

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA



**Course Syllabus:**

**Advanced Topics in Buddhism:**

*Hindu and Buddhist Royalty*

**(RLG 470H5F)**

Course hours: Friday 1-3 pm

Course venue: NE 228

Instructor: Christoph Emmrich

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## **1 Course description**

In contrast to traditional scholarship, which has focussed mainly on the literary and doctrinal models underlying South and Southeast Asian kingship, this course will take these models as the ideological lens through which to explore how concrete historical Hindu and Buddhist royal families have performed their religion. In dealing with figures such as Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III of Baroda, Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur, or King Sihanouk of Cambodia, or Buddhist royal family lines such as the Konbaung, Shaha, Chakri and Wangchuk dynasties of Bhutan, Burma, Nepal and Thailand, respectively, the course will try to understand the aesthetics and semiotics of royal pageantry, the material culture of courtly temple ritual, the role of patriarchy, militarism and nationalism, the intellectual and institutional preoccupations with doctrine, practice and the royal mission as well as the interface of religious aura and celebrity culture.

The course will begin by introducing students to ancient, local and modern South and Southeast Asian cosmologies of royal power in which Hindu and Buddhist ideologies form an inextricable whole. They comprise the concept of the “wheel-turning monarch” embodied by king Aśoka, the king as Viṣṇu represented by medieval Indian monarchs, as well as contemporary models such as those elaborated by Arthur Maurice Hocart and particularly Stanley Tambiah. The course will confront those models with more recent theories of performance, media and celebrity. Sources the student will learn to read, analyze and base their research essay on include those embedded in visual (royal photo albums, portraits, publicity footage), textual (royal diaries, correspondence, authorized biographies) and material (royal paraphernalia, architecture, fashion) culture. Lectures by the instructor will briefly introduce into the historical context, the religious background and the larger social impact of individuals, families and courtly life.

## **2 Readings, in-class contributions and written assignments**

### **Textbook and materials**

There is no textbook. All sources required for reading in this course are accessible online or will be provided for by the course instructor electronically.

### **Requirements**

This course will be conducted as a research seminar. In order to be graded, students must prepare the reading assignments in due time, attend classes regularly, present a short report each session, generally participate actively in the discussions, and submit one essay.

## Readings

The weekly reading assignments consist of a series of sources covering a specific topic, which must be read ahead of the session in which this topic will be discussed. Please check the Course Calendar below to find out which book or articles should be prepared for each session. For some sessions all readings are mandatory. For others you may choose your individual reading. Your in-class participation consisting of (a) regular reports on specific readings of your choice and (b) spontaneous questions, answers, comments referring to readings and to in-class remarks by fellow students as well as by the instructor, is part of the grade and the instructor will be taking notes on the quality and the level of engagement of your spoken contributions. Sometimes readings may be assigned that require search-and-find kind of reading techniques, where you may have to scan through a text to filter out specific contents or report on its overall intention rather than give a comprehensive and detailed description or interpretation of the text.

## Individual reader's reports

For every upcoming session you will have to decide on which of the possible texts you will concentrate and prepare a short reader's report. It is to be sent by email to the instructor the day before class and has to be presented orally in class. The oral report should not exceed 5-6 minutes of length. The text may cover as much, but may cover more. The comprehensive performance in the reports will form 50% of the oral grade, the other 50% being in-class participation besides the reporting.

## Research essay

The topic of the essay should focus on one of the aspects of Hindu and Buddhist royalty along the lines of the questions raised during the individual sessions. Please get in touch with the course instructor, if you would like to share your thoughts about how to choose your research essay topic. The course instructor will be glad to offer assistance in deciding on the relevant topic, material or method and discuss your thoughts and writing. Further, **it is compulsory to submit at least one sample of your work in progress, be it an essay abstract, a section outline, or an actual draft essay, preferably more than one. This piece of your work will not be graded** and the only function of producing it is to improve your final product. Always keep in mind the deadline, so that you are able to react and possibly incorporate advice in time. Guidelines for the writing of the essay will be posted on Blackboard. As a more comprehensive guide for essay writing you are encouraged, but not required, to purchase:

- Scott G. Brown. *A guide to writing academic essays in Religious Studies*. London & New York: Continuum, 2008.

