**Paper 2: Religion Meaning and Value Assessment**

**Detailed Instructions**

**and Rubric**

**(Submitted by 4/21/20 30 minutes before class starts on the Portal)**

1.(\_\_\_/24 points) Thinking about the central tenets (in other words, beliefs) of the world’s major religions, such as the Jewish requirement to love God and do good deeds; the Christian prescription to follow the “golden rule,” the Buddhist emphasis on, among other things, right belief, right resolve, and right conduct; and the Confucian principle of “treating those who are subordinate to you as you would like to be treated by people superior to yourself,” **list and briefly discuss *two* similarities between *three* of the world’s major religions.** (4 points for each similarity for each of the 3 religions)

First, choose 3 major religions. These could be any of those mentioned above in addition to others, such as Hindu and Muslim, plus others. So, you can choose Christianity for one of the three religions, but you must compare it with a completely different religion, not Protestants and Methodists, for example. These are both branches of Christianity.

Next, let’s consider some examples of the similarities that you will discuss. For your “two similarities”, for example, you could consider for one similarity, what **beliefs** do they have in common? Then, for a second similarity in your discussion, you could consider what **practices** do they have in common? (Recall from Chapter 11 that beliefs, rituals, and other practices create cumulative experiences.)

**Or,** you could consider if there are guidelines for everyday life that the 3 major religions share.

**Or**, you could answer, what similar emotional discomforts do they provide for their followers and their society?

2. (\_\_/8 points) Now think about the United States. How has the meaning of religion changed within the United States since the 1950s? (2 points) Does religion still function the same? (2 points) If so, how? If not, explain. (2 points)

3.(\_\_/10 points) Thinking about question number 2, reflect on how your personal or family practices compare to the societal trends you researched. (3 points) Also, consider if you have experienced other religious practices besides the one that you were introduced to as a child, if you were brought up with a religion. How likely are you to change to a different religion after these experiences? (5 points) Why or why not? (2 points)

**References:** (\_\_/3 points) You will need to provide a list of references at the end of your paper in American Psychological Association (APA) citation style. This is an example of an APA Reference page: <http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/data/resources/references-example.pdf> This is especially important for questions one and two above. So, this means that you are **required** to cite references in your paper for question #1 and #2.

 **You are required to cite at least 1 scholarly source** for your entire paper. This must be in addition to your textbook which is an academic source. Other references may be from digital popular news or digital references and more. You might want to refer to FSC Dr. Ewing’s library page <http://libguides.flsouthern.edu/c.php?g=400036&p=2719153>. This site <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/> looks interesting too.

**Professionalism:** \_\_\_/5 points total. Your paper needs to have clear writing with proper word usage and be free of spelling and grammar mistakes. Please read and spellcheck your paper before printing it out. Your paper needs to be double-spaced and it needs to include a reference page. Make sure that you followed all the directions above.

Total: \_\_\_\_/50 points