

Study Questions:

Week 1:

- How does McCutcheon explain the academic study of religion?
- Explain the main points of each remaining article in 3-5 sentences.
- Note the page you found them on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.

Week 2:

- Does Nye think religion is a universal? Why or why not?
- What does Nye say about the ways that the word religion is used by scholars and non-scholars?
- Note the page you found them on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.

Week 3:

- Smith makes 5 key points about the words religion, religions, and religious. What are they? Find them in the article and re-phrase them in your words.
- What kind of evidence does Smith use to support his argument? Find 3 examples of evidence.
- Identify Prothero's definition of *perennialist philosophy*.
- What are the *problems* Prothero has with *perennialist philosophy*?
- Identify the *dimensions of the sacred* that Smart describes. Identify examples from religious traditions you're familiar with. If you're not familiar with any religious traditions, look through the last part of Smart's chapter to see the examples he uses.
- Note the page you found them on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.

Week 4:

- How did Monday's activity work? How did it make you feel?
- How did today's activity help you understand perennialist philosophy and Prothero's position on perennialist philosophy?
- Find Wenger's main points, then explain them with your own words in 3-5 sentences.
- What does it mean when a scholar says that categories "do work" for the people who make the categories? Use examples and ideas from Wenger's and Schulson's articles.
- Note the page you found evidence on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.

Culture

- Identify Nye's most important points.
- Identify Williams' 3 uses of *culture* and find your own examples for each.
- Identify Hall's 3 uses of *popular* and find your own examples for each.
- Identify Adorno & Horkheimer's positions on *mass culture market* and find your own examples.
- Describe Geertz's 5 point definition of *culture* in your own words.

- Identify Hebdige's understanding of *subculture* and find your own example.
- What does Nye say about *hybridity*? How would you define *hybridity*?
- Identify Clifford's ideas about *travelling cultures*. How does that relate to *hybridity* and *syncretism*?
- Identify Shaw & Stewart's definition of *syncretism* & *anti-syncretism*.
- Note the page you found evidence on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.

Power:

- Identify Nye's most important points.
- How does Marx explain *society* and the roles of *material goods* and *ideology*?
- Identify Marx's definition of *religion* and its role in capitalist society.
- Identify Gramsci's understanding of *power*.
- Identify Gramsci's definition of *hegemony*.
- Identify the two ways that *ideology* is imposed, according to Althusser.
- Identify Althusser's definition of *interpellation*.
- Identify Weber's ideas about *ideology* and *economics*?
- Are Marx's and Weber's ideas about *ideology* and *material goods* & *economics*?
- Identify Foucault's definition *discipline* & *disciplinary society*?
- How does Foucault understand *power*, *knowledge*, & *discourse*?
- Note the page you found evidence on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.

Gender:

- Identify Nye's most important points.
- What does Nye think about studying women & women's roles in religion? What about studying men & men's roles in religion?
- Identify Schüssler Fiorenza's understanding of *feminist hermeneutics of suspicion*.
- How does Butler understand *gender* and *biological sex*?
- What does Daly say about *religion* and *patriarchy*?
- Identify the two creation stories in Genesis that Nye describes.
- Identify what Spivak means when asking "Can the *subaltern* speak?"
- What does Ahmed think about the relationship between white Christians seeking to "liberate" Muslim women from *hijab* (veiling) and white Christian *patriarchy*?
- What does Franks mean by "subversive and feminist readings of patriarchal discourse" in relation to *hijab*?
- Note the page you found evidence on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.

Belief:

- Identify Nye's most important points.
- Why is *belief* such a challenging word/concept once we step outside a Christian Context?
- Identify Martin's explanation of goals of *cognitive science of religion*.
- How do Hick & Eliade understand the *objects of belief* that some religions have?

- How are Christian & Trobriand Islander ideas about *virgin birth* different?
- What do Malinowski & Leach have to say about these ideas of *virgin birth*?
- What does Bell say about the emphasis on *ritual* and the distinction of *ritual* from *belief*?
- Identify Bourdieu's idea of *habitus*.

Pdf articles:

- What evidence is used in each article?
How does each article use the term/category *religion*?
- What roles do *belief* and *ritual* have in the articles' description of Neanderthal and chimpanzee behaviors?
- Can we (as outsiders) identify *religion* without know anything about what the practitioners *believe*?
- Note the page you found evidence on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.
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Ritual

- Identify Nye's main points.
- Identify Bell's ideas of *ritualizing* and *ritualization*.
- Identify Nye's 8 approaches to *ritual*.
- Identify Van Gennep's definition of *separation*, *liminality*, and *incorporation*.
- What does Bloch mean when he calls *ritual* a *language*?
- What does Durkheim think *rituals* do for *society*?
- What does Freud think about *rituals* and *mental health*?
- What does Whitehouse think about the relationship between *ritual* and *memory*?
- Identify Van Gennep's definition of *separation*, *liminality*, and *incorporation*.
- What does Bell mean by identifying ritual as "strategic ways of acting"?

Pdf article

- How does McCutchen differentiate between ritual and habit?
- Note the page you found evidence on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.

Texts

- Identify Nye's main points.
- Identify Culler's 3 main aspects to *textuality*.
- What does Nye mean when he suggests that we "widen our sense of 'text' beyond the specifically written"?
- Identify Derrida's definition of *logocentrism*.
- How does translation complicate our understanding of texts in different languages?
- Identify Barthes' idea of *the death of the author*.
- Identify Schüssler Fiorenza's idea of *feminist hermeneutics of suspicion*?
- Why does Schüssler Fiorenza think we need a *hermeneutics of suspicion* when reading & studying the Bible?

Pdf article

- Do all religions have sacred texts? Do you think a religion must have a sacred text to be a religion?
- Note the page you found evidence on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.

Inside Mecca

- Review your viewing guide.
What are Mecca and *hajj*?
- Which dimensions of religion (Smart's *Dimensions of the Sacred*) are shown to viewers in *Inside Mecca*?
- How do you think the filmmakers define religion? Use ideas from Prothero, Smart, or other course readings help you reverse engineer the definition you think they had in mind.
- Note the page you found them on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.

Contemporary Issues

- Identify Nye's main points.
- Identify Nye's definitions of *globalization*.
- Identify Appadurai's 5 *scapes* that globalization works within.
- Identify Anderson's idea of *imagined communities*.
- How does Nye describe *fundamentalism*?
- How does Nye describe *secularization*?
- How does Wilson describe the role of *religion* in a *secular* society?
- Identify Stark & Bainbridge's definition of *secular*. Do they think that's what happening now?
- Note the page you found evidence on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.

2nd selections from *Religion in 5 minutes*

- Be prepared for discussion on these topics – review your class notes to find relevant ideas from previous course readings.
- Explain the main points of each article in 3-5 sentences.
- What did you learn from these readings that most surprising or most interesting?
- Note the page you found them on & underline/highlight them on your hardcopy or use the annotation features in your pdf reader to do so.