**Appendix B**

**AP World History - Religions Project**

*Before you begin reading this, please note that this project looks far more intimidating than it is! Tackle it one part at a time and don’t let the length of these instructions frighten you!*

Religion in a variety of cultures is an emphasis of study during the first semester. To prepare for this, you will research one of the world’s major religions or philosophies for your first quarter project grade. Your choices include the 5 most commonly practiced religions:

Islam Judaism Hinduism Buddhism Christianity

and 2 of the major philosophies: Confucianism Daoism

You will be examining the religion/philosophy’s origins, major beliefs, and practices. You will then research its major turning points in history. Finally, you will examine it as it has been practiced in the Post-Modern Era (1914-present). This covers Part I of the project, which focuses on Change and Continuity Over Time (CCOT).

Once you have completed your research, you will choose a partner (or 2 if needed), and then you will compare and contrast your belief systems, you will create a powerpoint presentation that you will present for Part II in small groups on the final due date.

***Note to students and parents*:** The objective of this assignment is to teach students about religion and philosophy, not teach them to become members of any particular faith. Two of the essays on the AP World History Exam are Comparative (CE) and CCOT, so this project is designed to help you develop the necessary higher level thinking skills.

W*orld religions not listed:* You may choose to research a world religion which is not listed above but which you would like to know more about (for example, Shintoism). There is no extra credit given for this. I am encouraging those of you who are curious to do some exploration. *Note to those who enjoy contemplating rebellion:* I am not interested in your friends who proclaim themselves to be Jedi knights or your investigation of the local Satanic community. Stick to the major world faiths, please.

This project will count 200 points – the same as a unit test – so it is essential that you start work early and do not procrastinate. There are several deadlines to be met, which should help cut down on any tendency to put off work until the last minute. You are also welcome to come to tutoring any time you need help with research or analyzing your work for similarities and differences.

*How to Begin:* We have a day scheduled in the school library to help with this on 9/11, but you are STRONGLY encouraged to begin your research before this date. Look for the basic beliefs/origins, the major turning points, and how the religion is practiced currently. Your main focus should be how the religion has changed over time and what has remained the same. *You are NOT simply giving a report on the history of the religion.* The turning points you choose to include must be significant. When assessing the major shifts of global religions/philosophies, ask yourself a few key questions to focus your thinking:

* Approximately when (what century) and how was this religion or philosophy established? How was the faith originally practiced? What were some of the main beliefs that can be traced to original scriptures and texts at the faith’s beginnings?
* Was there more than one turning point for this faith? What are some crucial events that changed how it was practiced by followers? What are some significant decisions made by the followers/leaders that may have changed the original intent and practices of the founder?
* Were there any divisions that appeared in the faith (ex. different sects that broke away)? What differences caused these divisions, and what were the results of the divisions occurring?
* Were there important changes as the faith spread from one place to another? How did it spread and who made that possible? Were there conflicts between this faith and others, and what were the consequences?
* What is the current state of the faith? Would the original founder or leaders recognize it as it is practiced today? What elements have remained throughout the centuries?

**Part I: Change/Continuity Over Time Diagram 100 points Due Date: \_\_\_9/20\_**

Complete the chart provided for you for this purpose. The first section covers the beginnings. The second covers the major turning points. The third is for the religion or philosophy as it is currently practiced. You must address the questions above as best you can, in your own words, not copied and pasted from a website or anywhere else. Bullet point format is best. If you don’t have enough room, you may use a second chart as needed, but the minimum requirement is one full chart and the maximum is two charts. You will also need to list your sources for this. You must have a minimum of 3 sources, and at least one must be a print-based source (book, magazine, etc.) not a website. Also keep in mind that Wikipedia is NOT the best source and often has unreliable information or requests for editing on pages that lack references. Behind your chart, you must attach a Bibliography on a separate sheet of paper, listing your sources alphabetically. You will then write me a CCOT essay that explains how the religion has stayed the same and continued over time.

**Part II: Powerpoint Presentation 100 points**

**Flash Drive/ CD of Powerpoint Due Date: \_\_10/11\_ Presentation Day: \_10/15\_**

You will create a *PowerPoint* presentation that shows how each faith has changed over time AND how the two compare and contrast. *You are NOT simply giving a presentation on the history of the faiths .* The turning points you choose to include must be significant. The presentations should be 10–15 minutes long. Your presentation must reflect a clear understanding of the religion’s basic beliefs and practices. It must reflect at least three defining snapshots—that is, the origin, the major turning points, and the present. Your presentation should primarily include visuals that reflect the changes in the religion. Consider including art, architecture, pictures of its important leaders, maps that show the spread or extent of the religion, and a timeline. Keep words on the slides to a minimum; use words as part of your spoken presentation instead of reasons to create more slides. A good rule of thumb is about 1 slide per minute, unless you have several slides which you can speak very quickly about. I would not recommend more than 20 slides.

*Order of Presentation/Slides:*

1) Introduction: No version of “I did a project on…” is acceptable. You each need strong and clear statements about:

- to what extent your faith has changed over the various time frames

- to what extent your faith has continued or remained the same

It is equally unacceptable to say that any faith has “an equal amount of change and continuity.” You need to give strong opinions on the subject, as you will be required to do when you write essays in this class.

2) Origins: Begin with one faith, and make sure you clarify which of the six AP time frames it begins in and why/how.

3) Major Turning Points: This section will be more difficult to arrange, as some faiths began much earlier than others. A running timeline (which may require several slides to display) may be the best way to address these topics. Explain why each turning point is a crucial one.

4) Present Day: You must address major continuities here for the faith, a minimum of 5 strong examples. It would also be a good idea to conclude with why this religion or philosophy is worth studying.

5) Bibliography: Your final slide(s) must include an alphabetical list of all sources, including all images, formatted according to the guidelines I will give you. You are not required to go over your information as part of your presentation; it is there for you to give credit to your sources and me to grade.

Absences and Late Work

Because this project is so important to your quarter grade, it is crucial for you to be present in class on due dates and have work completed and turned in on time. Students who are absent for a deadline must bring a note from a parent regarding an excused absence – illness, family emergency, doctor’s appt. Those students will receive full credit for work turned in the day they return to school. Students who do not have an excused absence or who are unable to complete the work on time will receive **half credit** for any missed deadline that is late and must attend tutoring in order to receive it.

You are welcome to come to tutoring, see me before class, or email me if you have any questions about this project. I want to help you do your best, but I can only do that if you are working ahead!