Name:

New Religious Movements Film Questions

1. What does *Waco: The Rules of Engagement* force us to think about in terms of religion and its power?
2. What does *Jonestown: The Life and Death of a Peoples Temple* force us to think about in terms of religion and its power?
3. Reflecting on both of these films, analyze the role of a charismatic leader in the development of a New Religious Movement (NRM)?
4. Reflecting on these films and your readings, what role or social concerns are NRMs fulfilling and addressing, respectively?
5. Do you think that religion was taken seriously in dealing with the Branch Davidians? Why or why not?
6. How is religion understood or portrayed in each of these two documentaries? Compare and contrast how each of these societies is portratyed.
7. What are the similarities and differences between Waco’s Branch Davidians and Jonestown’s People’s Temple?
8. After viewing these films and doing your reading, which theorists best explain New Religious Movements? Explain.
9. What do New Religious Movements force us to consider in terms of the way that we understand religion?
10. What are the limits of pluralism?

\*\*\*I look forward to reading your one-page response/reflection papers on these films and readings. Further, I look forward to answering any questions that you may have and having a robust discussion about this material when we next meet.