

Gods, Myths, and Religions in a Secular Age

Instructor: Diane Fruchtman (dsf79@religion.rutgers.edu)

Course: 01:840:101:01, Spring 2024

Time: Hybrid (Weekly Meetings on Wednesdays, 12.10-1.30pm in Scott Hall 221)

Office Hours:

Mondays and Thursdays 2.00-3.00pm (Zoom link [here](#))
and by appointment.

Overview:

We are living in a secular age—or so we are often told—in which gods, myths, and religions have been relegated to the sidelines of public life (and sometimes superseded entirely). This course problematizes that thesis by interrogating the idea of the secular, by exploring the persistence and pervasiveness of religion, and by complicating facile definitions of “gods,” “myth,” and “religion.” Gods, myths, and religions have vast and far-reaching implications in the contemporary world, and this course offers students some crucial tools for analyzing those implications.

This course offers an introduction to the academic study of religion both through explorations of key dilemmas in religious studies as well as through examinations of texts, traditions, ideas, values, discourses, practices, and communities.

Grade Breakdown:

1. **Preparation, Attendance, and Participation (15%)**—You are expected to prepare for, attend, and participate in every class period. For more information, see “Assignment Instructions” below.
2. **Homework (40%)**— For every week of class, you will need to write at least one Discussion post on Canvas in the pre-lecture discussion board, which you will have to unlock via a Reading Quiz. Twice in the semester you will need to originate a thread; twice in the semester you will need to respond to a thread; every week of the semester you will have to “upvote” a thread to discuss in class. For more information, see “Assignment Instructions” below.
3. **Worldview Analysis (15%)**—You will analyze your own worldview, following the model of Ninian Smart. For more information, see “Assignment Instructions” below.
4. **Midterm (15%)**—This midterm exam is essay-based: you will receive three topics in advance, of which you will choose two to write about. It is a take-home exam, which you will have two weeks to complete.
5. **Final Exam (15%)**—The Final Exam is actually an extension of your midterm. After the midterm, you will receive feedback both from me and from your classmates which you should use to improve your initial responses, and you will also have to incorporate

material from the second half of class into each of your essays. It is due May 4, 12.00pm.

Learning Objectives:

Students will:

- Develop global and local cultural literacy by learning how to identify, approach, and interpret religious traditions, practices, and discourses.
- Cultivate an awareness of the variety, complexity, and ubiquity of religious worldviews.
- Enhance their grasp of the critical analytical skills required for questioning broadly held assumptions and conventional wisdom about religion, culture, and “the secular.”
- Acquire and exercise methodological tools for analyzing religious traditions.
- Refine their reading skills to appreciate the nuances, preoccupations, and assumptions of religious literature and expression (as well as of those writing about religion!).
- Gain an appreciation for the variety of human experiences and worldviews.

Core Curriculum Goals:

- Our Common Future [CCO]
 - CCO-1: Students will analyze a contemporary global issue from a multidisciplinary perspective
- Philosophical and Theoretical Issues [AH]
 - AHo: Students will examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.

Readings:

- All readings are available on Canvas, via your Modules.

Schedule of Readings & Assignments	
Week 1: Introduction and Methodology--What is Religion? (Class meets January 17)	
No Readings Due for Wednesday. In-Class exercises on Wednesday; Short readings and Discussion Board by Thursday.	By Wednesday, 12.10pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read Syllabus ● Take Quiz (“Introduce Yourself!”) ● Select and sign up for dates you want to originate a thread Wednesday, 12.10-1.30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attend Class Before Saturday @ 11:59pm ET:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Syllabus Quiz.
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 2: How can we talk about Religion? (Class meets January 24)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Z. Smith, “The Devil in Mr. Jones” 	<p>By Sunday @ 11.59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Tuesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Wednesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students should up-vote a thread in the Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>Wednesday, 12.10pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend class <p>Before Saturday @ 11:59pm ET:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Syllabus Quiz if you have not already done so.
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 3: Studying Religion—Origins? (Class meets January 31)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kessler on Tylor, Fraser, Freud, and Boyer • Rig Veda, “The Hymn of Man” and “Creation Hymn” • Genesis, 1-3 	<p>By Sunday @ 11.59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Tuesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Wednesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students should up-vote a thread in the Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board!

