

RELIGION 273: Final Examination: Please submit your final examination by email to Drs. Lustig and Zamir **by MIDNIGHT, May 8th**.

In an essay of 5-6 double-spaced pages (Chicago citation style in Times New Roman 12-pt. font), write a commentary that addresses and elaborates **one** of the following quotations from *Roman Catholics and Shi'i Muslims* (Bill and Williams). In your essay, draw especially on insights from that book, but also incorporate perspectives from other assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions.

In your answer, in a final separate paragraph, consider the ways that the particulars of your discussion raise both possibilities for as well as obstacles to interreligious dialogue between Roman Catholics and Shia.

A Note on the Audience: You are writing this essay for your peer-students with little or no background to Catholicism or Shi'ism.

Either

(1) "In this book, we seek to wrestle with issues such as the relationship between God and humanity; the continuum between life and death; the dialectic between war and peace; the gap between rich and poor; the significance of religious ceremony and drama; the place of saints, martyrs, and confessors; the role of the inner (*batin*) as oppose to the outer (*zahir*) reality of humankind; the role of redemptive suffering; the relationship between religion and politics; and the similarities and differences in legal systems" (Bill and Williams, p. 4).

- Reflect on **any three** of those themes, analyzing the similarities and differences in the two traditions.

- In a final separate paragraph, consider the ways that the three aspects you have compared raise both possibilities for as well as obstacles to interreligious dialogue between Roman Catholics and Shia.

Or

(2) On page 143 of the "Conclusion" to *Roman Catholics and Shi'i Muslims*, authors Bill and Williams provide an eight-point list of similarities in the belief and practice of the two traditions.

- Choose **any three** of these eight aspects and clarify through your commentary with *concrete examples* how the two religious traditions are similar in these facets. In the spirit of a more nuanced comparison, also highlight the major differences between the

two traditions on these points.

- In a final separate paragraph, consider the ways that the three aspects you have compared raise both possibilities for as well as obstacles to interreligious dialogue between Roman Catholics and Shia