

Paper 2: Historical Critique of a Documentary Film

Due: Tuesday, April 5

- Hard copy due in class with the grading sheet on the reverse attached
- Electronic Copy submitted to the D2L Dropbox in .doc, .docx, or .rtf file format.

Length: 3 to 5 pages, double-spaced in 12-point font

Topic: Write a paper in which you critique the documentary film, *On the Trails of World Religions: Buddhism*. The documentary is available for streaming through the Films on Demand database in the Lehman Library: [SHIP PERMALINK](#)

The critique should summarize the content of the film with special attention to its portrayal of the historical development of Buddhism. The critique should evaluate the film's 1) **historical accuracy** describing the **facts** about origin and spread of Buddhism to the year 1000 CE and 2) **historical interpretation** of the **reasons** why Buddhism became one of the world's major religions. The film's aesthetic or entertainment value should not be a major focus.

Your main sources for evaluating the film should be assigned readings in *Voyages in World History, Volume 1: To 1600*, and supplementary readings and class lectures on Tuesdays March 22 and 29. Additional research in library sources is allowed, but not necessary. **NO INTERNET SITES ARE ALLOWED UNLESS LEHMAN LIBRARY PROVIDES DATABASE LINKS.** Use MLA format to cite all sources, including the class lectures, in the text, and include a bibliography at the end of the paper citing the textbook, supplementary readings, and lectures. Staple the grading sheet on the reverse to the back of your paper.

Evaluation of Papers:

80% of the grade will be based on content. Grades of A will be awarded to papers with accurate summaries of the film and persuasive argumentation critiquing the **historical accuracy** and **historical interpretation** of the film. The other 20% will be based upon grammar and word usage (4%), spelling, capitalization, and punctuation (4%), organization (4%), readability (4%), and bibliography and citations (4%).

Grading sheet (attach to paper)

I. Content (80%)

Summary of film content: _____ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor

Evaluation of film's historical accuracy (facts): _____ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor

Evaluation of film's historical interpretation (reasons): _____ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor

A=72-80, B=64-71, C=56-63, D=48-55, F=47 or lower _____

II. Writing mechanics (20%)

A=4, B=3.5, C=3, D=2.5, F=2 or lower

Grammar and word usage (4%) _____

Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation (4%) _____

Organization (4%) _____

Readability (4%) _____

Citations and bibliography (Chicago A or B, or MLA, 4%) _____

Total _____

Correction Symbols Used in Grading Paper

agr wrong agreement (noun-verb or noun-noun)

awk awkward sentence

cit citation needed

frag sentence fragment (usually a sentence that lacks a verb)

org organization problems

redun redundant (using different words to say the same thing more than once)

rep repetitious use of the same word

run-on run-on sentence

sp wrong spelling

trans poor transition (between sentences or paragraphs)

tn wrong verb tense

unc unclear phrase, sentence, or paragraph

wf wrong grammatical form of word

ww wrong word usage

¶ new paragraph needed