

RLGN101 Religion and Culture Midterm Exam Review Guide

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

Multiple-choice and true-or-false questions (45%)

Identifications (25%)

Short essay questions (30%)

Key Readings 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”
 - “Method: Insider-Outsider Debates, Phenomenology, and Reflexivity”
- Thomas Tweed, *Crossing and Dwelling*, 80-122
- Isaac Bashevis Singer, “Little Shoemakers”
- Deepak Sarma, “Gestational Surrogacy and Hindu Bioethics: The Karma of Genetics and the Genetics of Karma”

Key terms/phrases to review:

- Methodological polymorphism
- Critical hermeneutical phenomenology
- The World Religions Paradigm
- Religious “insiders” and “outsiders”
- Multiple Religious Identities
- “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
- Myth and mythology

Key questions to reflect on:

- How does the short story by Isaac Bashevis Singer, “Little Shoemakers,” reflect Tweed’s theory of religion as dwelling?
- How does the Hindu perspective discussed in Sarma’s article “Gestational Surrogacy and Hindu Bioethics” reflect Tweed’s theory of religion as dwelling?