethics, Values, & Wellbeing Part I, 2 and 3.

