

American Sacred Space
RELST 206 / WES 200

Final Paper on Sacred Space

- Assignment (from the class Website):

On the date specified, you will submit the final version of your “Sacred Space” project (of no less than 3750 words). This final version should include all of the elements developed for steps #1-3 [“Identification”; “Annotated Bibliography”; “Definition”]; you will be evaluated not only in how well you have developed an argument (with a thesis, evidence, and conclusion based on that evidence), explored and evaluated primary and secondary sources, and utilized methods explored in class and in the readings, but also in how well you have incorporated the comments and suggestions provided by me (to each of steps #1-3) and by your classmates (during the presentation). The final paper must be at least 3750 words.

- Strategies

> *BEFORE YOU START YOUR PAPER:*

- Organize your thoughts.
 - Make an outline with a beginning (introduction), middle (details), and end (conclusion)
- Think through if / how the elements of your work so far – particularly your identification of the sacred space and your definition – are linked / related.
- Consider the major theorists we have read: Eliade; Lane; Chidester / Linenthal; Foote.
 - Which of these theories of / definitions about sacred space best corresponds to yours? How?
 - Which of these theories of / definitions about sacred space is most contrary to yours? How?

> *INCLUDE IN YOUR PAPER:*

- An introduction that provides a basic overview of your entire paper, and the thesis (argument / main point) you are going to prove.
- The following (in whatever order you think is most effective for your thesis / argument):
 - A section that describes your selected sacred space
 - A section that provides your definition of sacred space
 - A subsection comparing / differentiating your definition from those we have read by Eliade, Lane, Chidester / Linenthal, and Foote
 - A section that relates your selected sacred space to your definition
- A conclusion that illustrates how your definition could be expanded to apply to other spaces

The final paper is due on the date indicated on the “Schedule of Readings & Assignments” Web page, and may be submitted electronically.