The research essay must comprise around 20 pages, excluding cover and contents pages and bibliography with the lines being 1.5-spaced. **The deadline for the research essay is November 29.** It has to be handed in: (1) electronically by sending it to [christoph.emmrich@utoronto](mailto:christoph.emmrich@utoronto) (do not use the electronic dropbox on Blackboard) AND (2) as hardcopy to the instructor in class on the day of the deadline. The essay will be graded and students will receive written feedback.

### Plagiarism

It is crucial for written assignments that everything you produce has been either formulated by yourself or marked and referenced as a quotation if you use materials you have taken from a source (printed or electronic, textual or visual). The main objective hereby is to develop an understanding of the line, which runs between you and others, your own authorship and that of others and the respect for other people's work and intellectual property. It is important that you stand for what you yourself can produce and do not pretend to be someone else by appropriating his or her work. At the same time it is important to learn to intensely engage with, use and, to differing degrees, distance yourself from other people's work. This is only possible if you clearly separate your own contributions from those of others from which you draw and which you respect and which makes others respect your own work. Put other's words in quotation marks and note where you found them and others can find them too. And try to find a balance in your work of what you have formulated and of what you decide to quote. No assignment should be without a quote, but not more than 10% of your assignment should consist of quotes. Never leave a quote unconnected to your own work. Use quotes effectively: to prove, to stress, to condense your own statements. Finally, texts and bits of text (paragraphs, sentences, verses etc.) taken from sources, inserted in your work and not marked as quotes are called "plagiarisms" and have to be reported to university authorities by course instructors at UTM.

### 3 Dates, deadlines and evaluations

Assignment type:	Deadline:	Weight for Final Grade:
in-class participation before drop date	ongoing	20%
in-class participation after drop date	ongoing	10%
reader's reports	ongoing	30%
research essay	Nov. 28	40%

#### Course grading scheme

A+	90-100%	B+	77-79%	C+	67-69%	D+	57-59%
A	85-89%	B	73-76%	C	63-66%	D	53-56%
A-	80-84%	B-	70-72%	C-	60-62%	D-	50-52%
						F	0-49%

## **Deadlines**

All UTM students are required to declare their absence on ROSI in order to request academic consideration for any missed course work. Students who wish to receive consideration due to illness must email the instructor within a week of the deadline, and provide a UofT medical certificate: [http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/sites/files/registrar/public/shared/pdfs/forms/medcert\\_web.pdf](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/sites/files/registrar/public/shared/pdfs/forms/medcert_web.pdf)

Essay-related assignments are subject to a late penalty of 10% per day late. This penalty may be waived in the event of unforeseen emergencies such as illness or crisis. If your assignment is late and you believe that you should not be penalized, within a week of submitting the essay please send a written explanation to the instructor, along with appropriate supporting documentation. (Such documentation may include a UofT medical certificate, and/or a letter from a counsellor, police officer, religious leader, etc.) Based on your explanation and documentation we will overlook the late penalty, in whole or in part, as seems justified. Please note that this policy regarding late penalties means that no extensions for essays will be given in advance.

## **4 Interaction with the course instructor**

Address all your requests and queries about the course to the course instructor. Though incoming mails are viewed on a daily basis and though the course instructor will try to address your issues as swiftly as possible, it may take up to three days for him or her to reply to your mail, so do wait for that period before reacting and do mail in time if you have any urgent requests. Prearrange meetings by email so that they can be scheduled either during official office hours (Friday 11.15-12.15 or individually), but only upon request.

## **5. Support and accommodation**

The new UTM Service Directory (<http://www1.utm.utoronto.ca/~servicesdirectory/>) is a convenient gateway to a variety of campus services, such as the library, UTM Bookstore, Blackboard Help, AccessAbility, etc.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please contact the instructor and/or the AccessAbility Resource Centre as soon as possible ([access@utm.utoronto.ca](mailto:access@utm.utoronto.ca) or <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/access/>).

UTM students are also invited to use the resources of the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre. For information regarding, e.g., individual appointments, writing workshops, and peer facilitated study groups, see <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc/>.

