Getting Students to Think Critically through Undergraduate Research

The Human Religious Experience
(RELI 100)

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Faculty Lunch & Learn
March 3, 2016
“The systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.” [1]
Course Design: Situated Learning

The nest, the frame, the “situation”
Assignments: Critical Thinking

Bloom’s Taxonomy

[Image -2x-2 to 694x535]

http://www.assessment.uconn.edu/primer/taxonomies1.html
“Communities of practice” facilitate learning [2]
1. Synthesize Sources
2. Apply Critical Thinking
3. Contextualize
4. Co-Construct/Collaborate
Blogs: Reflection

• Myth, Symbol, Modernity
• Interpreting Scripture: Literally, Morally, Allegorically
• Symbols and Rituals of Succoth
• Christian Sacrament and Jewish Life-Passage Ritual
• Sermon Analysis
• Qur’an and Hajj
• Dalai Lama and Lotus Sutra
Myth, Symbol, Modernity

Sources:
Mini-lecture: Symbol
Mini-lecture: Impact of Modernity
Textbook: *World Religions Today*

Critical Thinking: Research ads. Identify one with a religious symbol used to sell a product. Analyze in light of the discussion of symbol in the sources.

Contextualize: Reflect on the use of religious symbols in advertising.

Co-Construct: Comment on other posts.
Discussion Groups: Construct Knowledge

- Writing and Citing
- The Global Religious Landscape
- Jewish Identity
- Constructing Knowledge about Sunni and Shia Islam
- Cleansing Rituals
- The Ramayana
- Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path
- Harmony and Liberation
- Confucianism and Daoism
What is the most important thing you would say to someone outside the tradition about Buddhism?

https://vimeo.com/channels/religion100/110465597
The Ramayana

Sources:
Mini-lecture: The Ramayana
Film: Sita Sings the Blues
Book: World Religions Today

Evaluating a modern version of an ancient epic.
Final Essay: Articulate Your Worldview

Ultimate goal: “growth and transformation of identity” [3]
“I absolutely had a lovely experience taking this course. I learned a lot in a very organized, interesting, and engaging manner. The instructor provided fun videos, interesting lectures, and collaborative assignments that made it seem as though I was taking the course in person.”
