**Trinity University**
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Spring 2012

# Research Homework

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**Information Literacy Assignment**
**Religion 3303: Death and Beyond – Spring 2012**
**Dr. Sarah K. Pinnock**

**RESEARCH HOMEWORK**

**Description of assignment**

1. You will sign up for one class where you will conduct research related to the assigned reading on the syllabus. Using one of the Coates Library databases, access a scholarly article, read it carefully for understanding, cite it in MLA style, and write a one paragraph response to evaluate the article's main argument and connect it with the syllabus reading (150-200 words).

2. You will also sign up to respond to the research homework of another student in the class. Your response will involve reading the student's paragraph and scanning the corresponding article accessed in the database. Then you will choose your own scholarly article that fits together with the syllabus reading and the other student's article. Cite this follow up article and write a paragraph exploring the three-way connections creatively and critically.

**Purposes of assignment**

- Access articles using library databases (please do not use Google scholar)
- Understand an unfamiliar piece of academic writing in the field of Religion
- Evaluate what fits the definition of a "scholarly" and "peer reviewed" article
- Evaluate the main argument of the article that you choose
- Use research material ethically by properly citing your source (including database)
- Think creatively in connecting the chosen article with the class reading
- Articulate your personal response to what you read

**Further Instructions**

**Databases:** Trinity subscribes to a multitude of databases. Follow the link to Databases on the Coates Library homepage and look under the subject "Religion" to find database options.

**Style Guidelines and Evaluative Annotated Bibliography:** Instructions are found on the Coates Library website under "Citing Sources" http://lib.trinity.edu/lib2/cite.php. Since your paragraph is evaluative, you should be familiar with the features of an Evaluative Annotated Bibliography, although you need not follow the format in detail since your paragraph should focus on connecting the argument of your article with the class reading,

What is scholarly? A scholarly article appears in a peer reviewed journal with a specialized scope, the author is a PhD with a university position, the length is typically 15-30 pages, there

are plentiful footnotes, and the article pursues an argument building on research.

**Timeline**

1. Your research:  At 9 pm the night <u>before</u> class, you must post your citation and 150-200 word one paragraph reflection online for the class to read.

2. Your response to someone else's research:  At 9 pm the day <u>after</u> class, you must post your citation and 150-200 word one paragraph response online for the class to read.

**Online Format**

The homework research and response will be posted on TLEARN or Google Docs.