**Extra Credit**

Due: Anytime before the last day of class (Friday before finals week)

Each student is allowed to complete up to three extra credit assignments, each potentially worth 5% of the total class grade. **Any combination of the following is allowed:**

1. FIVE MINUTE PRESENTATION TO THE CLASS ABOUT A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY OF YOUR CHOICE (extra points if you present on the actual holiday)

*Presentation must answer all of these questions*:

* What does this holiday celebrate and what are its origins?
* What is the history of the holiday; how has it been celebrated in the past?
* What are some common contemporary practices: rituals, ceremonies, foods, clothing/costume, music, etc?
* What is the meaning of this holiday for practitioners and how does it fit within its larger religious context?

2. EXPERIENCE RELIGION LOCALLY

* Attend a religious service you have never attended, take a tour of a religious center that you have never been to, or meet with a religious leader whom you have never met
* After your experience, answer in 500 words (or more):
  + What did you experience?
  + Which religious concepts did you observe or experience?
  + How does this experience relate to your own beliefs?

1. WRITE A CRITICAL RESPONSE TO A CURRENT EVENT REGARDING RELIGION

*Response must be at least three pages, double-spaced, and address each of the following*:

* Describe the event or issue
* Why is this event or issue important for the practitioners of this religion(s)?
* Is this event or issue important in a larger, social or political context? If so, how?
* What are your thoughts, feelings, and reactions to this story?
* What might this story indicate for the future of this religion(s)?