

# onceptions of the Afterlife

RLST 375  
PJ Levesque

## Spring 2022

RLST 375 Conceptions of the Afterlife	Sect 50; Class number 17267
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Office Hours: Zoom: Weds. & Thurs. 2:00-3:30 pm On-campus: by appointment	

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Course Description:

How selected religious traditions have sought to answer the question “What happens when I die?” Resurrection, reincarnation, immortality of the soul, heaven and hell will be discussed. RLST 110 recommended. Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category C.2. (CSUF Catalog).

### Student Technical support:

- CSUF IT Helpdesk: Phone: (657) 278-8888
- Email: [StudentITHelpDesk@fullerton.edu](mailto:StudentITHelpDesk@fullerton.edu)
- Web: <http://www.fullerton.edu/it/students/helpdesk/index.php>
- Chat with IT: <http://my.fullerton.edu/> and Click **Online IT Help** Click on **Live Chat**
- Canvas Support: Click on “?” in the Canvas course navigation menu.

### Software for Students:

Students can receive free and low-cost software. Software downloads and request forms are on the [CSUF Student Software website: http://www.fullerton.edu/it/students/software/](http://www.fullerton.edu/it/students/software/) Recommended for this course: Office 365, Dropbox, and Grammarly. See page 11 below for recommended technical requirements.

### Course Communication:

This section is offered via the Internet using the CSUF Canvas learning management system. All course announcements and individual emails will be sent to your CSUF email account. Therefore, you MUST check your CSUF email on a regular basis (at least once a week) for the duration of this course.

There are no on-campus meetings. All assignments, including all exams, will be conducted online via Canvas and are available 24/7. There is no face-to-face or synchronous instruction for this course. All course readings are available FREE online via the CSUF library. You must use a computer with an Internet connection. This course is a user-friendly, step-by-step learning endeavor. Taking an on-line course requires motivation and commitment. You must keep up with the assignments. You will participate in this class through your on-time completion of the assignments. This is a three-unit course, requiring approximately five to eight hours of your time per week. If you ever have any questions or difficulties, the instructor is readily available via email, telephone, Zoom office hours, and on-campus office hours. Email, and telephone responses are normally returned within 12 hours (seven days a week). Please resend if you do not receive a response within 24 hours and leave a voicemail.

Weekly assignments are due on Sundays at 11:59 PM. Assignments will be graded every Monday and Tuesday and Dr. Levesque will send you an email each week after grading is completed. Unless you dedicate five to eight hours of solid studying on Sunday, it is expected that you complete various assignments throughout the week. Be sure to read this entire syllabus, including “Technical Competencies” below (page 11).

**Required Materials:**

As a CSUF student, you have FREE access to all course materials – including an electronic version of the textbook. (Optional: The textbook is also available to purchase as a paper copy – not required).

Sumegi, Angela. *Understanding Death: An Introduction to Ideas of Self and the Afterlife in World Religions*, Malden, MA: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2014. ProQuest Ebook Central.

<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/detail.action?docID=1221737>

Other reading assignments as listed on the schedule and Canvas (also FREE access).

Free Download: Course Workbook—each week, download from Canvas.

**General Education:**

WHAT GE REQUIREMENT DOES THIS CLASS FULFILL? All CSUF students are assigned a “Catalog Year” that determines the requirements for their degree program, including requirements in their major(s) and in General Education. You can find your catalog year on your TDA. For more information, please visit [http://www.fullerton.edu/undergraduate/general\\_education/catalog-rights.php](http://www.fullerton.edu/undergraduate/general_education/catalog-rights.php)

For students with a Catalog year of Spring 2018 or earlier (e.g. Fall 2017), this course fulfills the following GE Requirement: GE AREA C3. For students with a Catalog Year Fall 2018 or Spring 2019, this course fulfills the following GE Requirement: GE AREA C4. For Students with a Catalog year of Fall 2019 or later, this course fulfills the following GE Requirement: GE AREA C3.

A grade of D (1.0) or higher is required to meet this General Education requirement. A grade of D- (0.7) or below will not satisfy this General Education Requirement. (If you wish to pursue a major or minor in Religious Studies, you can “double count” this course for GE and the major or minor requirements.

**ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING****Grade Points:**

*NO extra credit.* A total of 1000 points will be available for assessment based upon the following:

20 points—Email Reflections: 4 reflections; 5 points each; each 0.5% of total grade.

150 points—Workbook; 15 Workbooks; 10 points each Workbook; each 1% of total grade.

45 points—Postings & Responses: 5 posts + 3 responses +1 survey (5 points each)

390 points—Review Quiz: 13 quizzes; 30 points each quiz; each 3% of total grade.

100 points—Paper (three-four pages) on an aspect of conceptions of the afterlife. Submission of topic title and list of four sources: 20 points; submission of paper: 80 points (10% of total grade).

145 points—Midterm Exam; 14.5% of total grade.

150 points—Final Exam; 15% of total grade.

**Grading Scale:**

**Plus-minus +/- will be used.** Final grades will be calculated on the following basis:

Grade	Percent	Points	Grade	Percent	Points
A+	97.0-100%	970-1000 points	C+	77.0-79.9%	770-799 points
A	93.0-96.9%	940-969 points	C	73.0-76.9%	740-769 points
A-	90.0-92.9%	900-939 points	C-	70.0-72.9%	700-739 points
B+	87.0-89.9%	870-899 points	D+	67.0-69.9%	670-699 points
B	83.0-86.9%	840-869 points	D	60.0-66.9%	600-669 points (no D-)
B-	80.0-82.9%	800-839 points	F	0-59.9%	0-599 points

Religious Studies majors must earn a grade of C or higher in this course to receive credit. Religious Studies majors earning grades of C- or lower must repeat the course.