	<p>Wednesday, 12.10pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend class <p>Before Saturday @ 11:59pm ET:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take Syllabus Quiz if you have not already done so.
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Week 4: Studying Religion—What is it? (Class meets February 7)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kessler on Otto, Eliade, James, Durkheim, and Geertz. • Rabi’a (selections) • Margery Kempe The Book of Margery Kempe (selection) 	<p>By Sunday @ 11.59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Tuesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Wednesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students should up-vote a thread in the Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>Wednesday, 12.10pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend class
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Week 5: Studying Religion: Worldviews (Class meets February 14)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kessler on Smart • Ninian Smart, The World’s Religions, 10-26 	<p>By Monday @ 11:59pm ET:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Wednesday @ 9:00am ET:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students should respond to a thread in the Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>Wednesday, 2.00pm ET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend class
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Week 6: Encountering Religion: Worldviews! (Class meets February 21)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evans, Searching for Sunday ● hooks, “Contemplation and Transformation” ● Gabbard, Interview ● Wilson, The Butterfly Mosque 	<p>By Sunday @ 11.59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Tuesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Wednesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students should up-vote a thread in the Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>Wednesday, 12.10pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attend class <p>Before Saturday @ 11:59pm ET:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WORLDVIEW ASSIGNMENTS DUE!
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Week 7: Studying Religion in a Secular Age (Class meets February 28)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Richard Dawkins, The God Delusion, 31-50 ● Tom Bartlett, “Dusting off God” ● Tenzan Eaghll, “Dear Richard Dawkins” ● Hugh Hecllo, “Is America a Christian Nation?” 	<p>By Sunday @ 11.59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Tuesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Wednesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students should up-vote a thread in the Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>Wednesday, 12.10pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attend class
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Week 8: Myth (Class meets March 6)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Lincoln, Discourse and the Construction of Society, 23-26 • Genesis 2-3 • Phyllis Trible, “Eve and Adam: Genesis 2-3 Re-Read” • Paul Harvey, “A Servant of Servants Shall He Be” 	<p>By Sunday @ 11.59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Tuesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Wednesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students should up-vote a thread in the Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>Wednesday, 12.10pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend class
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Week 9: Gods and Humans (Class meets March 20)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary Kessler, Studying Religion: An Introduction Through Cases, 38-59 • Charles Wesley, Hymns (selected) • Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” • Thomas Jefferson, Syllabus and Summary of the Jefferson Bible. 	<p>By Sunday @ 11.59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Tuesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Wednesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students should up-vote a thread in the Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>Wednesday, 12.10pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend class
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Week 10: Religio—How should we act? (Class meets March 27)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole Karapanagiotis, “Vaishnava Cyber-Pūjā: Problems Of Purity & Novel Ritual Solutions”) • W. David Solomon, “Normative Ethical Theories” 	<p>By Sunday @ 11.59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Tuesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Wednesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students should up-vote a thread in the Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>Wednesday, 12.10pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend class <p>By Saturday @11:59pm ET:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIDTERM EXAMS DUE
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Week 11: Relegere: Interpretation and Contemplation (Class meets April 3)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Sullivan, “Unnatural Law” • Rabbi Ari Hart, “Can Orthodox Jews Support Same-Sex Marriage?” 	<p>By Sunday @ 11.59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Tuesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Wednesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students should up-vote a thread in the Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>Wednesday, 12.10pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend class
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Week 12: Relegere: Rethinking Reality (Class meets April 10)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zhuangzi, “Butterfly Dream” • Gospel of Thomas (excerpt) • Mary Baker Eddy, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures (excerpt) • Nancy Pearcey, Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity (excerpt) 	<p>By Sunday @ 11.59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Tuesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Wednesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students should up-vote a thread in the Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>Wednesday, 12.10pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend class
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Week 13: A Secular Age in America? (Class meets April 17)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert N. Bellah, “Civil Religion in America” • Music videos posted on Canvas 	<p>By Sunday @ 11.59pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Tuesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>By Wednesday @ 9:00am:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students should up-vote a thread in the Discussion Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NB: Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board! <p>Wednesday, 12.10pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend class
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Week 14: Revisiting the Secular (Class meets April 24)

EITHER:

- Tara Isabella Burton, “Apocalypse Whatever: The Making of a Racist, Sexist Religion of Nihilism on 4Chan”

OR:

- Saba Mahmood, “Religious Reason and Secular Affect: An Incommensurable Divide?” (selection)

By Sunday @ 11.59pm:

- Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads
 - **NB:** Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board!

By Tuesday @ 9:00am:

- Students who are signed up to originate threads in the Discussion Board should post their threads
 - **NB:** Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board!

By Wednesday @ 9:00am:

- **All** students should up-vote a thread in the Discussion Board
 - **NB:** Do the Reading Quiz to get access to the Board!