For information on other forms of available support, please see the following sites or speak with a UTM instructor or staff member:

- Campus Police: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/campus-police/>
- Computing Services: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/computing-services/>
- Registrar & Registration Services (including course information, tuition and scholarship information, and academic advising): <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/>
- Student Affairs & Services (including first year programs, health & counselling, housing, international student resources, multi-faith programs, study abroad, etc.): <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/sas/>

## 6 Course Calendar

(may be subject to change)

### Sept. 13, Introducing the course and Hindu and Buddhist dynasties

- a. Chakri Dynasty of Thailand
- b. Norodom Dynasty of Cambodia
- c. Konbaung Dynasty Burma
- d. Khun Lo Dynasty of Laos
- e. Nayakkara Dynasty of Ceylon
- f. Namgyal Dynasty of Sikkim
- g. Wangchuck Dynasty of Bhutan
- h. Shāha Dynasty of Nepal
- i. Gwalior of India
- j. Baroda of India
- k. Jaipur of India

### Sep. 20, Class cancelled

### Sep. 27, Royal photo albums

**Required reading: none.** However, please make sure that by this date you have already read the first 50 of the required 92 pages from Tambiah's *World Conquerer and World Renouncer*, to be discussed in the following week!

#### Viewing and discussion of photos from:

- a. Aris, Michael. *The Raven Crown. The Origins of Buddhist Monarchy in Bhutan*. London: Serindia Publications, 1994.
- b. Evans, Grant. *The Last Century of Lao Royalty. A Documentary History*. Bangkok: Silkworm Books, 2009.
- c. Davis, Reginald. *The Royal Family of Thailand*. London: Nicholas Publications, 1981.
- d. Kumar KG, Pramod. *Posing for Posterity. Royal Indian Portraits*. Delhi: Roli Books, 2012.

### Oct. 4, Buddhist and Brahmanical kingship theory in history

#### Reading required for all:

Tambiah, Stanley. *World Conquerer and World Renouncer. A Study of Buddhism and Polity in Thailand against a Historical Background*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976. Available as ebook through Robarts; pp. 9-101.

#### Reader's reports on:

- a. Tambiah 1976, Ch. 2: From Rajadharma (the King's "Whole Duty") to Dharmaraja (the "Righteous Ruler")

- b. Tambiah 1976, Ch. 3: The Brahmanical Theory of Society and Kingship
- c. Tambiah 1976, Ch. 4: The Early Buddhist Conception of World Process, Dharma, and Kingship
- d. Tambiah 1976, Ch. 5: Asoka Maurya: The Paradigm
- e. Tambiah 1976, Ch. 6: Thai Kingship and Polity in Historical Perspective

**Further Reading:**

Gonda, Jan. Ancient Indian Kingship from the Religious Point of View. *Numen* 3, 1 (1956), pp. 36-71; (Continued), *Numen* 3, 2 (1956), pp. 122-155.; (Continued and Ended) *Numen* 4, 2 (1957), pp. 127-164.

Heesterman, Jan. *The Conundrum of the King's Authority*. J. F. Richards, ed. *Kingship and Authority in South Asia*. Madison: University of Wisconsin, 1978.

Dirks, Nicholas B. *The Hollow Crown. Ethnohistory of an Indian Kingdom*. Cambridge & New York: Cambridge University Press, 1987.

**Oct. 11, Celebrity theory and contemporary royalty**

**Reader's reports on:**

- a. Elklit, Jørgen & Brigitta Wistrand. *The Limits of Constitutional Monarchy in Scandinavia: The Road to Survival of Monarchies?* Anonymous editor, *Monarch & Democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Thimphu: Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy, 2010, 40-56.
- b. Marshall, P. David, *Celebrity and Power. Fame in Contemporary Culture*. Minneapolis; London: University of Minnesota Press, 1997; 3-26.
- c. Kurzman, Charles, Chelise Anderson, Clinton Key, Youn Ok Lee, Mairead Moloney, Alexis Silver and Maria W. Van Ryn. Celebrity Status. *Sociological Theory*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (Dec., 2007), pp. 347-367.
- d. Plunkett, John. Of Hype and Type: The Media Making of Queen Victoria 1837-1845. *Critical Survey*, 13, 2, Literature, Fame and Notoriety in the Nineteenth Century (2001), pp. 7-25.
- e. Andersson, Therése. Fashioning the Fashion Princess. Mediation – Transformation – Stardom. *Journal of Aesthetics & Culture* 4 (2012). DOI: 10.3402/jac.v4i0.5331