The grading scale is firm. “Faculty members are expected to maintain high standards regarding student achievement” (University Policy Statement 210.000, IV, C, 1, c). A grade of “C” is the “average” grade which describes what most students can reasonably accomplish. Average work includes completing all assignments and learning the class material. A grade of “B” means “above average” and requires achievement beyond normal expectations. A grade of “A” is reserved for “outstanding” work which is the mark of true excellence; such work exhibits profound comprehension of the material and creative insights. **There is no extra credit.**

Keep all assignments returned to you so that any discrepancies can be easily and fairly straightened out.

## Learning Goals:

### General Education Learning Goals applied to this Course:

Below are the Learning Goals for GE C.3 Explorations in the Arts or Humanities (UPS 411.201, 5/10/21).

Students taking courses in C.3 must meet the learning objectives of C.2:

- a. Cultivate their intellectual reasoning skills, expand their capacity for creative imagination, develop their reasonable moral sensibilities, and increase their capacity for sensitive engagement through studying works of human imagination and reason (which are to be primarily—although not exclusively—written texts and literature).
- b. Understand how the humanities have contributed to the development of culture, including the comparative study of the humanities in diverse cultures.
- c. Understand how the humanities have sought to provide answers to complex problems facing humanity, including the relationship of the self to culture and the natural world, the nature of moral and legal obligations, and the meaning and purpose of human existence.

In addition to the Learning Objectives of C2, students taking courses that are Explorations in the Humanities shall:

- a. Understand broad, unifying themes from cross-disciplinary perspectives in the humanities.
- b. Understand the relevance of the humanities for the thoughtful consideration of complex contemporary problems.
- c. Appreciate the complex relationship and interaction between the humanities and other fields of learning, including the natural sciences, social sciences, and arts.

### Department of Religious Studies Learning Goals & Outcomes applied to this Course:

- Learning Goal: Students possess the ability to perform research and interpret materials related to the study of religion.
  - Outcome 1: Students can analyze written materials related to the study of religion.
  - Outcome 2: Students have acquired information literacy in the study of religion.
- Learning Goal: Students can effectively communicate in written and spoken mediums.
  - Outcome 3: Students are able to write well-organized critical and analytical research papers related to the study of religion.
- Learning Goal: Students can demonstrate an understanding of the beliefs, rituals, texts, and figures related to a variety of religious traditions.
  - Outcome 5: Students can describe the basic teachings and practices of major religious traditions and can compare and contrast the principal similarities and differences between them.
  - Outcome 6: Students are able to identify the history and development of specific religions and their contemporary relevance. [Outcome 7 not applied to this course].
  - Outcome 8: Students can interpret key thinkers and figures within religious traditions.

### Participation & Weekly Assignments:

Taking an on-line course requires motivation and commitment. You must keep up with the assignments. You will participate in this class through your on-time completion of assignments. To allow maximum flexibility to your schedule, all weekly assignments are due on Sundays at 11:59 PM. Unless you dedicate five to eight hours of solid studying on Sunday, it is expected that you complete various assignments throughout the week. **If you fail to demonstrate progress during the first week of class, you will be dropped from the course.**

### Workbook:

15 Workbooks; 10 points each Workbook; each 1% of total grade; total 150 points.

From Canvas, download the weekly "Workbook." The weekly Workbook provides step-by-step instructions of all assignments for the week and questions for you to answer. **You will use these pages to answer the weekly quiz and the midterm and final exams.** Completing the Workbook is essential to understanding exam material. ***It is expected that YOU will answer questions in the Workbook based on your reading and watching the lectures and videos. Copying from another student's Workbook is cheating; sharing answers is cheating; (see "policy on academic dishonesty" below).*** At the end of each week, you will upload your completed Workbook on Canvas. An overall weekly grade will be assigned to your Workbook based on completion and the overall correctness of your answers. **Please note that every incorrect answer will not necessarily be marked. It is your responsibility to ask for help if you cannot answer a specific question. Workbook answers that do not follow the format described on the first Workbook will receive a one-point deduction. Workbooks uploaded after a due date will be accepted for reduced credit (one point deduction), up to one week late; not accepted after one week). The Workbooks for weeks 8 and 15 will not be accepted late.**

**Table 1 Workbook Rubrics**

Criteria		A-	B-	C-	D-	F
Completion	All questions are thoroughly answered. 5.0	All questions (or all but one) are answered, and many are answered thoroughly. 4.5	All but one or two questions are answered, and some are answered thoroughly. 4.0	All but three or four questions are answered, and some are answered thoroughly. 3.5	Most questions are answered, but many answers are brief. 3.0	Less than half of the questions are answered. 0
Accuracy	All answers are perfectly accurate. 5.0	All answers (or all but one) are accurate, but some lack precision. 4.5	Almost all answers are accurate, but many lack precision. 4.0	Most answers are accurate, but many lack precision. 3.5	Some answers are accurate, and many lack precision. 3.0	Most of the answers are incorrect. 0
TOTAL	10	9.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	5 and lower

### Canvas Discussion Postings & Reponses:

5 posts + 3 responses +1 survey (5 points each); total 45 points.

On assigned weeks you will add a post (about 50-100 words) on Canvas to the discussion question. Also, each student will add one response to another person's posting on three specific weeks. Postings and responses added after a due date will be accepted for reduced credit (one point deduction), up to one week after a due date. Your postings and responses will be graded upon the following:

**Table 2 Posting Rubrics**

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations
Focused on topic & Insightful	Clear indication that the posting is focused on the question/prompt and that the writer has developed an interpretation. 2	The posting responds to the question/prompt with limited insight. 2	Posting does not clearly relate to the question/prompt. Makes short or irrelevant remarks. 0-1
Organization of Ideas	There is a sense in the posting that ideas lead to each other and that there are connections being made. 2	Some ideas are connected, but others appear tangential or disconnected. Needs some 1	There is a lack of organization of ideas or insight. Posting appears hasty. 0-1
Grammar/Mechanics	There are few (if any) spelling or grammar errors. 1	A few (to some) errors in spelling and/or grammar in posting. 1	Poor spelling and grammar in much of the posting. 0-1
TOTAL	5	4	0-3

