

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Jonathan Arbuckle **Humanities Discipline:** Anthropology **Date:** January 26, 2016

World Religion: Christianity **Teaching Module Title:** Christianity Part 1

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to the topics of cultural transmission and symbolic anthropology through Christianity and the Eucharist.
2. Explore the topics of overt and covert symbolism.
3. Become familiar with Christian organizations, rituals, and practices that cultivate cultural transmission and meaning.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

Bowker, *World Religions*, pages 156-157

Ember & Ember, *Cultural Anthropology*, chapter 4, "Explaining and Understanding Culture."

Matthew 28: 20, 26-28

Corinthians 2: 23:25

Class outline/Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts/Assessments for Students:

1. Opening Activity

Divide students into three groups and assign each group one biblical passage (Matthew 28:20, Matthew 28: 26-28, Corinthians 2:23:25) and ask the students to write one paragraph focusing on what they think the passage means and how it could relate to culture and Anthropology on a broader level. After a few minutes, ask each group to share their thoughts with the entire class.

General Class Discussion

- a. What is culture?
- b. What are ways culture is/can be transmitted?
- c. Symbolic Anthropology
- d. Overt and Covert cultural meanings. Focus on:
 - i. Opening activity
 - ii. Eucharist
 - iii. Bread
 - iv. Wine
 - v. Transubstantiation
 - vi. Ritual
 - vii. Insider/Outsider knowledge

2. Assignment

To submit before the next class meeting, students will compose a typed, 2 page essay focusing on the following question: *using the information talked about in today's lesson, research and discover another example of cultural transmission that incorporates overt and covert symbolism.* Students should incorporate at least one detail/example from the in-class lesson and one detail from their own research/experiences.