**Oct. 18, An Embassy to the Kingdom of...**

**Reader's reports on:**

- a. *An Account of an Embassy to the Kingdom of Ava in the Year 1797*, by Michael Symes, Esq., Major of His Majesty's 76 Regiment. London: W. Bulmer and Co., 1800. Excerpts.
- b. Percival Esq., Robert. *An Account of the Island of Ceylon, Containing Its History, Geography, Natural History, with the Manners and Customs of Its Various Inhabitants*. London: R. Baldwin, 1803; pp. 400-411

- c. Knox, Robert. *An Historical Relation of Ceylon*. Dehiwala: Sisara Prakasakayo, 1958, pp. 61-108.
- d. Roe, Sir Thomas. *The Embassy of Sir Thomas Roe to the Court of the Great Mogul, 1615-1619, as Narrated in His Journal and Correspondence*. William Foster (ed.). 2 vols.. Nendeln, Liechtenstein: Kraus Reprint Ltd., 1967; Meeting Jahangir, 105-117; letter to the Bishop of Canterbury, 308-319, particularly 313-318.
- e. *The King and I* (USA, 1956).
- f. *Anna and the King* (USA, 1999).

### Oct. 25, Royal p(a)laces

#### Reader's reports on:

- a. Duncan, James S. *The City as Text. The Politics of Landscape Interpretation in the Kandyan Kingdom*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990: The Discursive Field of Kandyan Kingship, pp. 25-41.
- b. Duncan 1990 Concretizing the Sakran Discourse: from Landscape of the Gods to Landscape of the hero-kings: pp. 42-58.
- c. Duncan 1990: The Kandyan Landscape, 1312-1815, pp. 59-85.
- d. Duncan 1990: From Discourse to Landscape: a Kingly Reading, pp. 87-118.
- e. Duncan 1990: From Landscape to Civic Ritual: a Kingly Reading, pp. 119-153.
- f. Naengnoi Suksri. *Palaces of Bangkok. Royal Residences of the Chakri Dynasty*. With photographs by Michael Freeman. Bangkok: River Books, 1996; The Rise of the Capital of Bangkok, 11-31.
- g. Dumarçay, Jacques. *The Palaces of Southeast Asia. Architecture and Customs*. Translated and edited by Michael Smythies. Singapore; Oxford: Oxford University Press; p. 1-61 (but mostly pictures).

### Nov. 1, Royal ritual

#### Reader's reports on:

- a. Skilling, Peter. "King, Sangha and Brahmans. Ideology, ritual and power in pre-modern Siam". *Buddhism, Power and Political Order*. Ian Harris (ed.). London; New York: Routledge, 2007; pp. 182-215.
- b. Dewaraja, Lorna Srimathie. *The Kandyan Kingdom of Ceylon 1707-1760*. Colombo: Lake House Investments Ltd., 1972. Religion and the State, 119-149; Kingship and Court Ceremonial, 208-221.
- c. Trinh, Hoi. Bhutan Celebrates the Coronation of King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck. *Arts of Asia* 39, 2 (2009), 82-91.
- d. Anonymous author. *Imagery of the Royal Coronation Procession of HM Preah Bat Samdech Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni*. Phnom Penh: The Royal Palace, undated.



- e. Evans, Grant. *The Last Century of Lao Royalty. A Documentary History*. Bangkok: Silkworm Books, 2009; The Coronation of Sisavang Vong, pp. 61-75.
- f. Evans, Grant. *The Last Century of Lao Royalty. A Documentary History*. Bangkok: Silkworm Books, 2009; Sisavang Vong's Funeral, pp. 90-95.
- g. Evans, Grant. *The Last Century of Lao Royalty. A Documentary History*. Bangkok: Silkworm Books, 2009; Rituals for the Phi Vult of the Vang Na in Luang Phrabang, pp. 144-148.
- h. Evans, Grant. *The Last Century of Lao Royalty. A Documentary History*. Bangkok: Silkworm Books, 2009; Royalty and Ritual, pp. 319-358.
- i. Evans, Grant. *The Last Century of Lao Royalty. A Documentary History*. Bangkok: Silkworm Books, 2009; Royal weddings, pp. 392-410.