**Table 3 Response Rubrics**

Criteria	Exceeds/Meets Expectations	Below Expectations
Critical thinking evident in Responses	The response is not just a summary but an attempt by the respondent to push toward a 2	The response mostly summarizes the original posting without adding particular insight. 0-1
Correlation of response to question/prompt and/or posting	The response refers consistently to the question/prompt and/or to particular ideas from a posting that have made an impression. 1	The response is inconsistent in its focus on the question/prompt (or overall focus). 0-1
Thoughtfulness in interactions	Evidence of college level thinking and professional response. 1	Possible "gut response" without reflection and/or abrupt tone. 0-1
Grammar/mechanics	There are few (if any) spelling or grammar errors. 1	Errors in spelling and/or grammar in response. 0-1
TOTAL	5	0-4

For your response, your grade is not contingent on whether you agree or disagree with someone else's posting, but if there was a new insight or possibility you raised in your response. This is not a forum to discuss other issues. Please be polite and professional in your postings and responses. For Appropriate online "netiquette." See <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### **View Lectures and Answer Questions:**

On Canvas, watch the weekly lecture (text and audio [closed captioned]) by Dr. Paul Levesque and answer the questions on the weekly Workbook.

### **View Videos and Answer Questions:**

On Canvas, watch the weekly video(s) [closed captioned] and answer the questions on the weekly Workbook.

### **Canvas Review Quiz:**

13 quizzes; 30 points each quiz; each 3% of total grade; total 390 points.

Each module (except for weeks 8 and 15) concludes with a fifteen-question, multiple choice quiz; each question is worth 2 points, for a total of 30 points for each quiz. There is a 15-minute time limit for each quiz. Do not open a quiz until you are ready to complete it. The quiz will automatically close after the time limit expires. **You must answer each question in the order in which it is presented; you cannot backtrack or skip ahead.** After you complete this quiz, you will receive your quiz grade. **Beginning the day after the module due date after 8AM you can return to the quiz to see the correct answers.**

These quizzes are open Workbooks, textbook, and notes. However, YOU must answer each question yourself without the assistance of another person. Copying another student's quiz answers is cheating; (see "policy on academic dishonesty" below). Only material covered on the Workbooks will appear on the quizzes, midterm and final exam.

*Each quiz will automatically close at 11:59 PM on the due date. After consultation with the instructor via email, under certain circumstances, permission will be given to a student to complete a module quiz after a due date for reduced credit (three points deduction), up to one week late.*

If you are accidentally disconnected from the quiz page, you can re-open the quiz within the allotted time limit. If you experience a technical problem and the timer goes over 15 minutes, please send me an email and in certain cases I will reset the quiz for you, while keeping the score of your previously answered questions.

### **Email Reflection:**

4 reflections; 5 points each; each 0.5% of total grade; total 20 points.

At the end of the weeks identified on the schedule (below), send Dr. Levesque an Email, using whatever Email address you check regularly (CSUF email preferred). Dr. Levesque will send a reply to all Email reflections and include an update on your weekly progress. The usual length of each reflection should be between a few sentences (25 words) to a paragraph (250 words). The purpose of this Email is to: 1) provide direct interaction between you and the professor; 2) give you practice in writing an Email that is both

personal and professional; 3) demonstrate that you can reflect upon the course material in a brief and concise manner; 4) give you an opportunity to ask any questions; 5) illustrate that you are still “out there in cyberspace,” especially if you have fallen behind on the assignments; 6) allow Dr. Levesque to reply with a progress report. Your grade will *not* be based on your level of success for the past week(s), but on the clarity of your reflection (including grammar). Remember, this is not a text-message or Twitter posting, but an informal academic/business Email. *Because your Email reflection is not contingent upon completion of any other weekly assignments, Email reflections will not be accepted late for credit.* Here’s an example:

Hi Dr. Levesque,

I must admit this was a very busy week for me. In addition to my usual family and work responsibilities, my car needed service. However, in the midst of it all, I’m happy to report that I was able to complete all of this week’s assignments for our course. What I have found most interesting the past few weeks are the similarities and differences found in beliefs on the afterlife in the religions and cultures we have studied so far. In particular, I am very interested in the focus on the whole person found in Egypt, many primal religions, Greek mythology (but not philosophy), Judaism, and Christianity (especially in the early period). I had never really considered the question of what is needed to be alive after death. My experience is that popular culture mostly affirms a separated soul from the body after death. However, now I see that this really comes to us from Greek philosophy. I think the Egyptian and Jewish notions of the whole person, even after death, with the Christian conception of the resurrection of the body is rather intriguing.

Have a good week,  
Lidia

### **GE Writing Requirement/Synthesis Paper:**

The paper project is worth 100 points; 10% of total grade. Submission of topic title and list of four sources: 20 points; submission of paper: 80 points.

One paper of three-four typed pages will be required over the course of the semester; (double spaced, or 1.5 spacing; no fancy fonts; no cover page; put your name and title at top of page “Afterlife in Jainism”).

This paper is designed to meet the General Education writing requirement. The substance as well as the manner of organization and expression of the information and ideas will be evaluated. In other words, the content as well as the style and grammar of the paper will be graded. See “Grading Rubrics for Paper” (below) and “Writing Checklist” (on Canvas). To encourage each student to advance their writing competence, the assessment of all papers will include suggestions for improvement on papers for future courses.

The paper is submitted and graded in two steps:

**Step one:** Upload via Canvas your proposed paper topic title and list of four sources. Use the “bibliography” format (below) to list your four sources. 20 points possible; due week 10 on 4/10/22. **Upload: Topic title, e.g., “Afterlife in Jainism.”** Also, list four sources using the “bibliography” format below.

**Step two:** Upload via Canvas your completed paper. Be sure to include your bibliography (even if it’s the same as what you submitted in week 10). 80 points possible; due week 13 on 5/1/22.

