

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Courtland Blade

Humanities Discipline: Art History

Date: Nov. 11, 2015

World Religion: Judaism

Teaching Module Title: Judaism, Art in America taking a closer look

***Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to Anti-Semitism and its history in the United States
2. Address how American Jewish artist were affected by the shifts and changes in America and the ideas/policies implemented.
3. Explore the effects the Holocaust may have had on Jewish American Artist like Mark Rothko.

***Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

A New Promised Land: A History of Jews in America pgs. 37, 44-60, 69-90.

EXPLORE THE DIASPORA: JEWS & THE ARTS: 10 INNOVATORS at the website below:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/story-jews/explore-the-diaspora/10-influential-jewish-american-artists/>

Was Judaism a color on Rothko's palette? by Tom L. Freudenheim (link below)

http://www.jewishjournal.com/arts/article/was_judaism_a_color_on_rothkos_palette_20061110/

Mark Rothko American Painter (link below)

<http://www.theartstory.org/artist-rothko-mark.htm>

***Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What is Anti-Semitism?
2. Why was the Johnson Act employed?
3. What did the Johnson Act do?
4. What policy at Harvard was implemented because of A. Lawrence Lowell's concern that the school would become a "new Jerusalem"?
5. Did some Jewish artists change their names? If so, who would they have done this? Why?

***Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Paper: After doing the readings, review the image of Rothko's early works and a piece from his later period below. Rothko was educated early on as an Orthodox Jew, and migrated to America when he was 10 years old with his family. Does Rothko's work reflects his Jewish culture, and if so, how? Does his work seem to be a response to Anti-Semitism of the time? How so? Does it seem that the Holocaust had any effect on his work

during or after the tragedy? These questions should be answered in essay format in a Word document using MLA, APA, or Chicago style format. Your paper should be a minimum of two pages.



Mark Rothko, "Entrance to Subway" (1938)



Mark Rothko, Slow Swirl at the Edge of the Sea (1944)



Mark Rothko, Black on Maroon, Mural, Section 3 (1959), from "The Seagram Murals"