

AMERICAN LITERATURE
Prof. Fiorenzo Iuliano
(MA Programs: Modern Languages and Literatures, Translation Studies)
2022/2023

Passages to India, 2
Buddhism, Hinduism, and the US literary imagination
in the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries

The module will address the reception of Indian religious and philosophical culture in the culture and literature of the United States. We will read texts written over a century in which Buddhism and Hinduism are experienced as part of individual or collective transformation and regeneration, or of monstrous and dystopian (self)destruction.

Texts:

- Ralph W. Emerson, "The Over-Soul" and "Compensation", in *Essays* (1841)
- T.S. Eliot, "The Dry Salvages", in *Four Quartets* (1941)
- Jack Kerouac, *The Dharma Bums* (1958)
- Amitav Ghosh, *The Calcutta Chromosome* (1995)
- Bernardo Bertolucci, *Little Buddha* (1993)

Secondary readings:

- Kyle Garton-Gundling, "Introduction", "Chapter 1. Beat Buddhism and American Freedom: Allen Ginsberg, Gary Snyder, Jack Kerouac, and Tom Robbins", in *Enlightened Individualism. Buddhism and Hinduism in American Literature from the Beats to the Present*, The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, 2019 (pp. 1-60)
- Harry Blamires, "The Dry Salvages", in *Word Unheard. A Guide through Eliot's Four Quartets*, Methuen, London, 1969 (pp. 79-122)
- Donatella Izzo, "Il buddhismo nella letteratura degli Stati Uniti. Note di storia culturale", in Giacomella Orofino e Francesco Sferra, a cura di, *Ponti magici. Buddismo e letteratura occidentale*, Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"- Centro di Studi sul Buddismo, Napoli, 2009 (pp. 113-170)
- Fiorenzo Iuliano, "L'impero dei mali. Ridefinizioni della malattia tra discorso e materia", in *Il corpo ritrovato. Storie e figure della corporeità negli Stati Uniti di fine Novecento*, Shake, Milano, 2012 (pp. 125-147)