

**RLGN101 Religion and Culture**  
**Final Exam Review Guide**  
(New, Cumulative Version)

**Format of the exam:** *This is an open-book, open-note, **culmulative** exam. You may use hard copies of our textbook, readings, slides, and/or your own notes. However, no electronic devices are allowed.*

1. Multiple-choice and true-or-false questions (45%)
2. Identifications (25%)
3. Take-home essay questions (30%)

**PLEASE ALSO REVIEW THE MIDTERM EXAM.**

**Key Readings and Terms/Phrases to Review:**

- The six definitions of religion by Clifford Geertz, Talal Asad, Mary Daly, Luce Irigaray, Thomas Tweed, and Russell McCutcheon
- Paul Hedges, *Understanding Religion*
  - “Introduction”
  - “Religion: Language, Laws, and Legacy”
    - Methodological polymorphism
    - Critical hermeneutical phenomenology
  - “Method: Insider-Outsider Debates, Phenomenology, and Reflexivity”
    - The World Religions Paradigm
    - Religious “insiders” and “outsiders”
    - Multiple Religious Identities
- Thomas Tweed, *Crossing and Dwelling*, 80-122
  - “Dwelling” and three actions in dwelling: mapping, building, and inhabiting
  - Emplacement and displacement
  - Religion as watch and compass
    - Biological and cultural clocks
    - Neural and cultural compasses
  - Allocentric and autocentric orientation
  - Religion and the body
    - Religions imagine the body
    - Religions mark boundaries
    - Religions also alter the body
  - Where “dwelling” happens: home, homeland, and cosmos
- Isaac Bashevis Singer, “Little Shoemakers”
  - Myth and mythology
- Deepak Sarma, “Gestational Surrogacy and Hindu Bioethics: The Karma of Genetics and the Genetics of Karma”

- “Crossing,” in Thomas Tweed, *Crossing and Dwelling*
  - Terrestrial Crossing
  - Corporeal Crossing
  - Cosmic Crossing
    - Religious teleography
    - Transporting and transforming
  - Concealed Crossing
- “Bodies: Material Religion, Embodiment, and Materiality,” in *Understanding Religion* (pp.209-231).
  - Material religion
  - embodiment
- David Chidester, “The Church of Baseball, the Fetish of Coca-Cola, and the Potlatch of Rock ‘n’ Roll: Theoretical Models for the Study of Religion in American Popular Culture”
  - Baseball as religion
  - Fetish
  - Potlatch
  - Productive economic activity and expenditure
- Vernon Andrews, “Rituals of the African American Domus: Church, Community, Sport and LeBron James”
  - Ritualizing
  - Domus
- The AAR Religious Literacy Guidelines: What U.S. College Graduates Need to Understand about Religion
  - Approaches Adopted by Two- and Four-Year Colleges and Universities
  - Suggested Outcomes for Students in Two- and Four-Year Colleges
- Penny Lane, *Hail Satan?*
- “This Little Light of Mine:” Interview with Joy Bostic
  - Cosmology

## Take-home Essay Question (30 points total)

Write a 500-800 word response to **one** of the two the prompt questions below. Be succinct but make sure to cite concrete examples from the sources and use proper citations.

Your essay is due on Canvas *before* our final exam time (8am Tuesday, December 10).

1. Choose one of the schools listed below, research the mission statement, degree requirement, general education curriculum design, and answer the following questions.

- Ohio State University <https://www.osu.edu/>
- Cornell University <https://www.cornell.edu/>
- Baylor University <https://www.baylor.edu/>
- United States Naval Academy <https://www.usna.edu/>
- Kenyon College <https://www.kenyon.edu/>
- Manhattan College <https://manhattan.edu/>
- Cuyahoga Community College <https://www.tri-c.edu/>
- University of the West <https://www.uwest.edu/>
- Gratz College <https://www.gratz.edu/>

- 1) What kind of institution is the school? Public/private, religiously affiliated, 4-year, 2-year, or professional schools?
- 2) Does it have a Religion/Religious Studies Department? How about other religion-related offices or programs?
- 3) Do these departments, offices, or programs identify with a specific approach in Appendix B in the American Academy of Religion's Religious Literacy Guidelines? Cite concrete examples.
- 4) Does the school's mission statement and/or degree requirement have religion components? Do they address the AAR religious literary outcomes? Cite concrete examples.
- 5) Does the school's general education curriculum have religion components? Do they address the AAR religious literary outcomes? Cite concrete examples.
- 6) If you could make one **concrete, feasible** suggestion to the school's general education curriculum, so that it will be better aligned with the AAR religious literary outcomes, what will it be? Why do you make this suggestion?

2. Choose one of the following US government agencies/offices' web pages that specifically deal with content on religion, read through the page and answer the following questions:

- The Supreme Court
  - <https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/engel-v-vitale> (Read through all "Activity Resources" and the linked article "First Amendment and Religion")

- Office of International Religious Freedom
  - <https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/office-of-international-religious-freedom/>
- US Department of Labor and US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
  - <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/oasam/civil-rights-center/internal/policies/religious-discrimination-accommodation>
  - <https://www.eeoc.gov/religious-discrimination>
- The IRS
  - <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/churches-religious-organizations/definition-of-church>

- 1) How is religion defined (or not defined) in the agency/office of your choice? (You might not find a straightforward definition in most cases, so you will need to read between the lines and infer the definition.)
- 2) Why do you think it is defined in that way? Is it a sufficient definition of religion?
- 3) Give your own definition of religion. It does not need to agree with the definition above, nor does it need to serve the same function.
- 4) Then, pick one of the following organizations/activities, and answer the question:

Sports (pick any sports, or write about sports in general) | The Satanic Temple | Church of Scientology | Atheism

- a. Is it a religion? Why or why not?
- b. Does it fit into either of the definitions above?
- c. What is at stake when we call it a religion? Who benefits from it? Who might be harmed by it?