* Buddhism originally monastic movement divorced from society, but not really cause lay men and women had to support the monks
  + Would go into the woods
* Monks lived off of alms

Brahmanical Culture – when Buddhism arose no such thing called Hinduism 1000 years later Hinduism born

* Based off of Vedas/Upanishads- greatly precedes Buddhism
  + They were interpreted by the Brahmins
  + Must be born a Brahmin
  + Creates context in which caste is very important
  + Certain expectations of social self
  + Because of Upanishads ritual and spirituality become internalized and try to seek religion
    - Communities formed that were formed of religious practitioners
    - Not all the practitioners followed the same way so Buddhism ended up being born

Buddhism

* Rejects Vedas and Upanishads
* A minority tradition
* Based off of **Buddha** who taught the Dharma
* **Dharma** – what the Buddha said, teachings of the Buddha, the doctrine of the Buddha
* **Sangha** – people who follow the Buddha and apply the teachings becomes a mediating force for Buddhist tradition, but do not need to be born into it
  + Can be a Sangha if become a monk
  + Monks, nuns, laymen
* Samsara -

Dharma – the whole collection of Buddha’s teachings

**dharma** (lower case d)

* Born in specific caste, place, region and everything is supposed to be maintained as best as they can
* Be the best who ever you are and that’s how get reborn to a better life
* Move through caste system by being the best what ever thing you were born as
* Buddha was uninterested in this
* Buddhism rejects lower case dharma
* Moving up the caste system depends on morality, mediation, and wisdom
* Mainly focused on increasing a developing wisdom

\_\_\_Aside\_\_\_ - Bhagavad Gita – Brahmanical response to Buddhism and Buddhist like religions that say that dharma is not import

Buddhism

* Have NO SELF
* 5 Aggregates – what composes humans
  + Matter
  + Feelings
  + Perceptions
  + Predispositions
  + Consciousness
* Can’t find self in any of the 5 aggregates
* Very radical social view, if no self then there is nothing for you dharma to apply to so you are free of it
* Says we are **Ignorant** cause we think there is a self, but we are wrong
  + Once we have a self we have an other, this duality self vs. other
  + Because of dualistic reality we develop emotions, perceptions, concepts…
  + Point of Dharma is to undermine our mistaken emotions, perceptions, concepts… want to get rid of it so we can cancel out self and other to eventually cancel out ignorance
  + Once you fully experience No Self you become a Buddha
  + No self = Emptiness = Interdependence
* 3 Poisons of Buddhism
  + Ignorance
  + Desire
  + Anger
* Reality manifests itself, there is a reality but we are ignorant of it