Wednesday, 12.10pm:

- Attend class

By Saturday @11:59pm ET:

- **COMPLETE MIDTERM REVISION PEER REVIEWS & WORKSHOPS**

FINAL EXAM DUE May 4, 12:00pm

Assignment Instructions

1. Preparation, Attendance, and Participation:

- a. You are expected to prepare for, attend, and participate in every in-person class period.
 - i. Preparation: You must come to class having done the reading and completed any preparatory assignments. There will be occasional “clarity quizzes” or “hot take” exercises to help us think about the readings, and these will be included in your preparation grade. You will also have to have all the readings for the day available to you EITHER printed out or in a PDF on a tablet that you can write on. **Laptops and phones will not be allowed in class except when we are doing a shared reading exercise.**
 - ii. Attendance: You must be on-time to and physically present in class. Attendance by Zoom, for partial credit, is allowed for students who are ill, but you **MUST** let me know by 9am of the day of class so I can be sure to bring the right equipment to the classroom (**I don’t need any notes or proof; please do not come to class sick!**).
 - iii. Participation: You must be an active participant in class activities, class discussions, and group work. This looks like: sharing comments, asking questions, being an active listener, engaging with classmates, etc.
- b. One of these grades will drop automatically; that is, there is one excused absence built into the class.
- c. There will be opportunities to make up these grades with attendance at extra credit lectures, etc., but these grades otherwise cannot be revised after their close dates.

2. Homework Assignments: Original Threads, Responses, and Upvotes on Canvas Discussion Board:

- a. For every week of class, there is a module which will open on the Friday prior to class. You must post in the current week’s Discussion Board at least once per week, to vote on another student’s Original Thread. For 2 classes (which you will sign up for in the first week of class), you must originate a thread. *NB: On*

the weeks that you originate a thread, you must still vote for a Thread to discuss in class.

- i. **Original Posts (15% of your semester grade):** Twice this semester, on dates you sign up for, you will originate a thread. This must be posted, at latest, by Sunday night at 11:59pm. Late submissions will receive a lower grade, since timeliness is crucial to your classmates' ability to engage and respond thoughtfully.
 1. Your post may be a comment, question, rant, poem, or thought experiment, but it must include at least one quotation from at least one of the texts assigned for that day.
 2. I highly recommend giving your post an illustrative and compelling title, so your classmates want to read your post.
 3. While these are not essays, they should have a foregrounded thesis or a take-away point or question that your classmates can easily discern. In other words, to be intelligible, these posts must be focused.
 4. While there is no set word-count, a post that is shorter than 200 words is unlikely to be in-depth enough to satisfy the rubric criteria and a post that is longer than 400 words is unlikely to be focused enough to satisfy the rubric criteria.
 5. These posts must have clear and polished prose—your classmates need to understand the arguments and observations you are making if they are going to be able to build off of them.
 6. You do not need to (and it's usually better not to!) ask "discussion questions" in your post. On rare occasions it may be helpful or even at the heart of your thinking, but unless that is the case, please focus on your own arguments and ideas, and let your classmates do the "lifting" in response.
- ii. Each assignment will be graded on a 4-point scale according to the following rubric:

Grade	Criteria
4.1	Thoughtful, insightful, thorough, and focused, with excellent choice of quotes, excellent use of quotes, and clear, polished writing. (Outstanding)
4	Thoughtful and focused, with good choice and use of quotes and clear writing. (Good)
3	Thoughtful but unclear or confused, with passable choice and use of quotes. (Satisfactory)
2	Unclear or confused, with questionable or insufficient use of quotes. (Unsatisfactory)
1	Unclear or confused, with questionable or insufficient use of quotes, demonstrating serious misconceptions and/or minimal effort. (Poor)
0	No assignment submitted by deadline

- b. Response Posts (15% of your semester grade):** Twice this semester, on dates you sign up for, you will respond to another student's Original Thread. This must be posted, at latest, by Tuesday morning at 9:00am. *NB: You are welcome to choose to respond in the same week you make your Original Thread, but only once! See [sign-up sheet](#) for more details.*
- i. Each assignment will be graded on a 2-point scale according to the following rubric:

Grade	Criteria
2.1	Thoughtful, focused, and thought-provoking, engaging constructively with your classmate's ideas and the readings.
2	Thoughtful and focused, engaging well with your classmate's ideas and the readings.
1	Moderately thoughtful but unclear or confused about either your classmate's post or the readings.
0	Unhelpful commentary OR No assignment submitted by deadline

- c. Upvotes (10% of your semester grade):** Once per week (even on the weeks that you have originated a thread!!) you will read through all the discussion threads and VOTE for a conversation that we will focus on in class. Please do this by responding to the post you want to discuss with any type of note:

“This!” or “I’d like to talk about this” or even “Vote” is fine. If you’d like to make a note as to WHY you want to discuss it, that’s great, too, but not required. Your vote must be posted by 9am on Wednesdays, so that I can tally them all before our class meeting. You may be asked to weigh in on the topic you’ve selected, so vote well!