### **Topic:**

- Explain beliefs about the afterlife in one religion not covered in this course, including Native American Religions, Indigenous Religions of Australia and the Pacific, Baha’i, Wicca, Scientology, Theosophy, Cao Dai, Seventh-day Adventists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Christian Science, or Unitarian Universalism.
- Or a topic on the afterlife, such as film and the afterlife, technology and the afterlife, near-death-experiences, or ghosts.
- Or a more in-depth study of a specific aspect of afterlife in a religion covered in our course (but you can’t just repeat what is covered in the course).

**Sources:**

You must use at least **four sources** for your paper. Two sources must be online sources via our library (book, encyclopedia, or article). Include the “permalinks” to the library sources or if you don’t see a “permalink” copy the address from your browser’s address bar. The remaining two sources may be two Internet sites, or two books/articles (print or electronic), or one Internet site and one book/article. For Internet sites, be sure that the sites are academic or produced as an official site for the religion. **For possible sources use the links on Canvas under “Library Resources” (located after the last module). Use the “OneSearch” search bar at [www.library.fullerton.edu](http://www.library.fullerton.edu)**

**\*\*\*You *must* identify all sources you use for your paper. All direct quotations must be placed in quotation marks and properly referenced (in-text references or footnotes). All paraphrases of key ideas must be properly referenced (in-text references or footnotes). It is expected that *all* papers will contain citations. Also, you must provide a Works Cited page or Bibliography at the end of your paper to all sources you use. \*\*\***

*If your paper is not referenced properly (but no sentences are plagiarized word-for-word) it will be returned to you and you will have one week to resubmit the paper for a maximum grade of “C” on the paper. If some or all of your paper is plagiarized word-for-word, you will receive a zero on the assignment, without the possibility to resubmit the work and the Academic Dean will be notified; (see “Policy on Academic Dishonesty” below.)*

In the following examples, in-text parenthetical references are used; you can use footnotes or endnotes instead.

**Please use MLA, APA, Chicago/Turabian or the bibliography format listed below.**

**BOOK CITATION**

If you are quoting or paraphrasing a book, cite author and page in your text, and provide a full reference at the end of your paper.

Paraphrase Example: Ancient Chinese beliefs influenced the development of Confucianism (Molloy, 209).

Quotation Example: “Early Chinese belief was a blend of several elements” (Molloy, 209).

Bibliography Example: Molloy, Michael. *Experiencing the World’s Religions*. Boston: McGraw-Hill, third edition, 2005.

**INTERNET CITATION**

If you use Internet sources, be sure to give the *full* Internet address at the end of your paper. For your in-text reference use a short name (no page number).

Quotation Example: Wicca is a “neopagan, earth-centered religion” (Robinson, Wicca: Neopagan).

Paraphrase Example: The roots of modern-day Wicca extend back to 800 BCE (Robinson, Wicca: Introduction).

Bibliography Example: Robinson, Bruce. “Wicca: A Neopagan Earth-Centered Religion.” Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance. <http://www.religioustolerance.org/witchcra.htm>

Robinson, Bruce. “Wicca: An Introduction.” Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance. [http://www.religioustolerance.org/wic\\_intr.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/wic_intr.htm)

--Even if you write your paper using information you learned in the past, you must cite your sources. For example, if you write a paper on Rastafarianism and you remember learning that Rastafarians developed Reggae music, you must find *and* cite a source to substantiate this fact.

--Most papers will contain many citations (but don't submit a paper that is simply a string of quotations).

### Submission of Paper:

**Step one:** Upload your proposed paper topic title and list of four sources. Use the "bibliography" format (above) to list your four sources. Your grade for this assignment and comments will be available on Canvas. 20 points possible; due week 10 on 4/10/22.

**Late submissions** of the paper topic and list of sources will be accepted, but any paper topic and list of sources not uploaded to Canvas by 11:59PM on the due date will be marked down ten percent, up to one week after the due date (certain health problems or emergencies may be exempt, if you notify me within 48 hours of the due date). **Late paper topics and list of sources must be uploaded no later than Sunday, 4/17/22. No paper topics accepted after this date.**

**Step two: Your paper must be uploaded to Canvas by 11:59 PM on the due date (5/1/22).** Be sure to include your bibliography (even if it's the same as what you submitted in week 10). Papers must be uploaded to Canvas in order to be graded. Please do not Email your paper. Do not bring a paper-copy to the office. Canvas uses Turn-It-In to check papers for plagiarism. By using Canvas, students acknowledge that their work will be checked. A student will be able to view their graded paper on Canvas within two weeks of the due date.

**Late submissions** of the complete paper will be accepted, but any paper not uploaded to Canvas by 11:59PM on the due date will be marked down ten percent, up to one week after the due date (certain health problems or emergencies may be exempt, if you notify me within 48 hours of the due date). **Late papers must be uploaded no later than Sunday, 5/8/22. No papers accepted after this date.** *In all cases it is the student's responsibility to possess a back-up copy (paper copy or electronic) of written work, and to keep all graded assignments, in the unlikely event that proof is necessary.*

### Examinations:

There are two exams; the midterm is 145 points; 14.5% of total grade. The final is 150 points; 15% of total grade. Both the midterm and final exams will be conducted online.

**The midterm exam will be available on Canvas from Friday, 3/18/22, 8:00 AM to Sunday, 3/20/22, 11:59 PM.** To prepare for the midterm exam, study Workbooks 1-8.

The final exam will be available on Canvas from **Tuesday, 5/17/22, 8:00 AM to Thursday, 5/19/22, 5:00 PM.** To prepare for the final exam, study Workbooks 9-15.

Each exam will consist of four sections: 1) multiple choice questions; 2) true/false questions; 3) questions requiring short answers; and 4) an essay question. Each section will have a separate time limit.

**Material for both exams will come from the course Workbooks. You may use your Workbooks while you take the exam, but your time is limited. It is expected that you have memorized enough of the material to complete the exam in the time allotted. You will need to memorize information *and* be able to synthesize the material.** The midterm exam will cover material from Workbooks 1-8. The final exam will cover material from Workbooks 9-15. Note: **no make-up exams** will be given except for reason of illness or other verified emergencies.



