

Religions of the Western World

01:840:212:01

Online Asynchronous

(with recorded live sessions weekly on Thursdays, 1.10-2.30pm)

Instructor: Prof. Diane Fruchtman

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Webex Room: <https://rutgers.webex.com/meet/dsf79>

Open WebEx Hours for Student Visits: Tuesday 1.00-3.00pm and by appointment

Course Overview:

The study of religion is the study of history, of philosophy, of people, places, and cultures, of texts, of art, of economics, society, and politics, of relationships between people and relationships between ideas. This course familiarizes students with three major religious traditions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—as well as with various methods for studying them.

After exploring several theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of Religion, we will use (some of) these approaches to examine Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (also known as the “Western” traditions—a category we will discuss and problematize).

Within each of these tradition units, we will use first-person practitioner narratives to offer insight into the diverse realities of experience and life within that tradition. From this starting point we will dive into the background and history of the tradition, after which we will look at texts and authorities considered to be sacred or influential by that tradition. To close each tradition unit we will discuss issues that each tradition is currently grappling with.

The aim of this course is not to be comprehensive, but to give students the framework, background, topical knowledge, and analytical tools to understand these diverse traditions wherever and in whatever form they might encounter them.

Notes on Course Structure: This is an online, asynchronous course, but there are weekly class sessions that are optional to attend in real time. They will be recorded and every student who is not able to join the session must view the recording after the fact, sometime within the week of the class. I have done my best to make every week of the class follow a similar pattern of consuming content and completing assignments, but there are some variations, so ***please follow the weekly modules set up in Canvas and be sure to read my weekly emails (sent via Canvas to your Rutgers email addresses) which will summarize the week’s tasks and alert you to upcoming assignments.***

Grade Breakdown:

1. **Participation (40%)**—Every week of class is structured according to a similar pattern, with slight variations in deadlines and activities based on the requirements of the material we are covering. But every week there will be readings for you to do, videos for you to watch, questions for you to answer, and class meetings for you to attend (either in real time or by watching the recordings after the fact). The questions you will answer on the readings and videos, along with your attendance at class meetings, will constitute the largest single chunk of your grade.
 - **25% of your grade** will come from your responses to readings, your completion of video quizzes, and other small participation-centered assignments. These will be graded either on a complete/incomplete metric or on a 2-point scale that allows for extra credit. The lowest ten percent of your grades in this category will be dropped. For more details, see “Assignment Instructions” below.
 - **15% of your grade** will come from your Syllabus quiz and your timely “attendance” of lectures. For more details, see “Assignment Instructions” below.
2. **Worldview Exercises (15%)**—In the first week of each of the three Tradition Units, you will submit via Canvas a page-long “mini-essay” (no thesis, no intro, no conclusion) that applies the theoretical framework of “worldview analysis” to one of the first-person practitioner narratives assigned for that week. For more information, see “Assignment Instructions” below.
3. **Tradition Unit Quizzes (15%)**—These Unit Quizzes, due via Canvas in Weeks 6, 10, and 15, will consist of 20 multiple choice questions. You may take the quiz as many times as you like to get the grade you want, but the questions will not be the same each time. For more information, see “Assignment Instructions” below.
4. **Document-Based Questions (15%)**—There are six of these during the semester (two for each unit), and you must do three (one per unit). For more information, see “Assignment Instructions” below.
5. **Final Exam (15%)**—The Final Exam will consist of a cumulative 20 question multiple choice section (exactly like the Tradition Unit Quizzes), one DBQ, and one mini-essay. There will be a study guide and a review session.

Objectives:

Students will:

- Become familiar with the general contours of three major world religious traditions—their practices, their histories, their texts, and their contemporary concerns.
- Cultivate an awareness of the complexities of the traditions as well as the diversity of practice and belief within each tradition.
- Acquire and exercise methodological tools for analyzing religious traditions.
- Refine their reading skills to appreciate the nuances, preoccupations, and assumptions of religious literature and expression.
- Gain an appreciation for the variety of human experiences and worldviews.

