Instructions for Paper Assignment

You need to write two papers for this course. Each should be approx. 2500 words (10 pp.) in length, typed and double-spaced, complete with notes and bibliography. The papers should be argumentative and analytical in nature, rather than descriptive or narrative.

I. **Topics for First Paper.** Choose from ONE of the following:

   1. Despite the absence of god or gods, as well as a lack of concern for the afterworld, Theravada Buddhism and Confucianism can be considered religious traditions.

   2. There is only apparent death, but no real death, in Hindu religious belief.

   3. In Taoism and Zen Buddhism, salvation is attained through mysticism and the experience of enlightenment.

II. **Topics for the Second Paper.** Choose from ONE of the following:

   1. In Judaism, wisdom means having insightful knowledge of the relationship between oneself and God, while in Confucianism wisdom signals profound understanding of the relationship between oneself and fellow human beings.

   2. Christianity subscribes to the notion of God being all-good and all-powerful, whereas Hinduism envisions Brahman as encompassing both good and evil.

   3. Islam believes suffering to be punishment or test by Allah, while Buddhism sees suffering as the creation of the ignorant mind of human beings.

III. **Other Topics for Either First or Second Paper**

You may choose your own topics for either or both papers, provided that you have discussed the nature and thesis of your own selection with the instructor and have obtained his signature of endorsement.

**Remember!** Your papers should not be mere accumulation of facts. They should not be simply descriptive of the beliefs discussed. Also, the precepts and beliefs of each religious tradition explored are accepted as given. They are not to be questioned or debated with. Thus, **your papers may not be a critical challenge to and disparagement of any doctrine or precept of any religion, nor should they be declarations of or argument for, any particular faith.**
III. Other points:

1. Your papers will be graded on spelling, grammar, style, punctuation, and content.

2. In order to support your argument, citations from the scriptural sources of the religious traditions will be considered most authoritative, followed by scholarly opinions. Your friends, even though they may be the believers of the religious traditions you are discussing, may not be the source or authority of your assertions.

3. Please make sure that you are aware of the differences between or among the following sets of words:
   
   its/it's;        they're/their/there;   to/too/two;  
   were/we're;      who's/whose;         your/you're  
   past/passed;    principle/principal;  then/than  
   accept/except;  cite/site/sight;     affect/effect

   Failure to distinguish such differences reflects badly on your writing. There should be strict agreement between subject and verb, and subject and pronoun, in each sentence. Also pay special attention to the correct use of the apostrophe mark (‘) and the comma (,).

4. Use a standard form for notes and bibliography. **Quotations must contain precise pagination.**

5. Use **At Least five (5)** different sources by different authors (other than the two texts) for reference in each paper. These sources must be refereed publications, therefore web-obtained information do not count. Neither do the two texts.

6. All papers must be submitted on dates designated and in hard copies. Your papers must include a word count (excluding title page and bibliography). No faxing or emailing.