### **Late Assignments Summary:**

Certain health problems or emergencies may be exempt from the below policies if you notify me within 48 hours of the due date.

- Workbooks uploaded after a due date will be accepted for reduced credit (one point deduction), up to one week after a due date. The Workbooks for weeks 8 and 15 will not be accepted late.
- Postings and responses added after a due date will be accepted for reduced credit (one point deduction), up to one week after a due date.
- Review Quizzes: Each quiz will automatically close at 11:59 PM on the due date. After consultation with the instructor via email, under certain circumstances, permission will be given to a student to complete a module quiz after a due date for reduced credit (three points deduction), up to one week late.
- Paper: Step one: Late submissions of the paper topic title and list of sources will be accepted, but any paper topic and list of sources not uploaded to Canvas by 11:59PM on the due date will be marked down ten percent, up to one week after the due date. Late paper topics and list of sources must be uploaded no later than Sunday, 4/17/22. No paper topics accepted after this date.
- Paper: Step two: Late submissions of the complete paper will be accepted, but any paper not uploaded to Canvas by 11:59PM on the due date will be marked down ten percent, up to one week after the due date. Late papers must be uploaded no later than Sunday, 5/8/22. No papers accepted after this date.
- Email reflections will not be accepted late.
- The Midterm and Final Exams will not be accepted late.

### **Pollak Library “Guidelines for Online Instruction Students”:**

<http://www.library.fullerton.edu/about/guidelines/online-instruction-guidelines.php>

### **Special Needs:**

During the first week of classes, inform the instructor of any disability or special needs that you have that may require special arrangements related to carrying out class assignments. Students with disabilities need to document their disability at the Disability Support Services (DSS) office in order to be accommodated in their courses. Additional information can be found at the [DSS website: http://www.fullerton.edu/DSS/](http://www.fullerton.edu/DSS/), by calling 657-278-3112 or email [dsservices@fullerton.edu](mailto:dsservices@fullerton.edu).

If you are a CourseMatch student and require ADA accommodations for access to this course and are registered with Disability Services at your home campus, please contact the Disability Support Services office at CSU, Fullerton by emailing [dsservices@fullerton.edu](mailto:dsservices@fullerton.edu) or by calling (657) 278-3112 for assistance.

### **Policy on Academic Dishonesty:**

[https://www.fullerton.edu/senate/publications\\_policies\\_resolutions/ups/UPS%20300/UPS%20300.021.pdf](https://www.fullerton.edu/senate/publications_policies_resolutions/ups/UPS%20300/UPS%20300.021.pdf)

“Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating on examinations or assignments, unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, falsification/fabrication of university documents, any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor), assisting or allowing any of these acts, or the attempt to commit such acts” (UPS 300.021, 6/16/15).

Cheating: “Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: using notes or aides (including electronic devices) or the help of other students on tests and examinations in ways other than those expressly permitted by the instructor, or any acts which defeat the intent of an examination, plagiarism as defined below, and collaborating with others on any assignment where such collaboration is expressly forbidden by the instructor” (UPS 300.021, 6/16/15).

Your Canvas usage will be tracked. Anomalies will be discussed with the student and reviewed for possible plagiarism (e.g., copying another person’s quiz answers).

It is expected that YOU will answer questions in the Workbook based on your reading and watching lectures and videos. Copying from another student’s Workbook is cheating. Copying another student’s quiz answers is cheating.

**Sharing (by any means, including, but not limited to, posting online, texting, uploading to sharing sites, email, voice and paper copies) your Workbook answers or quiz answers or paper is cheating. All materials posted or linked on Canvas (including, but not limited to, video lectures, Workbooks, quizzes, tests, assignment prompts) are not to be shared.**

Plagiarism: “Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking the work (words, ideas, concepts, data, graphs, artistic creation) of another whether that work is paraphrased or copied in verbatim or near verbatim form and offering it as one’s own without giving credit to that source. When sources are used in a paper, acknowledgement of the original author or source must be made through appropriate citation/attribution and, if directly quoted, quotation marks or indentations must be used” (UPS 300.021, 6/16/15).

**Having another person write your paper or paragraph postings is plagiarism.**

Penalties: The minimum penalty for cheating or for plagiarism will be an “F” on the assignment (zero points), without the possibility to re-do the work. In addition, the final course grade will be no higher than a “C” regardless of the final point total. Depending upon the severity of the offense, a final course grade of “F” may be assigned. In all cases the Dean of Students Office, Judicial Affairs will be notified.

Plagiarism is a serious issue. It is the student’s responsibility to be clear of the meaning of plagiarism.

See “A Magical Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism”:

<https://libraryguides.fullerton.edu/c.php?g=513710&p=3509784>

Also see: <http://www.fullerton.edu/deanofstudents/conduct/students.php>

### **Policy on Retention of Student Work**

Student work submitted for this course shall be retained by the University or its academic employees for a reasonable time after the semester is completed.

## TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

### Loaner Laptops:

Long- and short-term laptop checkout available via Student Genius Center (SGC), <http://www.fullerton.edu/it/students/sgc/>.

### Overview:

To complete this course, you will need a computer with Internet access. Internet access is necessary to:

1. View various sites and utilize Canvas for quizzes, postings, upload papers, etc.
2. View audio/visual Lectures and Videos hosted on YouTube

### Minimum Hardware:

- 1.0 GHz processor (recommended 2.0 GHz or higher, e.g., AMD Athlon 64 3200; Intel Celeron D; Intel Pentium D; Intel Pentium 4; Intel Core 2, Intel i3, i5, i7)
- 4 GB RAM
- 15 MB of hard drive space OR USB flash/jump drive
- Reliable broadband Internet connection
- Monitor capable of at least 1080x768 resolution
- Computer speakers or headphones [as an alternative, all spoken words are captioned]
- Printer (strongly recommended, but not required)

### Minimum Software:

- Windows Vista, or more recent, or Mac OS 10.7.5 or more recent
- Microsoft Word, OR word processing software compatible with Turnitin.com (save as rtf).
- Web browser: Firefox preferred; Edge, Internet Explorer, Safari and Chrome are usually compatible.
- Adobe Reader (PDF) <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

### Additional Requirements:

- By the end of the first week of the course, you must test and resolve any technology issues, e.g., viewing lectures and videos, and navigate Canvas.
- Your Canvas usage will be tracked. Anomalies will be discussed with the student and reviewed for possible plagiarism (e.g., copying another person's quiz answers).
- You will complete work on Canvas. **If you fail to complete the assignments due at the end of the first week of classes, you may be dropped from the course.** (See above "Participation.")
- Authentication of Student work is important in an online class. This is accomplished by requiring multiple measures of student performance, including postings, quizzes, a paper, and final exam.
- In the event of technical problems, contact the helpdesk or use another computer (e.g., at the library) to complete tasks on-time; Email the instructor for permission for alternate submission procedures.

