

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Jonathan Arbuckle **Humanities Discipline:** Anthropology **Date:** February 26th, 2016

World Religion: Christianity **Teaching Module Title:** Christianity Part 2

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to the impact of colonial Christianity in the United States and how it has helped influence the religious landscape today.
2. Explore the similarities and differences between global Christian ethics and practices and the intentional Amish and Mennonite communities in the Midwest.
3. Become familiar with intentional communities, ethnic boundaries, and Christian religious experiences and practices.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

Bowker: World Religions, pages 151-173

Wills: Christianity in the United States, pages 11-20

Brende: Better Off. Selected readings

Class outline/Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts/Assessments for Students:

General Class Discussion

- a. Overview of colonial Christianity and Christianity in the Midwest today
- b. Ethnic boundaries and insider/outsider knowledge and practices
- c. Mennonite and Amish beliefs and practices
 - i. Anabaptism
 - ii. Technology
 - iii. Community organization
 - iv. Gender roles

Assignment:

To submit before the next class meeting, students will compose a typed, 2 page essay focusing on the following question: *Using the information from class readings and today's discussion, explore the reasons why Mennonite and Amish communities choose to be culturally separate from society at large in many respects, but still integrate into society to varying degrees? How does this relate to specific religious beliefs and practices of these communities?* Students should incorporate at least one detail/example from the in-class lesson and one detail from their own research/experiences.