**World Views**

Dr. Brendan Myers Fall 2016

**Study Guide for Test #1**

Our first test of the year will take place during our one-hour period (that’s Thursday for section 1, and Friday for section 2). It will be worth 15% of the final grade for the course. Be prepared to answer short-definition questions, and a critical interpretation question, on the following topics:

**General Concepts**

What world views are, in general

* **the sum of a set of related answers to the most important questions in life.**

Schweitzer’s criteria

* Must be Rational
* Ethical
* Optimistic

Where world views come from: questions, limit situations, environments

Framing languages

* Different ways that we can say the same thing that portray it differently
* Guy Fawks being a polictical activist vs a terrorist

Civilization: the ‘big’ and ‘small’ pictures

Big picture:

* Monuments
* Buildings
* Castles
* Empires
* Conformity
* Colonialism
* Oppression

Small Picture:

* Class satisfaction
* Manners
* Customs

The ‘rise-and-fall’ theorists of civilization: Toynbee, etc.

* Gibbon: Decline and fall of the Roman empire (Analysis of the fall of the Roman empire)
* Spengler: The decline of the west (Analysis of a few civilizations and our own downfall)
* Toynbee: A study of history (Analysis of the life of 18 different great civilization)

The ‘checklist-makers’ of civilization: Childe, etc.

* Mirabeau the elder

**Confucianism**

The Mandate of Heaven

* Idea that the world has written on it, a moral code. The idea of karma comes from here

Humanity and Righteousness

* Everyone must have these things to be a good person. Empathy, compassion, etc..

The Five Relations

* Parent to child
* Husband to wife
* Friend to friend
* Rule to minister
* Elder sibling to younger sibling.

Filial Piety

* A virtue of respect for one’s parents, elders, and ancestors

The Rectification of Names

* Idea that words are important, names are important. We should say things as they are instead of beating around the bush for sake of better clarity and understanding

The Sage Gentleman

* The sum of someone who follows all of major concepts of Confucianism. A “truly civilized person”.

**Taoism**

The Tao

Naturalness, Spontaneity, Gong-Fu

* Taoism is a teaching of how to live in harmony with nature, other people and within yourself.
* Spontaneity
* Gong-fu is the idea of complete mastery over an art or a skill

Emptiness / Wu-Wei

* Acting in a way that is as natural as possible. Often associated with taking the path of least resistance and translates literally into non-action or non-doing