- i. This will be graded as a yes/no: 1 point if you submit a vote, 0 points if you don’t.
 - ii. Your lowest three grades will be dropped (i.e. you can skip three of these).
- d. **Questions:** If you are passionate about something (or just plain confused about it) and you want to test out your ideas on me before or instead of sharing it with your classmates, you may, instead of a Forum response post, email me a question or something you want to address about the readings or what is happening in class. ***To be clear: you may always email me, for any reason at all, but a few times in the semester a thoughtful email will count as an assignment and you will receive credit for it.*** This is, essentially, a venue for asking questions or making comments without all of your classmates seeing it, and thus not something to be done frequently.

3. Worldview Analysis:

- a. Explore **your own** worldview in 4-6 pages (double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12 point font, approximately 2000 words), using all seven dimensions described by Smart (Practical/Ritual, Experiential/Emotional, Narrative/Mythic, Doctrinal/Philosophical, Ethical/Legal, Social/Institutional, and Material)
- b. You may look at any one of your operative worldviews, or several combined, or your overall amalgamated worldview. The worldview you choose does not have to be a religious one, but (since it is a worldview) it must be in some way meaningful and constitutive of meaning for *you*.¹ Essentially, I want you to look at the way you look at the world with the same critical lens you might apply to the experiences of others.
- c. Your introduction should explain the worldview you have chosen, and why you have chosen it.
- d. You should then have seven body paragraphs in which you focus on one dimension of your worldview, identify illustrative examples, describe them, and explain them. If there is a dimension that is not well represented in your

¹ For example, students have used religious traditions (Conservative Judaism, Irish Catholicism, Greek Orthodoxy, Pentecostalism, Quakerism, Islam, Secular Humanism), political affiliations (Communist, Republican, Democrat), sports fandom (Indiana Basketball), sports participation (field hockey, fencing), school affiliation (Yay Rutgers!), family identity (what it means to be a Kendall), national identity (American, Greek, Malaysian in America), activism/advocacy (pro-life, pro-choice, environmentalism, anti-poverty work), psychology (optimist/pessimist, attachment style), or personal philosophy (self-reliance, kindness), to name a few.

worldview, that is fine: you must note that and discuss what its absence might mean for your worldview as a whole.

- e. Your concluding section should evaluate the process of identifying your own worldview: was it difficult? Was it easy? Would it have been easier or more difficult to evaluate someone else's worldview? What hurdles did you have to overcome, and how did you overcome them? Would you recognize yourself from this worldview?

Classroom Policies:

1. Civility: This semester we will at times be discussing most of the things you are not supposed to discuss in polite company. In order to ensure that everyone feels comfortable participating in these discussions, we must all show respect to one another, to one another's ideas, and to the material we are discussing. Dismissive or abusive comments will not be tolerated. Any offensive posts to the discussion boards (or other spaces visible to the whole class) will be deleted and the student will be alerted and asked to revise. If you see something concerning in the Forums, please alert me via email ASAP.

2. Academic Honesty: Do not represent someone else's work as your own. Give credit where credit is due (even if that is to an AI text generator or a translation tool). Plagiarism will result in your being asked to redo the assignment in question, and repeated offenses will result in official action per Rutgers' Academic Integrity policy: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>.

3. Revision Policy: All formal writing in this class (Worldview Analysis, Midterm, Final) may be revised for full credit. You may revise all your work as many times as you wish to get the grade you want.

- You may only revise work that I have seen and commented on.
- This policy is only possible if you hand in your work in a timely fashion. If you do not hand in your work on or near the due date, I will not be able to comment and grade your initial submission in time for you to revise it effectively. Late work is fine, but if you submit work more than one week (seven days) past its deadline, I will not be able to grade it until the reading days at the end of the semester.
- If you submit your work more than a week late and you want feedback before the end of the semester, please set up a meeting with me.
- There is no deadline for any revision, other than your own graduation. I am happy to re-grade items after the end of the semester if you would like to change your grade.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** *By far the least labor-intensive and most efficient way to do well in this class is to do all the work as well as you can the first time around, on the same schedule as everyone else.* The full truth: For whatever

reason, students rarely submit work/revisions after the end of the semester, even when they have expressed (to me) the intention of doing so. Life happens, the semester ends, new classes begin, students move on. If you are at all able to do the work according to the class schedule, I highly recommend that you do that.