

Final Paper

Religion 204 D

winter 2016

Possible Term Paper Topics

The term paper is due no later than 2 p.m. on Friday March 18th. It should be at least 6 pages long. The best term paper project to work on is one that excites and interests you. Below is a list of suggested topics; you may choose from this list or come up with a topic on your own. This is a research paper. You should cite at least three non-internet sources (books, academic journals, encyclopedias). Citing internet sources is allowed, but don't confine yourself to these. Try to find sources that have been prepared for publication in a peer reviewed setting. Be sure to include a bibliography or works cited page. There are a lot of good books on religion in the collection at Hamersly library. You can also make use of the Summit system to borrow books from other Northwest libraries (allow 5 to 7 days for Summit books to arrive!). If you write a biographical paper, be sure to do more than just tell the story of the life of your subject; place their life in the context of the religious tradition with which they are associated, indicating how their life exemplifies that tradition.

Monasticism: its nature and its place as a path to sanctity in Christianity.

Prayer: its purpose, the ways it is practiced, and its role in everyday life.

The Sacred: how it is conceived and experienced in different religious traditions

Mysticism: its nature and the different forms it takes.

Art: the role it plays in developing religious feeling and tradition. (e.g.: Eastern Orthodox icons)

Symbols: their origin and meaning in different religious traditions.

Authority over tradition: how it is established, and the role it plays in different religious traditions.

Saintliness: how human piety and sanctity are conceived and recognized.

Salvation: how it is conceived and how an individual achieves it.

Sacred Law: how it is established and the role it plays in religious life.