Readings:

- Hussain and Amore, eds., *World Religions: Western Traditions*. 5th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. (WRWT)
 - NB: **You do not have to buy this textbook:** It is available in full as a PDF linked via the Home Page.
- All other readings will be linked on Canvas in the module(s) for which they are assigned, and also accessible under the “Readings” folder of the “Files” tab.

Schedule of Readings, Videos, Meetings, and Assignments

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1: Introduction and Methodology							
9/1-9/5			By 11:59pm EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Welcome Video (Video #1) • Take Quiz ("Introduce Yourself!") 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 10am EST: watch Video #2 and answer questions • By 11am EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch Video #3 ○ Read "Tylor, Frazer, and Durkheim" ○ Answer questions • From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) 	By 11:59pm EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you could not attend Thursday's WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week's discussion board. • <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see "Assignment Instructions" 1.iii).</i> • Take Syllabus Quiz.
Week 2: Methodology							
9/6-9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Weekly Email 		By 11:59pm EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read "Freud and Boyer" • Watch Video #4 • Answer questions 	By 11:59pm EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read "Marx and Eliade" • Watch Video #5 • Answer questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 11am EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read "Kessler on Smart; Excerpts from Smart" ○ Watch Video #6 ○ Answer questions. • From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) 	By 11:59pm EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you could not attend Thursday's WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week's discussion board. • <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see "Assignment Instructions" 1.iii).</i> • Take Syllabus Quiz.
Week 3: Judaism—Diverse Worldviews							
9/13-9/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Weekly Email 	By 11:59pm EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Video #7 • Read "Textbook on Practicing Judaism" and "Kurshan, Donella, and Moskowitz" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional: Attend the "Question / Clarification Session" from 1.10-2.30pm EST or watch the recording 	By 11:59pm EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Judaism Worldview Exercise Draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 11am EST: Fill out one of the Judaism Worldview Spreadsheets • From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) 	By 11:59pm EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you could not attend Thursday's WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week's discussion board. • <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see "Assignment Instructions" 1.iii).</i> • Submit your Final Draft of your Judaism Worldview Exercise
Week 4: Judaism—Historical Background							

9/20-9/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Weekly Email 		<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read "Textbook on Judaism Historical Background, Part 1" Watch Videos #8, #9, #10 Answer a Warm-Up Question 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 11:00am EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read "Textbook on Judaism Historical Background, Part 2" Watch Videos #11, #12, #13, and #14 Answer a Warm-Up Question From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) 	<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you could not attend Thursday's WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week's discussion board. <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see "Assignment Instructions" 1.iii).</i>
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Week 5: Judaism—Texts and Authorities

9/27-10/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Weekly Email 		<p>By 11:00am EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read "Textbook on Tanakh") Watch Video #15 <p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read selections from Genesis, Exodus, and Psalms and watch the corresponding Videos (#16, #17, and #18) Answer Reading Response Question 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 11:00am EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read selections from Talmud, Zohar, and Elie Wiesel and watch the corresponding Videos (#19, #20, #21). Answer Reading Response Question Submit either DBQ 1A or DBQ 1B From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) Optional Online Chat, via WebEx (Time TBD) 	<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you could not attend Thursday's WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week's discussion board. <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see "Assignment Instructions" 1.iii).</i>
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Week 6: Judaism—Contemporary Concerns

10/4-10/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Weekly Email 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch and Respond to Video #22: Feminism and Judaism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch and Respond to Video #23: Racism, Antisemitism, and Judaism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch and Respond to Video #24: Zionism and Judaism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) 	<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you could not attend Thursday's WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week's discussion board. <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see "Assignment Instructions" 1.iii).</i> UNIT QUIZ #1 DUE
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Week 7: Christianity—Diverse Worldviews

