

Skepticism, Atheism, and Religious Faith (Religious Studies 2LL3) – Fall 2017

TEXT PREPARATION 5 – Assignment due in class on November 21

This assignment consists of attendance of the full class session on November 21, plus completing the written assignment below, to be submitted in class on November 21 only.

(*Rationale:* Text Preparation assignments are designed to help you prepare the reading assignment for a particular class meeting, in conjunction with your participation in that class meeting, when we go over the reading selection together.)

If you cannot come to class on November 21, please plan to complete a different Text Preparation assignment for a future date.

This assignment is based on:

Martin Buber, *I and Thou* (1923), trans. Walter Kaufmann: pp. 53–64, 68–69, 82–85, 123–31, 148–50.

Martin Buber, “Religion and Philosophy” from *Eclipse of God* (1952) [essay in coursepack]. See also my list of Errata for this translation (<https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/danahol/2LL3/errata.pdf>).

Detailed Instructions. In well-written paragraphs, a total of 550–600 words, please address both of the following two questions with detailed reference to the text. (Please number your answers accordingly.)

1. In “Religion and Philosophy,” Buber reviews some traditional sources for what they have to say about the “immanence” and the “transcendence” of God. For two of those sources, explain how Buber uses them in order to present his own understanding of God’s immanence/transcendence.
2. What are some respects in which Buber’s understandings of “religion” and “philosophy” can be understood in relation to the distinction between “I-It” and “I-You” as explained in *I and Thou*.

As was the case for the Text Summary assignment, 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.”

Please print your assignment double-spaced and with one-inch margins, using an 11–12-point font. Please write your name and “Text Preparation 5” at the top of the first page, and indicate the total word count at the end. Please number and staple the pages you hand in.

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 the text says, and doing it will help you get the most of our in-class work on it. The assignment is not evaluated for whether it demonstrates a good understanding of the reading, but for evidence of your having worked in detail to understand the reading. Your fuller understanding will develop in the course of our class and tutorial meetings, and with successive re-readings.

Plagiarism Warning: This assignment is designed to be completed by means of independent work on the assigned readings by Martin Buber, aided by the guidance you have received in class/tutorial and by consulting the instructor: I am always available to discuss the questions you encounter as you read and re-read the texts for this class. It is neither necessary nor desirable that you consult outside sources in order to complete this assignment. Please remember that unacknowledged use of such sources constitutes plagiarism and is a violation of the university’s [Academic Integrity policy](#).

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