### Netiquette Requirements:

Each student is expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner during the class - taking full advantage of the learning opportunities available. This includes completing all online discussions and assignments, adhering to proper netiquette, and so on. Netiquette refers to a set of behaviors that are appropriate for online activity - especially with email and threaded discussions. The core rules of netiquette can be found at the Netiquette website. Please read through these netiquette rules to ensure that you are familiar with what will be the expected online behavior for this course

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

**Students are expected to:**

1. Have basic computer competency which includes:
  - a. the ability to use a personal computer to locate, create, move, copy, delete, name, rename, and save files and folders on hard drives, secondary storage devices such as USB drives, and cloud such as Google Drive (Titan Aps) and Dropbox;
  - b. the ability to use a word processing program to create, edit, format, store, retrieve, and print documents;
  - c. the ability to use their CSUF email accounts to receive, create, edit, print, save, and send an e-mail message with and without an attached file; and
  - d. the ability to use an Internet browser such as Chrome, Safari, Firefox, or Internet Explorer to search and access web sites in the World Wide Web.
2. Have ongoing reliable access to a computer with Internet connectivity for regular course assignments
3. Utilize a recent version of Microsoft® Office (Microsoft 365®) including Word, to learn content and communicate with colleagues and faculty;
4. Have the ability to regularly print assignments
5. Maintain and access weekly their CSUF student email account
6. Use Internet search and retrieval skills to complete assignment
7. Apply their educational technology skills to complete expected competencies
8. Utilize other software applications as course requirements dictate
9. Utilize the learning management system (LMS) Canvas to access course materials and complete assignments

**Technical Help:**

- CSUF IT Helpdesk: Phone: (657) 278-8888
- Email: [StudentITHelpDesk@fullerton.edu](mailto:StudentITHelpDesk@fullerton.edu)
- Web: <http://www.fullerton.edu/it/students/helpdesk/index.php>
- Chat with IT: <http://my.fullerton.edu/> and Click **Online IT Help** Click on **Live Chat**
- Canvas Support Hotline: 855-302-7528
- [Canvas Support Chat Student:](#)  
<https://cases.canvaslms.com/liveagentchat?chattype=student&sfid=001A000000YzwcQIAR>
- [Student resource guides for Canvas:](#)  
[https://www.fullerton.edu/it/events\\_projects/lms\\_project/student\\_resources.php](https://www.fullerton.edu/it/events_projects/lms_project/student_resources.php)
- If you have technical difficulties (e.g., in completing a quiz or posting a paper) do not panic (even if you miss the due date/time, don't panic). As you try to resolve the difficulty, send me an Email explaining the problem and I will make allowance and/or provide an alternate delivery method.
- If your computer crashes, it is your responsibility to find another computer to use, such as the library computers.

**University Learning Center**

The goal of the University Learning Center is to provide all CSUF students with academic support in an inviting and contemporary environment. The staff of the University Learning Center will assist students with their academic assignments, general study skills, and computer user needs. The ULC staff work with all students from diverse backgrounds in most undergraduate general education courses including those in science and math; humanities and social sciences; as well as other subjects. They offer one-to-one peer tutoring, online writing review, and many more services. More information can be found on the [University Learning Center website:](http://www.fullerton.edu/ulc/) <http://www.fullerton.edu/ulc/>

### **Writing Center**

The Writing Center offers 30-minute, one-on-one peer tutoring sessions and workshops, aimed at providing assistance for all written assignments and student writing concerns. Writing Center services are available to students from all disciplines. Registration and appointment schedules are available at the [Writing Center Appointment Scheduling System: https://fullerton.mywconline.com/](#) Walk-in appointments are also available on a first come, first served basis, to students who have registered online. More information can be found at the [Writing Center webpage: https://english.fullerton.edu/writing\\_center/](#) The Writing Center is located on the first floor of the Pollak Library their phone number is (657) 278-3650.

### **Important University Information and Student Policy Website:**

It is the student's responsibility to read and understand the required and important information at this website: <http://fdc.fullerton.edu/teaching/syllabus.php>. Included is information about students' rights to accommodations for special needs, academic integrity and dishonesty, emergency preparedness, student learning goals and outcomes, general education, library support, and the final exam schedule.

### **Alternative Procedure for Submitting Work**

In case of technical difficulties with the learning management system Canvas, the instructor will communicate with students directly through CSUF email, and assignments can be sent through email. In the case email doesn't work, students should call the instructor at 657-278-5902 for further direction.

