

AST/REL 260 (Buddhism)  
Dr. Richey  
Berea College  
Spring 2006

### ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS

The **first essay is due on Friday, March 24**, as an attached Microsoft Word document e-mailed to the instructor. This essay should answer one of the following questions:

- *Are there any significant differences between Theravada and Mahayana views of Buddhahood? If so, why and how? If not, why not?* To answer this question, use the images found on pp. 27, 40, and 55 of *BIG* (the image of the Buddha in Pegu, Burma, “The Buddha’s Final Nirvana,” and a Tibetan *thangka*), at least 2 primary sources assigned in the course, and at least 2 relevant secondary sources from the bibliography included in this document.
- *Are there any significant differences between Theravada and Mahayana modes of moral reasoning? If so, why and how? If not, why not?* To answer this question, use the studies on pp. 147-194, 321-364 of *Engaged Buddhism*, at least 2 primary sources assigned in the course, and at least 2 relevant secondary sources from the bibliography included in this document.

**NOTE: If you earn a B+ or better on the first essay,  
you will not be required to write the second essay.**

The **second essay is due on Friday, April 28**, as an attached Microsoft Word document e-mailed to the instructor. This essay should answer one of the following questions:

- *As Buddhist pilgrims widely separated by culture, geography, and time, do Bashō and Kerouac articulate Buddhist sensibilities differently? If so, why and how? If not, why not?* To answer this question, use their writings, at least 2 other primary sources assigned in the course, and at least 2 relevant secondary sources from the bibliography included in this document.
- *As modern East Asian Buddhist filmmakers, do Kurosawa and Bae represent Buddhist values in a manner consistent with earlier Buddhist traditions? If so, why and how? If not, why not?* To answer this question, use your notes on their films, at least 2 primary sources assigned in the course, and at least 2 relevant secondary sources from the bibliography included in this document.

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Each essay must be:

- typed and double-spaced in a font between 10 and 12 points in size
- in clear standard English prose that is free of mechanical errors (e.g., grammar, spelling)
- 5-8 pages in length
- free of mechanical errors (e.g., misspellings, ungrammatical constructions, etc.)
- include citations of all works quoted or paraphrased (in APA, Chicago, or MLA style)
- submitted on time (i.e., no later than 11:59 p.m. on the due date)

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