10/11 - 10/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Weekly Email 	<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch Video #25 Read "Textbook on Practicing Christianity" and "Evans, Brown, and Oakes" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional: Attend the "Question / Clarification Session" from 1.10-2.30pm EST or watch the recording 	<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit Christianity Worldview Exercise Draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 11am EST: Fill out one of the Christianity Worldview Spreadsheets From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) 	<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you could not attend Thursday's WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week's discussion board. <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see "Assignment Instructions" 1.iii).</i> Submit your Final Draft of your Christianity Worldview Exercise
Week 8: Christianity—Historical Background							
10/18 - 10/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Weekly Email 		<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read "Textbook on Christianity Historical Background, Part 1" Watch Videos #26, #27, and #28 Answer a Warm-Up Question 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 11:00am EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read "Textbook on Christianity Historical Background, Part 2" Watch Videos #29, #30, #31, and #32 Answer a Warm-Up Question From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) 	<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you could not attend Thursday's WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week's discussion board. <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see "Assignment Instructions" 1.iii).</i>
Week 9: Christianity—Texts and Authorities							
10/25 - 10/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Weekly Email 		<p>By 11:00am EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read "Textbook on the New Testament" Watch Video #33 <p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Selections from Paul, Gospels, and Revelation and watch the corresponding Videos (#34, #35, #36) Answer Reading Response Question 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 11:00am EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read selections from Lyons and Vienne, Nicene Creed, City of God, and the Methodist Hymns and watch the corresponding Videos (#37, #38, #39, #40). Answer Reading Response Question Submit either DBQ 2A or DBQ 2B From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) Optional Online Chat, via WebEx (Time TBD) 	<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you could not attend Thursday's WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week's discussion board. <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see "Assignment Instructions" 1.iii).</i>
Week 10: Christianity—Contemporary Concerns							

11/1-11/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Weekly Email 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch and Respond to Video #41: Feminism and Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch and Respond to Video #42: Racism and Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch and Respond to Video #43: LGBTQI rights and Christianity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) 	<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you could not attend Thursday's WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week's discussion board. • <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see "Assignment Instructions" 1.iii).</i> • UNIT QUIZ #2 DUE
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Week 11: Islam—Diverse Worldviews

11/8-11/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Weekly Email 	<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Video #44 • Read "Textbook on Practicing Islam" and "Kahf, Al-Khatahtbeh, and Wilson" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional: Attend the "Question / Clarification Session" from 1.10-2.30pm EST or watch the recording 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 11:59pm EST: Submit Islam Worldview Exercise Draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 11am EST: Fill out one of the Islam Worldview Spreadsheets • From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) 	<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you could not attend Thursday's WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week's discussion board. • <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see "Assignment Instructions" 1.iii).</i> • Submit your Final Draft of your Islam Worldview Exercise
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Week 12: Islam—Historical Background

11/15-11/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Weekly Email 		<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read "Textbook on Islam Historical Background, Part 1" • Watch Videos #45, #46, #47 • Answer a Warm-Up Question 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 11:00am EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read "Textbook on Islam Historical Background, Part 2" ○ Watch Videos #48, #49, #50, and #51 ○ Answer a Warm-Up Question • From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) 	<p>By 11:59pm EST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you could not attend Thursday's WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week's discussion board. • <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see "Assignment Instructions" 1.iii).</i>
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Week 13: THANKSGIVING

11/22 - 11/25	• Read Weekly Email		By 11:00am EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read “Textbook on the Qur’an and Hadith” • Watch Video #52 By 11:59pm EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Selections from Qur’an and Hadith and watch the corresponding Videos (#53 and #54) • Answer Reading Response Question 	HAVE A GREAT BREAK!		
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Week 14: Islam—Texts and Authorities

