Course Description
In this seminar we shall read and discuss a selection of recent important works on Buddhism (in English). Topics covered will include Buddhism and science, material culture, death, rebirth, animals, and the invention of traditions and lineages. In addition we shall survey trends in recent Buddhist Studies scholarship produced in other languages (Chinese, Japanese, French, German, etc.). Students will be required to write regular, short (1–2 page), critical responses to the readings in addition to a longer essay that reflects on the state of the field of Buddhist Studies.

Course Requirements
You should come to class prepared to discuss the readings. I will assign one person to lead the discussion of each reading. You will write a short critical response (1-2 pages) on each week’s readings. These assignments are due in class every week. The other requirement is a longer essay (ca. 20 pages) on the “state of the field” which will be due on Friday, December 15. A first draft of the paper is due on November 27. You will give an oral presentation on the state of the field on December 11.

Class presentations and participation: 10%
Critical responses: 15%
Seminar Paper: 75%

Books and other resources
I have ordered copies of the following books from the Campus Store and placed them on reserve in the library:


In addition to these books we shall also read articles that I may distribute to you electronically, or which I may ask you to photocopy.

You should be familiar with the following important online resource:
East Asian Buddhist Studies: A Reference Guide
http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/humnet/alc/refguide/refguide.htm

You should also know that you have unlimited access through McMaster’s libraries to important online dictionaries for East Asian and Buddhist terms:
http://www.buddhism-dict.net/

1. September 11
   Introduction and Organisation

2. September 18
   Lopez, Critical Terms for the Study of Buddhism—first half.

   Sharf, Robert. “Sudden/Gradual and the State of the Field,”

3. September 25
   Lopez, Critical Terms for the Study of Buddhism—second half.

4. October 2
   Davis, Deathpower.

5. October 9
   NO CLASS. Thanksgiving!

6. October 16
   Stone, Right Thoughts.

7. October 23
   Young, Conceiving the Indian Buddhist Patriarchs—first half.

8. October 30
   Young, Conceiving the Indian Buddhist Patriarchs—second half.

9. November 6
   Hammerstrom, The Science of Chinese Buddhism—all
10. November 13
Auerback, *A Storied Sage*.

11. November 20
NO CLASS—AAR!

12. November 27
***First Draft of Paper due***
Ohnuma, *Unfortunate Destiny*

12. December 4
NO CLASS Instructor away.

13. December 11
Oral presentations