### **Emergency Procedures; Actions to take in an Emergency:**

In the event of a public emergency (e.g., earthquake), please continue to check Canvas as our course work will continue—provided there is electricity and Internet connectivity. For more information, please see the following link: <http://prepare.fullerton.edu>

**COMPLETE SCHEDULE**

In order to allow maximum flexibility to your schedule, all weekly assignments are due on Sundays at 11:59 PM. Unless you dedicate five to eight hours of solid studying on Sunday, it is expected that you will complete various assignments throughout the week. Failure to demonstrate serious commitment to the course will result in the lowering of your overall grade. **Modules will become available on Wednesdays the week before a due date – so 11 days before a due date.**

**Table 4 Course Schedule**

Week & Days	Assignments and Due Dates
Week 1  Monday 1/24/22 - Sunday 1/30/22	Topic for Week 1: Introduction 1) Download Workbook for Week 1 2) View Welcome Presentation Course Overview 3) View Lecture 1 4) View Video 5) Read: <i>Understanding Death</i> , Preface, pp. ix-xii AND Chapter 1: Understanding Death, pp. 1-22 <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=11">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=11</a> 6) Quiz 1 7) Communication 1: Email Reflection 1 8) Upload your Workbook                      ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 1/30/22, 11:59 PM
Week 2  Monday 1/31- Sunday 2/6;	Topic for Week 2: Primal Perspectives 1) Download Workbook for Week 2 2) View Lecture 2 3) View Video 4) Read: <i>Understanding Death</i> , Chapter 2: Primal Perspectives on Death, pp. 25-46 <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=41">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=41</a> 5) Quiz 2 6) Communication 2: Post Canvas Discussion Posting 1 7) Upload your Workbook                      ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 2/6/22, 11:59 PM
Week 3  Monday 2/7- Sunday 2/13	Topic for Week 3: Traditional African Perspectives 1) Download Workbook for Week 3 2) View Lecture 3 3) View Video 4) Read: <i>The Routledge Companion to Death and Dying</i> , Chapter 19: African Afterlife Beliefs <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=4862877&amp;ppg=230">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=4862877&amp;ppg=230</a> 5) Quiz 3 6) Communication 3: Post Response to Module 2 Posting (R1) 7) Upload your Workbook                      ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 2/13/22, 11:59 PM
Week 4  Monday 2/14- Sunday 2/20	Topic for Week 4: Ancient Middle Eastern World of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Persia 1) Download Workbook for Week 4 2) View Lecture 4 3) View Videos 4) Read: <i>Understanding Death</i> , Chapter 3: Death in the Ancient World, pp. 49-71 <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=65">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=65</a> 5) Quiz 4 6) Communication 4: Post Canvas Discussion Posting 2 7) Upload your Workbook                      ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 2/20/22, 11:59 PM

Week & Days	Assignments and Due Dates
<p>Week 5</p> <p>Monday 2/21- Sunday 2/27</p> <p>2/21: Presidents' Day</p>	<p>Topic for Week 5: Ancient Greece &amp; Rome</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Download Workbook for Week 5</li> <li>2) View Lecture 5</li> <li>3) View Videos</li> <li>4) Read: <i>Resurrection, Hell and the Afterlife: Body and Soul in Antiquity, Judaism and Early Christianity</i>, Chapter 1: Afterlife in Antiquity: Post-Mortem Existence in its Greco-Roman Context, pp. 5-22. <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=4415648&amp;ppg=14">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=4415648&amp;ppg=14</a></li> <li>5) Quiz 5</li> <li>6) Communication 5: Post Response to Module 4 Posting (R2)</li> <li>7) Upload your Workbook</li> </ol> <p>ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 2/27/22, 11:59 PM</p>
<p>Week 6</p> <p>Monday 2/28- Sunday 3/6</p>	<p>Topic for Week 6: Jewish Perspectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Download Workbook for Week 6</li> <li>2) View Lecture 6</li> <li>3) View Video</li> <li>4) Read: <i>Understanding Death</i>, Chapter 4: Jewish Perspectives on Death, pp. 73-104 <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=89">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=89</a></li> <li>5) Quiz 6</li> <li>6) Communication 6: Email Reflection 2</li> <li>7) Upload your Workbook</li> </ol> <p>ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 3/6/22, 11:59 PM</p>
<p>Week 7</p> <p>Monday 3/7- Sunday 3/13</p>	<p>Topic for Week 7: Christian Perspectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Download Workbook for Week 7</li> <li>2) View Lecture 7</li> <li>3) View Video</li> <li>4) Read: <i>Understanding Death</i>, Chapter 5: Christian Perspectives on Death, pp. 105-133 <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=121">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=121</a></li> <li>5) Quiz 7</li> <li>6) Communication 7: Post Canvas Discussion Posting 3</li> <li>7) Upload your Workbook</li> </ol> <p>ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 3/13/22, 11:59 PM</p>
<p>Week 8</p> <p><b>Midterm Exam</b></p> <p>Monday 3/14- Sunday 3/20</p>	<p>Topic for Week 8: Heaven and Hell in the New Testament</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Download Workbook for Week 8</li> <li>2) View Lecture 8</li> <li>3) View Video</li> <li>4) Review all Workbook pages from Weeks 1-8. No reading assignment.</li> <li>5) Communication 8: Post Response to Module 7 Posting (R3)</li> <li>6) Upload your Workbook</li> <li>7) <b>▲ Midterm Exam: Available from Friday, 3/18, 8:00 AM to Sunday, 3/20, 11:59 PM.</b></li> </ol> <p>Exam on all material covered to date. To prepare for the exam, study Workbooks 1-8.</p> <p>ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 3/20/22, 11:59 PM</p>
<p>Week 9</p> <p>Monday 3/21- Sunday 3/27</p>	<p>Topic for Week 9: Muslim Perspectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Download Workbook for Week 9</li> <li>2) View Lecture 9</li> <li>3) View Video</li> <li>4) Read: <i>Understanding Death</i>, Chapter 6: Muslim Perspectives on Death, pp. 135-162 <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=151">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=151</a></li> <li>5) Quiz 9</li> <li>6) Communication 9: Email Reflection 3</li> <li>7) Upload your Workbook</li> <li>8) Start search for paper topic and four sources (due 4/10/22)</li> </ol> <p>ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 3/27/22, 11:59 PM</p>
<p>3/28- 4/3: Spring Recess</p>	<p><b>SPRING RECESS, No classes</b></p>

