

Quiz!

- Put everything away (notes, phones, laptops)
- Please print you name and student number on the front
- DO NOT open your quiz until I ask you to begin

A thick black L-shaped frame is positioned around the text. It starts at the top left, goes right, then down, then right again, and finally down to the bottom right corner.

BUDDHISM: MYTHS AND HISTORIES

Outline

- Conceptual Problems (4)
- Mythic life of the Buddha
- Focus on:
 - Emic and Etic categories
 - Myth of the Buddha

Outline of Ritual Theory: Early Thoughts

- Lots done very well!
- Common problems
- Copying and pasting theory from Nye
- Incorrect paraphrasing
- Paraphrasing is more than changing a few words in a sentence
- Several papers spent a lot of time talking about the religion that they would look at
- This was not part of the assignment


Accidental Plagiarism



Citations: quotation marks used for any text taken word-for-word from Nye's book	25 marks*
Citations: page number included whenever Nye's book is quoted or whenever an idea from Nye's book is explained	25 marks*


* To recover the 25 marks deducted for not using quotation marks and/or page #s when required, please do the following:


- a) fix the error by adding in the quotation marks and/or page #s correctly;
- b) email the corrected assignment to me (Ian) within **two weeks** of your TA uploading the graded assignment to Bb.


Buddhism, you know... Buddhism!





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Add To Cart

What is Buddhism?

- Remember, each “world religion” (Hinduism, Daoism, Confucianism, Indigenous Religions, Christianity, etc...) is made up of extremely diverse people and practices from temporally and geographically different places

Buddhism is no different

- Various origins in India, China, Korea, Japan
- Encompasses millions of people across the planet
- This is true of all of our “world religions”
- Four additional complications with Buddhism

Complication the first

- Buddhism *NOT* a term that Buddhists came up with
- Also the case with Hinduism
- These are *etic* categories (categories applied to groups from people outside of those groups)
- As with Hinduism, “Buddhism” is a classification invented by Europeans in the 19th century
- Buddhism and Hinduism are not just invented words, but invented *concepts*

Buddhism as a Western *Concept*

- Western scholars determined the philosophies, doctrines, scriptures, and founder that made something Buddhism

What is this?

- Wardrobe?
- Armoire?
- Furniture?
- Kindling?
- Brown?
- Heavy?
- Annoying to put together?



The problems

- Etic categories neglect or downplay elements that seem peripheral
- Western scholars working with Judeo-Christian model of religion, privilege sacred texts and what people believe, tend to ignore:
 - Rituals
 - Aesthetics
 - Interactions with other cultural traditions
 - Material culture
 - Non-Indian forms of Buddhism

Many words for Buddhism in India:
Emic categories (categories made from within a group)

- *Dharma-vinaya* (teaching and discipline)
- *Saddharma* (the good teaching)
- *Buddhanushasana* (precepts of the buddha)

Words for Buddhism in East Asia

- *Fadao* (Chinese)
- *Butsuo* (Japanese)
- Both mean “way of the buddha(s)”

Complication the second

- In scholarly and popular imagination, the Buddha (Shakyamuni) is understood as the main sacred figure
- He is historically important, but he is not unequivocally the prime spiritual authority in all forms of Buddhism
- He is not to Buddhism what Jesus is to Christianity

Complication the third

- “Buddhism” is not monolithic (a single thing)
- “Buddhisms are vast and homogeneous
- Masks differences among similarities
- “Athlete”
- “University Student”

Differences

- Buddhists in different places have different rules of behaviour
- There is no singular essence of Buddhism to which all historical people uniformly adhere
- Think about the sandwiches!