

**Skepticism, Atheism, and Religious Faith (Religious Studies 2LL3)  
Fall 2013**

**TEXT PREPARATION 3**

**Assignment due in class on November 6\***

*\*As noted on the course syllabus: Text Preparation assignments are designed to help you prepare the reading assignment for a particular class, in conjunction with your participation in that class. Thus, those assignments may only be submitted in class on the days they are due. If you have to miss that day's class, please contact the instructor to make alternate arrangements.*

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This assignment is based on:

- Sigmund Freud, *The Future of an Illusion* (1927), trans. James Strachey (Norton) [purchase book]: I, II, III, VI, VII, VIII

In well-written paragraphs, a total of 500-600 words\*\*, please the following two questions with detailed reference to the text. (Please number your answers accordingly.)

1. How does Freud define "illusion"? (If you find that his definition of this concept relies on other ideas in the text, be sure to point out these connections.)
2. According to Freud, in what sense can we think of the idea of divine providence as an "illusion"?

As was the case for previous assignments, your observations should be backed up with references that allow your reader to see what they are based on. For this purpose, please use in-text parenthetical page references – for an example of these, see Harvey, *Writing with Sources* [selection in coursepack/book on reserve/purchase book], p. 51, under "MLA Basic Rules."

Note: Since this is your first reading of this text, and since we have not yet discussed it in class, the Text Preparation assignment is simply a first effort at figuring out what it says, and doing it will help you get the most of our in-class work on it. Your fuller understanding will develop in the course of our class meetings, and with successive re-readings.

\*\*Please print your assignment double-spaced and with one-inch margins, using a 10-12-point font. Please number and staple the pages you hand in.

Please indicate the total word count at the end of your assignment.

*Please keep a copy of your assignment to refer to in our class discussions of Freud over the next couple of meetings.*