



The Role of Discipleship and Initiation

Instructor's Name: Yogacharya Ellen Grace O'Brian

Class Name: The Role of Discipleship & Initiation

Course Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Class Time: 6-8pm

Location of Class: Webinar

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course articulates the philosophy and practices that bring an individual to a deeper understanding and integration of discipleship on the spiritual path. Students will explore the qualities of a disciple, the role of a guru, and the purpose of initiation as it pertains to spiritual awakening. This class explores that auspicious time on our spiritual journey when we are ready to dedicate ourselves to our chosen path, when we long to fully embrace the awakened life of Self- and God-realization.

TEXTS

- **Guru- Disciple Relationship**—Yogananda / SRF **Required**
- **A Guide to Kriya Yoga Practice**—CSA Press..... **Required**
- **Paramahansa Yogananda As I Knew Him**—CSA PressRecommended

ASSIGNMENT

Interview 2 disciples in our tradition. Ask: what do you see as the greatest joy on the path of discipleship in this Kriya Yoga tradition? What do you consider to be the greatest challenge? Write a two page paper – one page compiling your experience of the reflections of others (what they said in response to the questions and your reflections on their sharing. Include how long they have been on the path of discipleship in this tradition)—the other page on your own answers to those two questions.

Plagiarism is the use of words, ideas or views of another person as if they were your own. Plagiarism is contrary to the spiritual practices of truthfulness (Satya) and of non-stealing (Asteya) — it is considered to be a form of intellectual dishonesty and, as such, is a serious academic offense. The potential penalties range from receiving “no credit” in the course, to a letter of discipline placed in the student’s permanent academic file, or even suspension or expulsion from the seminary program. Plagiarism includes: passing off another’s written work as your own—whether from a book, magazine, website, paper... any form; failing to give credit to your sources for the ideas, information, and words you have borrowed from them; not quoting when you use another’s exact words; not changing the wording or sentence structure significantly enough when you paraphrase a source.