Week & Days	Assignments and Due Dates
Week 10  Monday 4/4- Sunday 4/10	Topic for Week 10: Hindu Perspectives 1) Download Workbook for Week 10 2) View Lecture 10 3) View Videos 4) Read: <i>Understanding Death</i> , Chapter 7: Hindu Perspectives on Death, pp. 165-195 <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=181">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=181</a> 5) Quiz 10 6) Communication 10: Upload paper topic title and four sources 7) Upload your Workbook ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 4/10/22, 11:59 PM
Week 11  Monday 4/11- Sunday 4/17	Topic for Week 11: Buddhist Perspectives 1) Download Workbook for Week 11 2) View Lecture 11 3) View Videos 4) Read: <i>Understanding Death</i> , Chapter 8: Buddhist Perspectives on Death, pp. 197-228 <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=213">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=213</a> 5) Quiz 11 6) Communication 11: Post Canvas Discussion Posting 4 7) Upload your Workbook ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 4/17/22, 11:59 PM 8) Continue writing Paper (due 5/1/22)
Week 12  Monday 4/18- Sunday 4/24	Topic for Week 12: Chinese Perspectives 1) Download Workbook for Week 12 2) View Lecture 12 3) View Videos 4) Read: <i>Understanding Death</i> , Chapter 9: Daoist Perspectives on Death, pp. 229-253 <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=245">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=1221737&amp;ppg=245</a> 5) Quiz 12 6) Communication 12: Email Reflection 4 7) Upload your Workbook ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 4/24/22, 11:59 PM 8) Continue writing Paper (due 5/1/22)
Week 13  Monday 4/25- Sunday 5/1	Topic for Week 13: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 1) Download Workbook for Week 13 2) View Lecture 13A 3) View Lecture 13B 4) View Video 5) Quiz 13 6) Communication 13: PAPER DUE. Finish writing your paper and upload your paper to Canvas. 7) Upload your Workbook ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 5/1/22, 11:59 PM
Week 14  Mon 5/2- Sunday 5/8	Topic for Week 14: Experiences of the Afterlife: Apparitions, Near-Death Experiences, Past-Life Memories, and Spiritual Mediumship 1) Download Workbook for Week 14 2) View Lecture 14 3) View Videos 4) Read: <i>Religion, Death, and Dying</i> , Vol. 2, Chapter 9: The Evidence for Life after Death: An Overview of the Debate, pp. 209-229 <a href="https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=496934&amp;ppg=516">https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/fullerton/reader.action?docID=496934&amp;ppg=516</a> 5) Quiz 14 6) Communication 14: Post Canvas Discussion Posting 5 7) Upload your Workbook ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 5/8/22, 11:59 PM



Week & Days	Assignments and Due Dates
Week 15  Monday 5/9- Sunday 5/15	Topic for Week 15: Final Thoughts 1) Download Workbook for Week 15 2) View Lecture 15 3) View Video 4) Review all Workbook pages from Weeks 9-15. No reading assignment. 5) Canvas anonymous survey/recommendations 6) Upload your Workbook            ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE SUNDAY 5/15/22, 11:59 PM
<b>Final Exam</b> Thursday 5/19 (Available 5/17-5/19)	<b>▲ Final Exam: Available from Tuesday, 5/17/22, 8:00 AM to Thursday, 5/19/22, 5:00 PM.</b> To prepare for the exam, study Workbooks 9-15.

## GRADING RUBRICS FOR PAPER

**Table 5 Grading Rubrics for Paper**

Criteria	Excellent A+/A/A-	Good B+/B/B-	Average C+/C/C-	Poor D+/D/D-	Failure F
<b>Content</b>					
The writing contains all necessary information of the topic as related to the assignment.	Information is complete and clearly relates to the assignment.	Information is mostly complete and clearly relates to the assignment.	Information is somewhat complete and mostly relates to the assignment.	Information has little to do with the assignment or consists of some misstatements.	Information does not relate to the assignment and consists of many misstatements.
The writing contains an identifiable, central focus.	Central focus is clear and consistent throughout.	Central focus is apparent.	Focus is somewhat unclear or inconsistent.	The writing wanders in many directions.	No identifiable focus.
<b>Development and Organization</b>					
The writing fully develops each idea in a clear, logical sequence and, when appropriate, offers evidence supporting the thesis or central focus.	There is a logical progression of ideas that is unified and complete. Supporting evidence is presented as needed.	There is a logical progression of ideas that is relatively complete, although a few minor lapses may be present. Supporting evidence is presented.	Many minor lapses in the logical progression of ideas are evident. Limited supporting evidence is presented.	Major lapses in the logical progression of ideas are evident. Limited supporting evidence is presented.	Ideas are presented in a random fashion. No supporting evidence is presented.
The writing effectively uses transitions to connect sentences and paragraphs.	Transitions between sentences and paragraphs are flowing and varied.	Transitions between sentences and paragraphs are varied.	A few transitions between sentences and paragraphs are choppy or disconnected.	Many short, choppy, or disconnected sentences and paragraphs.	No clear use of transitions between sentences and paragraphs.
The writing demonstrates an ability to share ideas or information in the author's own words.	Ideas or information are expressed elegantly in the author's own words.	Ideas or information are expressed clearly in the author's own words.	For the most part, Ideas or information are expressed in the author's own words.	Minimal ability to express ideas or information in the author's own words.	No clear ability to express ideas or information in the author's own words.
<b>Format, Style, and Mechanics</b>					
The writing uses credible sources effectively and with proper citations.	Credible sources are properly cited and woven seamlessly into the writing.	Credible sources are properly cited and used in the writing.	Sources are mostly credible and properly cited.	Minimal use of credible sources or proper citations.	Most sources are not credible and/or most sources are not properly cited.
The writing contains few if any errors of spelling, syntax, word usage or punctuation.	No errors in spelling, syntax, word usage or punctuation.	A few minor errors in spelling, syntax, word usage or punctuation.	Many minor errors in spelling, syntax, word usage or punctuation.	Major errors in spelling, syntax, word usage or punctuation.	The number of errors makes the writing almost unreadable.
The writer strives to achieve an original voice where appropriate.	An original writing style that is a joy to read.	An informative and interesting writing style.	A readable presentation.	Writing is tedious to read.	Writing is extremely difficult to comprehend.