

World Religions Semester Exam 2014

World Religions - Schmidt

Name: _____

Assignment: Write a 3-4 page (double-spaced) paper about some area of interest regarding what you have learned this semester in World Religions.

Date and Time: Friday, June 6, 7:50-9:50.

During the Exam Period:

1. **7:50** - collect your papers
2. **8:00 - 8:30:** We will attend a presentation by Marc Kielburger of "Free the Children" and "Me to We" in the middle school from 8:00-8:30.
3. **8:40 - 10:00:** sit in circle and sharing of what you have learned in this course. Aim for 2-3 minutes. If you want to do a PowerPoint you can, but only if this is the format you want to use. Simply sharing with us is fine.

Guidelines for the paper:

- You need to create a thesis.
- The papers should be a mix of study (objective) and personal connections (subjective).
- The thesis can tend to be more objective (e.g., all religions seek for ultimate reality) or more personal (e.g., I found that each religion gave me something to help me become a more "spiritual" person), but most will be a combination of the two.
- In the paper you need to make reference to at least one aspect of four different religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam)
- Feel free to include previous comments you made in your blog responses in this paper.

Idea Starters:

- The role of religion in my life . . .
- What I most valued about each religion in this class . . .
- The basic human problem, as seen in each world religion, is . . .
- I can draw upon each of the world religions we studied to find the Middle Way.
- What I want to know in the future about religion . . .
- What I want to know about myself in the future is . . . and this is how religion can help me.
- All religions we have studied offer purpose in life. The one I am most attracted to is . . .
- While I like the ideas we've studied, each religion is missing . . .

I will work with each one of you to help you develop your ideas.

The most effective essays are marked by these qualities:

1. A **definable theme or thesis** is introduced at the beginning of the essay that presents a **synthesis** of a student understanding of the course materials and experiences.
2. The theme/thesis **has significance in relationship to a student's view of religion**. The essay makes clear why this theme/thesis is personally relevant to you / your worldview.
3. **Analysis is balanced with personal reflection**. Show your personal reflection through not only your content choices, but in the linkages (intro and conclusion, transitions, paragraph summary statements).
4. Essay is **organized** in such a way as to lead the reader through the changes/commitment of the student's perspective.
5. Includes analysis from at least **four of the religions studied in this class**.
6. **Insightful quotes** from a wide variety of sources are used to illustrate the thesis in a way that is unique to student.
7. The writing style maintains **a sense of presentation**, although the tone is oftentimes personal.

Topics/Activities this semester:

1. Doing vs. Being PowerPoint; chocolate meditation.
2. "Inner Aliveness" quote and blog
3. Religion Family Tree
4. Perform a ritual
5. 5 Worldviews Activity
6. Reincarnation Project on "Many Lives, Many Masters"
7. Visit to ISKCON
8. PP lecture on Hinduism; compare Eastern and Western worldview
9. Hinduism Presentations
10. Visit to Su Bong Zen Buddhist monastery
11. Roy Horan's visit
12. Buddhist monk Rabten's visit
13. Vincent Cheng spoke to class
14. Spiritual Practices Project
15. Visit to Synagogue
16. Watch "Ushpzin"
17. Judaism project
18. Visit to the Chai Wan mosque
19. Discuss big questions about religion
20. Eben Alexander's *Proof of Heaven* keynote presentation
21. Sharing of other Near Death Experiences
22. Hear Marc Kielburger speak and final exam paper sharing