

Reflection Papers
Option 1 Due February 16
Option 2 Due March 10
Option 3 Due April 12
Final Grade – 2 at 10% for 20%

Background: We have read about a variety of New Religious Movements. Although you have had time in discussion section and your daily reflections to reflect on the readings and the overall theme of the section, I would like you to spend a little bit of time reflecting on the section as a whole. Each Reflection is worth 25 points.

Assignment: Write a 1-2 page double-spaced reflection on two of the three following sections of the course: charismatic leadership, end of the world, and race and gender. It should be a critical analysis, not a restatement of the texts. In your reflection, utilize the theory reading (or videos) and two other readings to respond as much as possible to at least two of the following questions:

1. Why is the theme of this section important to understanding NRMs?
2. Besides the stated theme of this section, what is a common theme you observed running throughout NRMs we discussed in this section?
3. How does history, either local or global, contribute to the development of NRMs?
4. How does geography, either local or global, contribute to the development of NRMs?
5. What was the most surprising/interesting idea or concept you learned during this section?
6. Why are the religions in this section controversial? (Why do you think they got labelled as cults?)
7. How does this section help you understand your chosen cult better?

Nuts and Bolts: These are Reflection papers so I really want to see *your personal voice* shine through. You are encouraged to use “I” when appropriate in these papers. This does not mean that you can write colloquially; I still expect academic-level writing and proper editing but I want to hear your opinion loud and clear.

1. 12-point font, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, double spaced.
2. Use Chicago Style Notes/Bibliography for all citations.
3. Three citations: one from the theory reading/video and two of your selection.
4. 1-2 pages (at minimum, an entire one page going onto a second one)

A few hints: You are welcome to use the material you thought up in your end-of-class reflections as the basis for the Reflection Papers. There is no need to cite yourself or me in any of these reflections.

Take notes on the readings as you do them (with page numbers). Then when the time comes to write this reflection, you already have all your materials ready for you and you don’t have to tediously re-read any article.

For clarity, I would suggest focusing on two or so of the NRMs to help explain your ideas. If you try to cover all the NRMs in the section you might not have time to adequately answer the questions above. Also, the assignment is an analysis, not a synopsis, so focus on answering the questions, not rehashing class.

Grading Rubric

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Analysis (15)	Answers two questions fully; deep and thoughtful analysis of the section and readings (15-14 points)	Answers two questions; good analysis of section and readings (13-12 points)	Answers two questions; bare analysis of the section and readings (11-9 points)	Answers one or no questions; no apparent understanding of the section or themes (8-0 points)
Evidence from the Readings (5)	Theory reading and two additional sources cited with full application to analysis (5 points)	Theory reading and two additional sources cited with some application to analysis (4 points)	Theory reading and one additional source cited with some application to analysis (3 points)	No theory reading and/or one or more sources missing with no application to analysis (2-0 points)
Organization (3)	Excellent, easy-to-follow, and logical flow (3 points)	Organized, logical flow of material (2 points)	Basic organization into paragraphs that flow (1 points)	No organization evident (0 points)
Grammar and Punctuation (2)	Little/no grammar or punctuation errors (2 points)		Some grammar and punctuation errors (1 point)	Unreadable (0 points)

Comments:

Total: /25