

# Research Assignment

<b>Research Assignment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preliminary Research and Questions</li><li>• Your articles and the evaluations</li><li>• Your final articles and explanations of topics</li></ul>	<b>Total 25%</b>  25%	Netboard Netboard Netboard	Thursday, Sept 2 Sunday, Sept 12 Sunday, Sept 26
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The first assignment for the course will involve a group project to collect research on one of the religions, and then post your research on Netboard. This assignment is broken into 3 stages: Doing some preliminary research with your group to establish research questions and topics for each member, finding and posting articles that address your topic, and giving a summative explanation of the key concepts for your topic.

The only portion of this assignment that is graded is your final submission of your articles and explanations. This is an individual grade. The stages before this are to help you divide the topic with your group and make sure you are working with good reliable information for your topic.

## Netboard

For this assignment, you will post your work and articles, that you do with your group and your own, on Netboard. This will allow us to create a bank of resources that the whole class can use as they work on their essays. As such, please keep in mind that other students can see your work on Netboard. Please also be courteous when posting comments to other students.

## Preliminary Research and Questions

The first thing you will need to do as a group is some preliminary research on your topic to help you brainstorm the different central aspects of the religion. Your goal as a group is to prepare a netboard that covers all the main points of the religion. So if someone says "hey what is this religion about anyway?" they could look at your netboard to get an idea.

So your first task as a group will be to brainstorm the different topics that would give a good comprehensive explanation of the religion. Once you have done this, you will need to divide those topics among your group members. Then each person will be responsible for researching and posting on that topic.

While you will be working on your research largely on your own, I strongly encourage you to discuss your findings and questions with your group members. Class time will be devoted to working on this assignment so that you can do so.

## Articles and Evaluations

Once your group has established a list of topics and terms to research for your religion, and divided responsibility of those topics to the group members, you will be responsible for finding at least three articles for your topic. These articles can be from journals, sections of books, or reliable web sources. They should be at least 2-3 pages in length and be uploaded to netboard in a way that will allow others to access the full article. You will need to post up a thorough explanation of your topics, so you will need to find articles that cover your topic well.

With each of your articles you will need to include an evaluation of the quality of the source. This is where you explain why you believe this is a reliable source. For an explanation of how to evaluate your

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sources, you should watch the Evaluating Sources video, and read the handout called Evaluating Sources Guide. Both are up on the Netboard Course Resources page, under the Research Tips tab.

After you have submitted your articles, with their evaluations, I will give you feedback on your sources and if they are reliable, and if you are missing important information about your assigned topics. If you are missing anything, or the sources are not reliable, this will give you the chance to make changes before you have to write the final explanations and submit them.

## **Final Articles and Explanations of your topic**

Once you have completed your research, and made sure that your articles are from reliable sources, you should then work on your explanations of your topic. This should also be posted on netboard. For your list of topics, you should break up any of your sub-topics and give each a full explanation. Your goal is to explain to the reader the key ideas about that topic. This isn't an essay, so you don't have to worry about having a thesis or clear arguments. Your goal really is to summarize the information that you learned from your research.

In order to make it readable to others, please make sure that you have clear divisions in your topics. Give them headings so people can find the information clearly.

### **How you will be graded:**

- On the clarity and accuracy of your explanations of the topics
- On how well your explanations and your articles cover the topic.
- On how well you have covered the topic as a whole, and that you haven't missed out important points.
- On the quality of the selected articles, both in terms of its reliability and how well it covers material you will need for your research.