

## **Honors Paper**

Attend three or four religious services at different institutions. For example, the Chinmaya Mission, the Zen Buddhist Temple, the Beth Israel Synagogue and the Islamic Center are all located in Ann Arbor and welcome interested university students. Write a substantive paper reflecting your first-hand observations, experiences and thoughts comparing these different communities. Neither footnotes, endnotes, nor bibliography are needed. This paper must be at least six pages long and at a minimum include the following elements:

1. **Field Information**—Give the full name of the institutions visited and their precise denominational affiliation. Give the exact dates and times of the visits, and the names and titles of the presiding officials. (One short paragraph)
2. **Placing Information**—Describe the outside and inside appearance of the buildings, the way visitors are greeted, and the sorts of people in each community, i.e., social class, ethnic background, dominant gender, average age, and number present. (Three short paragraphs)
3. **Description of Activities and Symbolism**—Give an entertaining anecdotal account of what happened during the visits and services. Consider the following questions for each: What was the emotional tone of the service? Was the opening dramatic or casual? Was congregational participation emotional or reserved? Was the service spontaneous or ritualistic? How did the service end? What art and symbolic images did you notice in and around the site? (Approximately two pages)
4. **Analysis**—Compare the visits in terms of the following questions: Were you comfortable sitting with and talking to those attending each service? Why or why not? What was the message of each service? As far as you could tell from these experiences, what were these communities seeking to share about themselves and their religion? (Approximately three pages)

## **Style Instructions**

This paper will be graded on substance, grammar and on how well these style instructions are followed. The paper must be left-justified and double-spaced, with a clear 12-point font (Times New Roman preferred) and one-inch margins all around (including the first page). After the document title, in 18-point font, the student should single space and type their name in 14-point font. After the author's name, the student should double space and begin the first paragraph of the paper. Only the final page of the document, if more than six pages, may come up short of one inch. The paper must be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. No title page! It is imperative that students work diligently to ensure that the paper is turned in at the set or agreed upon time to avoid being downgraded by a full grade per day (i.e., an A- demoted to a B- and a C+ to a D+).