### **Nov. 8, Royal stuff**

#### **Reading required for all:**

Peleggi, Maurizio. *Lords of Things. The Fashioning of the Siamese Monarchy's Modern Image*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2002; Introduction and Epilogue

#### **Reader's reports on:**

- a. Peleggi, Maurizio. *Lords of Things. The Fashioning of the Siamese Monarchy's Modern Image*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2002. Consumption Mode
- b. Peleggi 2002, Presentation
- c. Peleggi 2002, Suburban Playgrounds
- d. Peleggi 2002, Field of Glory
- e. Peleggi 2002, Refashioning the Theatre of Power
- f. Peleggi 2002, On the World Stage
- g. Evans, Grant. *The Last Century of Lao Royalty. A Documentary History*. Bangkok: Silkworm Books, 2009; The Fabric of Royalty, pp. 300-317.

### **Nov. 15, Royal mirrors**

#### **Required viewing for all:**

*Suryiothai* (Thailand, 2001). Available on YouTube.

#### **Reader's reports on:**

- a. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk, HMK (photography). *Bhutan. Through the Lense of the King*. Introduction by Pavan K. Varma. Text by Malavika Singh. New Delhi: Roli Books, 2012.
- b. Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, HM King. *The Land of Gentle Smiles*. Special Exhibition of Photographs. Shown at Taplow Court Oriental Gallery / Tokyo Fuji Art Museum / The Royal Thai Embassy, London. Tokyo: Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, 1991.

- c. Bhumibol Adulyadej, *The Story of Mahajanaka*. Cartoon edition. Nepali-English version. Kathmandu: Sirikitti Vihar, 2003.
- d. Sibpan Sonakul. *Everyday Siamese Dishes*. Bangkok: Pračandra Press, 1971.
- e. Anonymous editor. *Gross National Happiness*. Discussion Papers. In Commemoration of the Coronation Silver Jubilee of HM Jigme Singye Wangchuck the King of Bhutan. Thimphu: The Centre of Bhutan Studies, 1999.
- f. Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, HM the Queen of Bhutan. *Of Rainbows and Clouds. The Life of Yab Ugyen Dorji as Told to His Daughter*. London: Serindia Publications, 1999.
- g. Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, HM the Queen of Bhutan, Louise Dorji, Chimmey Pem, Thinley Dorji (eds.) *Jewel of Men. Poems Dedicated to His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck*. In *Commemoration of the Coronation and Centenary Celebrations of the Kingdom of Bhutan*. Thimphu, Tarayana Foundation, 2008.

### Nov. 22, Royal travels

#### Reader's reports on:

- a. Travels Around the Kingdom. Evans, Grant. *The Last Century of Lao Royalty. A Documentary History*. Bangkok: Silkworm Books, 2009; pp. 175-188.
- b. Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, HRM the Queen of Bhutan. *Treasures of the Thunder Dragon. A Portrait of Bhutan*. Delhi: Viking by Penguin, 2006.
- c. Paisarn Piemmettawat (ed.). *King Chulalongkorn's Journey to India 1872*. Bangkok: River Books, 2000.
- d. Damrong Rajanubhab of Thailand, HRH Prince. *Journey Through Burma in 1936. A View of the Culture, History and Institutions*. Kennon Breazeale (transl.). Narisa Chakrabongse (ed.). Bangkok: River Books, 1991.
- e. HRH Princess Siridorn's Visit to Tibet (in Chinese, and Thai w/lots of pictures).

### Nov. 29, Royal crises

#### Reader's reports on:

- a. Handley, Paul M. *The King Never Smiles. A Biography of Thailand's Bhumibol Adulyadej*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2006.
- b. Shah, Sudha. *The King in Exile. The Fall of the Royal Family of Burma*. Delhi: Harper Collins India, 2012; The Defeat and Exile, pp. 71-84; The Princesses Grow Up, pp. 136-153.
- c. Rustomji, Nari. *The Dragon Kingdom in a Crisis*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1978.

- d. Datta-Ray, Sunanda K. *Smash and Grab: Annexation of Sikkim*. New Delhi: Vikas, 1984; 18-43; 93-109 and 298-326.
- e. Evans, Grant. *The Last Century of Lao Royalty. A Documentary History*. Bangkok: Silkworm Books, 2009; *The Final Days of Lao Royalty*, pp. 411-422.