World Religions 1st Semester 2019

**Socratic Seminar #2 on Buddhism**

**Overview:**

Remember that 30% of your 1st Semester Grade is based on 3 'Socratic Seminars' this semester. We will move our second Socratic Seminar on Buddhism to **Monday 11/11 for A-Day & Tuesday 11/12 for B-Day.** Also remember you must be prepared & participate in the seminar on that day in class unless you email me 24 hours in advance as to why you need an excuse. If you miss class you must make up the seminar 1 on 1 with me!

½ of your grade will be 'Prepared Essays/Notes' based on this handout; ½ your grade will be "Participation' based on the Seminar Rubric.

**'Prepared Essays/Notes' Directions:**

½ of your grade is your "Prepared Essays/Notes' that you can either type and upload to our shared class folder, or you can write and turn in to me. The Prepared Essays/Notes must be uploaded to the class folder- or handed in to me- at the end of the class or you will lose 1 letter grade for each day late.

Some questions require full-sentence essay answers and some questions only require notes. So pay attention to the question directions!

**Specific Questions for Prepared Essays/Notes:**

You need to prepare either full answer essays or notes for these following questions- and then be prepared to discuss your answers/notes during the Socratic Seminar in class…

1. FOR QUESTION #1 you MUST TYPE/WRITE a FULL ESSAY ANSWER.

For A+ (IB 7) answers it should be probably about 2-3+ pages long.

In addition to structure, organization, and main ideas- an A+ answer has…

A Strong Thesis

Organized Support of the Thesis using

1. Main idea terminology of the religion
2. Many specific examples of practices, rituals as support
3. Many specific examples of specific RELIGIOUS TEXTS as support
4. World Religions Ideas/IB Ways of Knowing Analysis, etc..

**QUESTION #1: How would Buddhism answer Big Question #1: What is the meaning of life?**

1. FOR QUESTION #2 you MUST TYPE/WRITE a FULL ESSAY ANSWER.

For A+ (IB 7) answers it should be probably about 2-3+ pages long.

In addition to structure, organization, and main ideas- an A+ answer has…

A Strong Thesis

Organized Support of the Thesis using

1. Main idea terminology of the religion
2. Many specific examples of practices, rituals as support
3. Many specific examples of specific RELIGIOUS TEXTS as support
4. World Religions Ideas/IB Ways of Knowing Analysis, etc..

**QUESTION #2: Compare & Contrast at least 2 Different 'Types' of Buddhism?**

Note: You may define "types" of Buddhism any way you like (such as Theravada vs. Mahayana…or Taiwan vs. Tibet…, etc.)

Note: you may use more than 2 types of Buddhism if you want (such as compare Theravada vs. Mahayana vs. Tibetan vs. Zen)

1. FOR QUESTION #3 you can just write some BULLET POINT Main Ideas and BULLET POINT support examples in key words only. And then be ready to explain them in more detail at the seminar.

A+ (IB 7) notes might have reference to some specific TEXTS as well…

QUESTION #3: How would Buddhism answer the Big Question 'WHAT IS GOD?'/HOW CAN YOU KNOW GOD?'

1. FOR QUESTION #4 you can just write some BULLET POINT Main Ideas and BULLET POINT support examples in key words only. And then be ready to explain them in more detail at the seminar.

A+ (IB 7) notes might have reference to some specific TEXTS as well…

QUESTION #4: How would Buddhism answer the Big Question 'WHAT IS DEATH/HOW SHOULD YOU UNDERSTAND AND APPROACH DEATH?

1. For QUESTION #5 you need to read any TEXT related to Buddhism. It can be a primary document text (such as The Lotus Sutra, The Diamond Sutra, etc.) or it can be a secondary document (such as a book written by my teacher Master Cheng Yen or a book written by another Buddhist today like Pema Chodron)

-If you can't find your own source to read, then you can read something from my website by famous Buddhist authors: I recommend looking at **Week 7 Living Buddha Living Christ OR Week 7 You are Here Part 1 and Part 2.** These are books written by Thich Nhat Hanh

-You only need to read about 15 minutes of your TEXT, so you do not have to read the whole thing.

-Tell me HERE: What exactly did you read for 15 minutes:

-Write down some bullet point main ideas of what you learned from this text:

1. THIS ANSWER CAN JUST BE BULLET POINT/KEY WORD NOTES: Write down some THOUGHTS related to this prompt: What do you personally like best about Buddhism?
2. THIS ANSWER CAN JUST BE BULLET POINT/KEY WORD NOTES: Write down some THOUGHTS related to this prompt: What do you personally NOT like about Buddhism?
3. THIS ANSWER CAN JUST BE BULLET POINT/KEY WORD NOTES: Write down some THOUGHTS related to this prompt: How is Buddhism similar to 1 or more other religions?
4. THIS ANSWER CAN JUST BE BULLET POINT/KEY WORD NOTES: Write down some THOUGHTS related to this prompt: How is Buddhism different from 1 or more religions?
5. WRITE DOWN 2 THOUGHTFUL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS you would like your group to discuss about Buddhism.
6. FINALLY- find 1 quotation from anywhere that you think is significant. If you could only choose 1 quotation that you think captures "the essence" of what Buddhism really is all about, what would be your 1 quotation?
7. Write the quotation and source here.
8. Do a close reading of the quotation.

**REMEMBER YOU MUST SHOW ME YOUR ANSWERS/NOTES BEFORE THE END OF CLASS ON SEMINAR DAY**

**YOU MUST EITHER UPLOAD YOUR NOTES TO OUR GOOGLE CLASS FOLDER OR TURN IN YOUR NOTES TO ME**