**Gods, Myths, Religions In a Secular Age**

**Exam III Review Sheet**

This third exam will draw from the readings, lectures, films, and all course content from March 28th through (and including) May 6th. Below are some key questions or themes that will aid you in your preparation. These should serve as a study guide, and should remind you of the various topics that we covered in the course. Please be sure to review your readings and notes.

Remember, if you can answer these questions, and address these terms **substantively and coherently**, then you should be prepared for the exam. Please make sure that as you are preparing your answers, you are both presenting the **factual content and analysis**.

Good luck, and I hope that you are proud of the amount of material that you have mastered.

**\*\*\*Important: Exam III will be taken via SAKAI. You MUST take the exam between Monday, 5/13 at 8am-Tuesday, 5/14 at 8pm. You will have an 80 minute time limit, though the exam should take between 65-80 minutes.**

**Exams are based on the honor system. They are intended to be closed note, closed book, and are to be taken individually.**

**Just a reminder:**

1. How is Geertz’s approach different from the functionalists and reductionists? What is he concerned with? (see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzsxAN4Qtek> )
2. What is Geertz’s definition of religion? How does this intersect with culture? To help with this, watch this 2 minute clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nd3YzXmfE98&list=PLpMuFbo2NGau-2HOkdtbxKoovq2cZo-S8&index=3>
3. Explain Geertz’s use of culture rather than society for his study? (see pages 297-8)
4. What is symbolic anthropology?
5. What is “thick description”? How does it differ from previous approaches that we have encountered? Why is it important? (See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p53skaU5hLo> )
6. What is a “shared context of meaning” for Geertz?
7. According to Pal’s synopsis, what does Geertz argue in his famed article “Religion as a Cultural System”? Explain.
8. What does Geertz mean by “rationalized religion”? (see page 306)
9. How does Pals present the Weberian reading into Geertz’s work? What are the parallels? (pages 306-307)
10. What does Geertz point to as an issue to traditional religion? Or the effect that modernity has on religion? (see pages 314-315)
11. What are the critiques of Geertz? (see pages 318-321)
12. Read (and enjoy) “Deep Play: Notes on a Balinese Cockfight,” by Clifford Geertz. What is Geertz arguing in his article? What is the significance of the cockfight?
13. What is the relationship between gender and religion?
14. Review Gender and Religion PowerPoint (available on SAKAI).
15. According to our article on ‘Gender and Religion’, what are the tasks of feminist scholars?
16. What have been the results of the gendering of religion?
17. How has religion impacted gender relations? And, how has it been impacted by gender relations?
18. What do we learn about gender and “western” religions through our reading of Genesis I & II?
19. Review your questions for both *Miriam’s Daughter’s Celebrate* & *Veiling and Seclusion*. Consider these films within the larger framework of both Knott’s Insider/Outsider Perspective, and the article Gender and Religion. Also, consider the relationship between religion and culture.
20. What is the relationship between religion and nature?
21. What is the relationship between America’s conservation movement and religion? Consider John Muir, the Social Gospel Movement, Romanticism, and the tension between dominion vs. stewardship of the earth.
22. Why does Bron Taylor make the case that surfing is religion (new religious movement)? What is the soul surfing movement?
23. According to Taylor (and Kampion in Taylor’s article – page 929) what elements of religion are parts of surf culture?
24. According to Taylor (pages 931-33) what elements from the 1960s influenced the emergence of surfing as a religion?
25. How were images of Eden and surfing conflated? (932-34)
26. What is the relationship between surfing, environmentalism and ritual? (pages 938-939)
27. What is a New Religious Movement (NRM)? What are the characteristics of these movements? How is an NRM different from (established) religion?
28. How does Jonestown/People’s Temple fit into discussion of NRMs? – (syncretic liberation theology, Marxism, and Methodist theology, millenarian, apocalyptic, charismatic leader).
29. Who was Jim Jones and what was his People’s Temple?
30. What does *Waco Rules of Engagement* force us to think about in terms of religion and its power?
31. Do you think that religion was taken seriously in dealing with the Branch Davidians? Why or why not?
32. How is religion understood or portrayed in the documentary on Waco?
33. Which theorists best explain New Religious Movements?
34. What are the similarities and differences between Waco’s Branch Davidians and Jonestown’s People’s Temple?
35. What do New Religious Movements force us to consider in terms of the way that we understand religion?
36. What/Who is the Flying Spaghetti Monster (FSM)?
37. What role does the FSM play according to Van Horn and Johnston? Explain.
38. Why is a subversive figure important in religion? What role does it play? Why do Johnston and Van Horn introduce this theory of Bhaktin?
39. What is Intelligent Design? How does it differ from creation theories? Evolution?
40. Why was the teaching of Intelligent Design controversial in Dover? How was the case ultimately resolved and why?
41. What does this case, and others reveal about the limits of pluralism?