11/30 -12/5	PLEASE TAKE THIS TIME TO CATCH UP, WORK AHEAD, AND STUDY 😊			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 11:00am EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read selections from Sufi Texts and Legal Texts and watch the corresponding Videos (#55 and #56). ○ Answer Reading Response Question ○ Submit either DBQ 3A or DBQ 3B • From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.) • Optional Online Chat, via WebEx (Time TBD) 	By 11:59pm EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you could not attend Thursday’s WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week’s discussion board. • <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see “Assignment Instructions” 1.iii).</i>
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Week 15: Islam—Contemporary Concerns

12/6- 12/10	• Read Weekly Email	• Watch and Respond to Video #57: Feminism and Islam	• Watch and Respond to Video #58: Racism, Islamophobia, and Islam	• Watch and Respond to Video #59: Radicalism and Islam	• From 1.10-2.30 EST: Join WebEx Class Meeting.	• (Video of WebEx class meeting will be posted.)	By 11:59pm EST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you could not attend Thursday’s WebEx Class Meeting, watch the Video recording and comment on the week’s discussion board. • <i>Extra Credit: Engage more on the Discussion board (see “Assignment Instructions” 1.iii).</i> • UNIT QUIZ #3 DUE
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ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Participation:

- a. Syllabus Quiz:
 - i. Take the Syllabus Quiz on Canvas before the end of the second week of class. This is worth 1% of your grade. You can take it as many times as you want to get the grade you want, and the questions will not change (though the ordering of the answers will).
- b. "Attendance":
 - i. For our weekly class meetings, you are encouraged to attend in real time if you can. Attendance will be taken via Top Hat, and I will also be using Top Hat to poll you during the class period.
 - ii. For anyone who cannot make these class meetings (for whatever reason), you must watch or listen to the recording and either comment or ask questions in the Discussion thread for the week. You are welcome to begin a new thread or to respond to someone else's.
 - iii. For anyone who would like extra credit (no matter how you "attended" the class meeting), you may participate in the discussion. Anyone who participates substantively more than once in a week's discussion (or who participates substantively once after attending the live session) will receive extra credit.
 - iv. All participation in the Discussion must occur prior to Saturday evening at 11:59pm. Conversations may be carried over to the next week's Discussion, but you will need to start a new thread in the new Discussion.

2. Worldview Exercises:

- a. For weeks 3, 7, and 11 you must submit by Wednesday at 11:59pm a full draft of a two-paragraph mini-essay that identifies TWO worldview dimensions that are prominent in ONE of the first-person practitioner narratives assigned for that week.
 - i. There will be three first-person-practitioner narratives to choose from: please skim all of them, but read one closely to analyze it for your mini-essay.
 - ii. I will have a recorded live chat on Tuesday to discuss these assignments, for anyone who is having issues.
- b. Mini-Essay Format:
 - i. There should be no introductory or concluding paragraphs: the "mini-essay" format means body paragraphs only.
 - Your title should be the only thesis you need, and should follow this model: "The Experiential/Emotional and Practical/Ritual Worldview Dimensions in Faye Moskowitz's 'Seder Story.'"

- ii. In each paragraph, please offer 2-4 examples, with textual evidence supporting each, of the worldview dimension you've chosen to focus on and how it plays out in the text. The number of examples you use should be determined by how thoroughly you unpack and analyze the examples you've chosen. Four brief, easy-to-show examples would be roughly equivalent to two longer examples that require more explanation.
- c. Before Thursday at 11am, you will need to contribute some of your findings to a shared class document (please follow the instructions in the Google Doc linked in the week's module).
- d. We will discuss these assignments in class on Thursday.
- e. You have the opportunity, then, to submit your FINAL version of your worldview exercise via Canvas, via the assignment whose title ends with: "Worldview Exercise, Final Submission"
 - i. This is the only submission that will be analytically graded; your other submission is simply a prerequisite to this. In other words, I want to encourage you to revise your work.
- f. These mini-essays will be graded according to the following rubric (please note that text usage is double-weighted):

