**Final Exam**

**RELC 351**

**Survey of World Religions**

**Dr. Reed**

**Directions:** Students should write these essays in Word, Google Docs, or another version of word processor. Once all of the essays are written, they should upload them to the Canvas site. The word counts are approximate. Students may not use anything to aid them in the exam other than the assigned readings from class. The University administration has allowed us to open up the exams early for you. The exam will be available on Canvas and will close on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 4pm. Please do not miss this deadline.

**Questions (Please answer the questions as fully as you are able to do):**

1. (Part 1) Diana Eck argued that religious pluralism is “everyone at the table, with their commitments.” In what ways did Heschel articulate a more nuanced definition of pluralism in his speech “No Religion is an Island.”? Do you agree with Heschel’s approach, or is Eck’s a more compelling, possible aim? Give two examples of where religious pluralism is at play in modern society and one example where religious pluralism might not work as easily. (250 words)

The complex situation we find ourselves in globally today demands that all of us make adjustments to the pandemic we are experiencing. Do you think that a societal value of pluralism might help us in our current scenario? Using the sacred texts you read this semester, how might we find ancient wisdom to help us in our grave time of need today? Which ones might provide comfort, peace, or even practical advice? Provide two examples (with your explanations for why they are helpful) from sacred texts that are not a part of your tradition that might help us find ways forward amidst the pandemic and social distancing practices we find ourselves in now. (400 words)

1. Where did you find “holy envy” this semester? What religion inspired you in some way and why do you suppose it was that particular aspect of that tradition that caused you to feel something? Is Holy Envy a worthwhile pursuit for students at BYU or is there another way to get us to a place of interfaith understanding that is productive for our community? (200 words)
2. As we studied various religions and traditions, we looked at practices, sacred texts, beliefs, and cultures. What, in your opinion, is the greatest challenge facing religions today? What remedies might help religious communities address these challenges? Are the challenges different for Eastern Religions (Buddhism, Shinto, Hinduism, Taoism) than those that face the Abrahamic traditions? (400 words)

* Engaging youth, adapting to new viewpoints and societal concerns while maintaining some consistency (Christianity learning to accept groups that have been traditionally expelled, often on doctrinal bases), learning to be pluralistic in globalism.