

Final Examination

I.x Write brief essays (not more than a page for each) on four of the following:

- a) What (briefly but specifically) does Reinhold Niebuhr say about "minority groups" in contemporary American society (in his essay in Stahmer's Religion and Contemporary Society)?
- b) Upon what basis does Harry W. Jones delineate two "religious guarantees" in the First Amendment (in his article on Church-State Relations in Stahmer's Religion and Contemporary Society)?
- c) Can Protestantism be regarded as an "individualisation" of religion? Why, or why not?
- d) Some scholars have argued that Christianity develops out of a merging of the Greek "archetypal form" and the Hebrew "eschatological hope".x What does this mean?
- e) What does Walter Ong, S.J. mean when he states that the Church is an extension of the Incarnation in time and space?
- f) Why have commentators (suchx as Arthur A. Cohen) argued that Judaism is not a "theology"?

II.x Answer one of the following:

- a) Why does John Dewey's thesis that "reality is experience" lead inevitably to a pluralistic outlook? What are some strengths and weaknesses of this position? Discuss.
- b) In what ways can the organism's interaction with the environment be called "religious" for John Dewey?

III. Answer one of the following:

- a) Briefly reconstruct Reinhold Niebuhr's argument against "perfectionism". Why did he oppose both religious liberals and religious conservatives? Indicate some of the dominant features of his own alternative.

~~b) Why does Niebuhr exhibit his presupposition with the need to find "instruments of justice to apply and implement the fifth Commandment"? Discuss.~~

- b) Where does Reinhold Niebuhr locate man's basic problem? Discuss.

IV.x Answer two of the following:

- a) Which of the spokesmen assigned (or referred to) during the semester, do you think, has made the most significant advance in penetrating the problem of the relation between religion and society? Why?
- b) Does Reinhold Niebuhr have anything to say, either diagnostic or ~~rem~~ remedial, to the situation portrayed in the ~~movie~~ film Have I Told You Lately that I Love You? Explain.

- c) As a medically-trained, religiously-sensitive member of the Peace Corps, you have been assigned to a country wherein your attempts to teach principles of health and the prevention of disease have been frustrated by certain religious presuppositions of the people to whom you have been sent. What will you do first of all? Why?
- d) Increasing numbers of statesmen, politicians, and assessors of world affairs ~~have~~ are ~~arguing for the necessity~~ pointing to the necessity of developing a system of international law. Does John Dewey's policy-oriented system of value possess the potentiality for a satisfactory development in this direction? Explain.