

Philosophy 23: Philosophy of Religion
Study Questions

1. Eliade: How does the notion of the sacred provide a way of understanding the religious? What is *homo religiosus*? What kind of experience is this and how is it more basic and a prior condition of possibility for all the world religions with their conflicting truths about and approaches to the sacred? (2 pages)
2. What is the “wisdom of unknowing”?
3. What basic method(s) do the social sciences typically use when trying to “know” the world? What difference does this make when trying to understand religion?
4. What is realism and anti realism?
5. What are the correspondence and coherence theories of truth.
6. What do we mean by the “logic of propositions”?
7. What is “aletheia” as opposed to the usual view of truth based on correspondence and the logic of propositions?
8. How does philosophical hermeneutics recast or dissolve these issues (3,4,5,6) above in a way that opens us to understanding religion (or anything else) that these prevent?
9. What is it that gives rise to religious consciousness that cannot be reduced and explained away by theories?
10. What is the *postmodern condition* that calls for a new response to religion?
 - A) Exposure of the *myth of the given* and the *metaphysics of presence* (See *In the throes of Wonder* material)
 - B) Exposure of the limits of science and theory generally including speculative metaphysical thought
 - C) Phenomenological Responses in light of the postmodern condition: Miller, Guerriere