

Hum 27/Phil 7

Spring 2010

Essay #3 Topics

Write an essay in about five pages, typed and double-spaced, in response to ONE of the topics below. You may suggest your own topic, as long as it compares some significant theme, idea, etc. in texts from all of the following: *The Hebrew Bible*, *The New Testament*, *The Qur'an*.

Topics:

1. Compare the ways *The Hebrew Bible*, *The New Testament*, and *The Qur'an* define the status and role(s) of women.
2. Write an essay in which you describe how the notions of God have evolved, changed, etc. in the assigned texts from *The Hebrew Bible*, *The New Testament*, and *The Qur'an*.
3. In Islam Muhammad is The Prophet. The Jewish scriptures also contain prophets, and Jesus is sometimes understood as a prophet. Write an essay in which you compare the prophetic function in the assigned texts from *The Hebrew Bible*, *The New Testament*, and *The Qur'an*.
4. In their own ways, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are all exclusive religions, or at least make claims to have some special relationship to God and the Truth/truth. Write an essay in which you analyze this tendency towards exclusivism as it is found in the assigned texts from all three religions.
5. Critics of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam often point to the ways in which representatives of these religions often resort to violence and justify that violence by reference to their sacred texts. Based on the assigned texts, write an essay in which you analyze this charge.