

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Jeffrey Dodge

Humanities Discipline: Philosophy

Date: January 29, 2016

World Religion: Christianity

Teaching Module Title: American Christian Religious Traditions

Teaching Module Goals:

(PHIL 220) Introduce students to American Christian thought while considering how their American experience has affected them.

(PHIL 102) Introduce students to American Christian moral thinking including compassion, justice, identity, family, relationships with others' faith communities, and human rights.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

NRSV Harper Study Bible (New Revised Standard Version), Zondervan Publishing House. 1991, or
Life Application Bible, New International Version, Tyndale House Publishers, 1988.

- Read Luke 10:25-37 (Parable of the Good Samaritan)
- Romans 13:1-10 (Submission to Civil Authorities)
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love from God)
- 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 and Ephesians 2:11-22 (Reconciliation)

Barnette, *Introducing Christian Ethics*, "Race Relations," pp. 128-139 (PHIL 102), and "Political Life" (PHIL 220) pp. 161-172, Broadman Press.

Bedell, Sandon, & Wellborn, "The Mayflower Compact," p.34, *Religion in America* [exerpts to be provided].

"America" by Phillip Schaff, p 47-49

"Manifest Destiny," p. 45-47

Religion and Law, p. 86-89, "Everson v. Board of Education (Justice Black)" (PHIL 220),

pp. 96-99 "West Virginia v. Barnette (Justice Frankfurter)" (PHIL 220),

pp.117-121 "The Church and the Republic" by James Cardinal Gibbons (PHIL 220).

Chapter 7 (selections), "Black and White in American Religious Pattern" (PHIL 102).

Wills, *Christianity in the United States*, University of Notre Dame Press, 2002

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What is the basis for American Christian beliefs/philosophy? What has shaped American Christian thoughts and practices and give brief explanation of each.
2. What other major American Christian religious works, other than the Bible, have influenced the development of American Christianity? List and explain the importance of each text.
3. Explain the origin of American Christian people. What events, beliefs, & practices shaped their identity? How have those beliefs and practices continued to develop?
4. List some of the major moral values of American Christianity (name the source), and explain their importance (PHIL 102).
5. How has the belief in Manifest Destiny helped shape American Christianity (PHIL 220)?
6. How has interaction with the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution affected American Christianity?
7. What has influenced the dynamics of race relations in American Christianity (PHIL 102)?
8. What major groups of churches have developed in America, and what are some of their differences?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

(PHIL 220) Black Board Journal entries (essay minimum 500 words each).

(PHIL 102) Black Board Discussion Board (minimum 500 words).

Additional Resource information:

Pelikan, *Jesus Through the Centuries: His Place in the History of Culture*, Harper & Row Publishers and Yale University Press, 1987.

Kerr, *Readings in Christian Thought*, Second Edition, Abington Press, 1966 [Selections from John Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, William James, Walter Rauschenbusch, Reinhold Niebuhr, Thomas Merton, and Martin Luther King, Jr.].

Walker, *A History of the Christian Church*, 3rd edition, 1970 [A one volume history of Christianity]., "The Beginnings of Modern Science and Philosophy," p. 425ff. "The Transplantation of Christianity to America," p. 430ff. "Deism and Its Opponents, Sceptism," p. 437ff. "The Evangelical Revival and "The Great Awakening," p.454ff. American Protestantism in the Nineteenth Century," p. 507ff. "Roman Catholicism in the Modern World," p. 519.