

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Douglas Hammerling    **Humanities Discipline:** U.S. History

**Date:** January 20, 2016

**World Religion:** Buddhism

**Teaching Module Title:** Buddhism in American Society Part II

### Teaching Module Goals:

1. Explore America's encounter with the Buddhist faith.
2. Learn about Zen Buddhism in the United States
3. Explore the popularity of Buddhism in the United States
4. Be able to identify the Dalai Lama and explain why he has a following in the United States

### Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. "Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in America A Short History" by Gurinder Singh Mann, Paul Numrich and Raymond Williams Oxford University Press 2008
2. The Buddha PBS [www.pbs.org/thebuddha](http://www.pbs.org/thebuddha) "The Buddha" a film by David Grubin
3. 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama-Official Site [www.dalailama.com](http://www.dalailama.com)
4. "Buddhism in America" by David Van Beima Time Magazine Sunday, June 24, 2001
5. "Why Americans love the Dalai Lama" by Jessica Ravitz,
6. CNN February 22, 2010 [www.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/02/22/americans.love.dalai.lama/](http://www.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/02/22/americans.love.dalai.lama/)

### Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What are the two groups who have followed Buddhism in the United States? In "Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in America" the author discusses the "strangeness" appeal of Buddhism to Americans. What does he mean by that?
2. How did the 1893 Columbian Exposition help promote non-Western religions?
3. How were the Chinese Buddhists who came to America received during the Gold Rush of the 1840's? What was the Chinese Exclusion Act?
4. Where were some of the early Buddhist temples built in the United States? What was the "Moon Temple"?
5. How were the Japanese Buddhist immigrants received? How were Japanese immigrants different than the Chinese immigrants?
1. What does the term Issei mean? What was Nisei mean? What does YMBA mean?
6. Explain how a Buddhist funeral is performed.
7. How did Buddhist religious services began to resemble Protestant Christian Worship?
2. What were some of the experiences of the Japanese Buddhist in the relocation camps during World War II?
3. Why does Zen Buddhism attract the most converts?
4. How did Buddhism influence the Beat Generation in the 1950's and 1960's?
5. Who is the Dalai Lama? How does he have a following in the United States?

### Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Come to class with typed response to these questions. We will discuss the answers together in preparation for a quiz, which I will give the class after this one.

1. Locate five Buddhist temples in the United States. What is similar and what is different about each one? Are the rituals similar that are practiced at each temple? Where are they located in the United States? Bring an illustration of each temple. Are they Japanese or Chinese in origin?

2. Locate two Buddhist monasteries in the United States? Where are they located? How are they similar? How are they different? How does one become a member of a Buddhist monastery? What is the architecture? Present a photograph of each monastery.
3. If you became a follower and admirer of the Dalai Lama, explain what your beliefs are and why you became a follower?