

## RELIGIONS OF THE EAST, Fall Semester, 2017

Hesse's *Siddhartha* is a short classic novel about a spiritual quest. As you read, you will want to consider the questions below. You will also want to *annotate* your copy, flagging the information and key quotations that might support an evidentiary response to the questions below. Some students find it helpful to use removable "flags" to mark key pages with passages that they know will be important to answering the question.

***Note: You must bring your copy of Siddhartha to class on the day of the in-class writing. You will need it to incorporate key quotations and paraphrases in support of your observations.***

1. Background information: What is the setting (time, place) of the novel? Who is Siddhartha – how old, what religion, what caste? What is the overall plot of the novel? What major historical figure does Siddhartha encounter? Who are the other main characters in the novel?

1. Said Vasudeva the ferryman, to Siddhartha: "Do you think ... that anybody is spared this path" (98)? • For what was Siddhartha searching? • What phases did his search take? • Did he reach his desired goal?

2. What roles did the following people play along the path of Siddhartha's long search: • Govinda • Kamala • Vasudeva the ferryman? (Hint: think thematically about Siddhartha's life's journey while in the company of the above three friends.)

3. Symbolism: What was symbolized by The River? By The Ferryman? What significance did these hold for Siddhartha on his long quest?