	Worldview Dimension #1	Worldview Dimension #2
Clarity (Writing)	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Clarity (Concepts)	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Accuracy	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Use of Textual Evidence	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 x2	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 x2
1 = Insufficient 2 = Poor 3 = Satisfactory 4 = Good 5 = Excellent		

3. Unit Quizzes:

- a. These quizzes will be available on Canvas roughly a week before they are due.
- b. They are open book.
- c. You can re-take the quiz as often as you like to get the grade you want, but the questions will change every time.
- d. They will test you on your reading of the textbook and your absorption of class material.
- e. Please note questions that you are confused by and send them to me—screenshots ok.

4. Complete/Incomplete and Two-Point Scale Questions:

- a. Some of your assignments will be graded as complete/incomplete, with 2 points awarded for a completed assignment and 0 awarded for an incomplete assignment.
- b. Some of your assignments will be graded on a 2-point scale, which is effectively a “✓- / ✓ / ✓+” system:

- i. Please note the “extra credit” built into this rubric. Your lowest grade will be dropped.

2.2	✓+ (Superb)
2	✓ (Shows thoughtful engagement)
1	✓- (Shows serious confusion or a lack of effort)
0	No assignment submitted

5. Document-Based Questions:

- a. In weeks 5, 9, and 14, you will need to answer a set of Document-Based Questions (DBQs). You will have two choices of DBQs to answer. Each will give you a text and ask you four questions about that text.
- b. Your answers must include a minimum of three sentences. The first sentence should give your answer. The second sentence should give the quote that inspired your answer. The third sentence should explain how your quote gave you your answer. Further discussion is welcome, but these three sentences are necessary.
- c. Your answers will be graded according to the rubric below. Note that text usage is doubly weighted:

	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4
Clarity (Writing)	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Clarity (Concepts)	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Accuracy	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Use of Textual Evidence	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 x2	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 x2	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 x2	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 x2
1 = Insufficient 2 = Poor 3 = Satisfactory 4 = Good 5 = Excellent				

Classroom Policies:

1. **Civility:** This semester we will at times be discussing most of the things you are not supposed to discuss in polite company. In order to ensure that everyone feels comfortable participating in these discussions, we must all show respect to one another, to one another's ideas, and to the material we are discussing. Dismissive or abusive comments will not be tolerated. Any offensive posts to the discussion boards (or other spaces visible to the whole class) will be deleted and the student will be alerted and asked to revise.
2. **Academic Honesty:** Do not represent someone else's work as your own. Give credit where credit is due. Plagiarism will result in your being asked to redo the assignment in question, and repeated offenses will result in official action per Rutgers' Academic Integrity policy: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>.
3. **Revision Policy:** Worldview Assignments, DBQs, and the Final Exam may be revised for complete re-grades **IF** you handed in a plausible version of the assignment on the actual due date (that is, the date listed in the syllabus and on Canvas).
 - a. If you handed in a version of the assignment on the actual due date, you may revise as many times as you like until you get the grade you want, as soon as you've gotten feedback.
 - i. If you did *not* hand in a version of the assignment on the actual date, late work may be submitted only after you receive permission from me.
 - b. You may re-do as many assignments as you wish, as many times as you like, provided that you handed in a version of the assignment on its actual due date.
 - c. Before you revise your work you must talk with me to get feedback. ***I will only re-grade work that I have discussed with you and/or been able to comment on.***
 - d. Participation items and Quizzes are not revisable, but there are alternative assignments available to anyone who is concerned about their grades on account of their performance in those categories.
 - e. There is no deadline for any revision, other than your own graduation. I am happy to re-grade items after the end of the semester if you would like to change your grade.

****Nota Bene:**

By far the least labor-intensive and most efficient way to do well in this class is to do all the work as well as you can the first time around, on the same schedule as everyone else. If you are at all concerned about your performance in the classroom, please talk with me as soon as possible.