

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

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**Humanities Disciple:** History

**Date:** Feb 9, 2016

**World Religion:** Christianity

**Teaching Module Title:** Christianity

### Teaching Module Goal:

To discuss the role of evolving Christian doctrines and ethics in shaping political actions and public policies.

### Assigned Readings:

*Christianity in the United States* by David W. Wills pp 1-84.

<http://www.wctu.org>

<http://ushistory.org/us/38E.asp>

[http://www.fiarus.org/facts/us\\_laws](http://www.fiarus.org/facts/us_laws)

<http://www.hitortoday.com/jonathan-philips/crusades-completehistory>

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/history/inquisition.html>

<http://www.livescience.co/4321-creationis-vs--6-big-battles.html>

[www.susanbanthonyhouse.org](http://www.susanbanthonyhouse.org)

<http://www.amazon.com/the-abortion-battle-lookingissues/dp/0894907247>

### Discussion Prompts For Students: (American History I&II)

1. What role did the Christian churches play in the passage of prohibition as a constitutional amendment? What is the WCTU? Is it appropriate for the United States Constitution be amended for public policies like prohibition?
2. What did the 1890 Immigration Act accomplish? Why did the United States want to limit immigration from southern and eastern Europe. Did the Immigration Act of 1890 and following acts discriminate against Roman Catholics? Why or why not?
3. Why did it take so long for women to get the right to vote? Did some consider the women's right to vote a state issue?
4. Why is abortion such a controversial political issue? What is the Catholic Church's stance on abortion? What do various Protestant churches teach? Has church policy evolved?
5. What do different Christian churches teach about evolution? How does the teaching of evolution affect the interpretation of the Bible? Do all churches think the Bible is the word of God without error?
6. What are the benefits of settlement houses? Do they exist today?

### Prompts (World History III)

7. What role does the Catholic Church play in public attitudes toward contraception?
8. Explain why some countries involve themselves in reproductive rights and have policies limiting the size of families?
9. How does population growth fit with concerns about hunger and food stability?
10. What were the crusades? How did the church influence the need for the Crusades? How do the Crusades still affect foreign policy today in the Near East?
11. What was the role of the church in the inquisition? Why did Jews convert to Christianity as a result of the

inquisition? What about Muslims?

**Assignments:** (American History I & II)

Divide the class into groups and have each group and discuss how Christianity has influenced public policy on prohibition, voting rights, immigration, teaching of evolution and contraception. Continue the discussion in a large group. Ask if the Christian churches should be involved with public policy and on what level. Students need to formulate their own thoughts before the discussion and would be requested to write a paragraph before class on their thoughts. This would stimulate the discussions.

(World History 111)

I would use the same process for World History but would use the public policy issues of how the Inquisition and Crusades influenced the Middle East, ethnic cleansing, and the Holocaust. We would also discuss population control, national policies and how population control influences world hunger.

Before the discussion students would again be requested to write an advance paragraph in response.