

Weekly Reading Journal

Directions: Please answer each question below. The reading journal is worth 30 points.

1. **Schedule.** Please list this week's assigned reading(s) below, noting the author(s), title(s), and total number of pages. Then, make a schedule for how you will complete it. (4pts.)

Author(s): (Unknown), Madeleine Arnaout, (Unknown), Julie Halpert, Matthew Goldberg, et. al, PEW Research

Title(s): Hindu Declaration on Climate Change; Overview of the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change; Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change; Judaism and Climate Change; A Social Identity Approach to Engaging Christians in the Issue of Climate Change; How Religion Intersects with Americans' Views on the Environment

Total pp.: 12

<i>Day of the week:</i>	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
<i>Pages planned:</i>							
<i>Pages read:</i>							
<i>Total time:</i>		4 hrs					

2. **Summarize.** Write 2-3 sentences summarizing the text's main idea. If a work has either a thesis statement or statement of purpose, please type it below with the page number. And, if there is more than one text, please write a summary for each text. (4pts.)

Hindu Declaration on Climate Change

The declaration opens, recalling the first Hindu Declaration on Climate Change, which had been adopted by spiritual leaders six years prior. In the time since, there has been no effort to amend things, and the article calls for global treaty. It calls for hindus to expand their conception of god's creation in several scriptures, and closes with a plea for Hindus to consider how to be of service, and honor and protect Bhūmi Devi.

Overview of the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change

The overview explains that the declaration on global climate change was drafted in 2015, and shared worldwide, and would eventually be launched fully during the International Islamic Climate Change Symposium. The declaration itself calls all Muslims to "engage in global climate movement", calling for zero emissions and a sustainable future.

The Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change

The declaration opens with a recollection that the planet and mankind are both god's creation, and it is God's will to protect it. The conferences on the subject are noted, and the present situation of progressing climate change is shared. Affirmations to protect the good of the planet are shared, and Muslims are called forth to move towards a world in which the climate is protected.

Judaism and Climate Change

Within the branches of Judaism, different branches offer different opinions on climate change, but is largely focused on the health and care for the Jewish people and the climate. Views that “religious leaders represent an under-tapped sector of society to promote change.” An emphasis for these religious leaders is to ensure policymakers hear the voice of the underrepresented. Concerns are also shared with very conservative Jewish communities, and the opportunity to encourage them to work on different issues, such as water conservation and other actions which keep to the faith is presented.

A Social Identity Approach to Engaging Christians in the Issue of Climate Change

Two surveys and two experiments are done to investigate Christian identity on the issue of climate change. They find “protecting God’s creation” is a top reason to address climate change, and the emphasis on climate change as a moral and religious issue were found to make the issue a larger priority for Christians.

How Religion Intersects with Americans’ Views on the Environment

Most Americans believe the Earth is warming and see climate change as a serious threat, but views differ sharply by religion and politics. Evangelical Protestants (who tend to align with Republicans) are the least likely to attribute warming to human activity or to see it as a major problem, often citing faith in God’s control or bigger global issues. By contrast, atheists, agnostics, and members of often democratic, non-Christian religions show the highest concern and strongest support for action to slow climate change.

3. **Analyze.** Select *four quotes* from the reading(s). They should not all come from the same chapter/selection! Type each quote below with its page number and explain how it relates to the text’s main idea. (10pts.)

1. “About a third of evangelical Protestants say the Earth is getting warmer mostly due to human activity (32%), while similar shares say the Earth is getting warmer mostly due to natural patterns (36%) or that they are unsure or not convinced the Earth is getting warmer (32%).” (How Religion Intersects with Americans’ Views on the Environment)

This portrays clearly the skepticism shared by evangelical protestants.

2. “Nine-in-ten atheists say the Earth is getting warmer mostly due to human activity, as do 78% of agnostics.” (How Religion Intersects with Americans’ Views on the Environment)

This portrays clearly the concerns held by American agnostics.

3. “The present climate change catastrophe is a result of the human disruption of this balance... the same fossil fuels that helped us achieve most of the prosperity we see today are the main cause of climate change. Excessive pollution from fossil fuels threatens to destroy the gifts bestowed on us by God – gifts such as a functioning climate, healthy air to breathe, regular seasons, and living oceans.” (Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change)

This portrays clearly the Islamic viewpoint on climate change.

4. “A radical change in our relationship with nature is no longer an option. It is a matter of survival. We cannot destroy nature without destroying ourselves.” (Hindu Declaration on Climate Change)

This portrays clearly the Hindu viewpoint on climate change.

4. **Connect.** Write 2-3 sentences connecting this week’s reading(s) to other assigned readings and/or the lecture(s). (4pts.)

These quotes illustrate Lynn White’s argument that religious worldviews shape how people relate to nature. Evangelical Protestants’ skepticism and atheists’ strong acceptance of human-caused warming show how different beliefs influence openness to scientific explanations. In contrast, the Islamic declaration frames climate change as a violation of God’s entrusted balance, highlighting a religious ethic of stewardship that challenges the exploitative attitudes White linked to Western Christian traditions.

5. **Apply.** Think about your own life. Where can you use/apply the knowledge gleaned from the reading? (4pts.)

Regardless of religious identity, it is important to listen to the voices calling for a renewed respect for the Earth and an urgent response to climate change. The texts highlight how different faith traditions frame this responsibility: some evangelical Protestants remain skeptical of human-caused warming, while atheists and agnostics overwhelmingly accept the science and call for action. Islamic teachings describe climate disruption as a betrayal of the balance entrusted by God, and Hindu declarations urge a dharmic duty to protect all beings. Together, these perspectives show that caring for the planet is both a moral and practical imperative that transcends belief systems and demands personal and collective change.

6. **Reflect.** Did you hold to your intended reading schedule? How did you improve from last week, and how will you improve next week? (4pts.)

I held to my reading schedule and will continue to follow the same one.