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HI-122-01- Haiti: Window on Our Worlds

Spring 2015

“Only the walker who sets out toward ultimate things is a pilgrim. In this lies the terrible difference between tourist and pilgrim. The tourist travels just as far, sometimes with great zeal and courage, gathering up acquisitions (a string of adventures, a wondrous tale or two) and returns the same person as the one who departed. There is something inexpressibly sad in the clutter of belongings the tourist unpacks back at home. The pilgrim is different. The pilgrim resolves that the one who returns will not be the same person as the one who sets out.”

Andrew Shelling, Meeting the Buddha

**Readings for “Haiti: Window on Our Worlds”**

**Following is a list of readings, copies of which will be provided in electronic or “hard” copy form. A brief, written reflection on each of these readings is required for completion of the course. Additional readings may be provided as appropriate. In addition to these readings each student should find at least one other article of interest to share with everyone in the class. You selection of an article may be guided exclusively by questions arising from the assigned readings or your own curiosity and interests (in, say, art, music, literature, religion, politics, etc.). Alternatively you may select an article dealing with one of the following “critical issues”: Food, Water, Energy, Land, Climate Change, Environment, Education, Development Aid.**

**In your reflection please include the following:**

* A brief (1-2 sentences) summary, in your own words, of the author’s intent or purpose (e.g., In “*Apocalypse: What Disasters Reveal” the journalist Junot Diaz looks into the ruins of Haiti following the massive earthquake of January 2010 and attempts to describe what for him the earthquake revealed – about Haiti, our world, and even our future.)*
* A summary of what ideas or statements struck you the most or made the greatest impression on you in reading the article.
* A statement of questions arising or items for further exploration or research that occur to you as a result of reading the article.
* A brief (1-2 word) evaluation of the article’s content, level, and suitability for continued use. (e.g., “superficial”, “dense”, “comprehensive”; “simplistic”, “requires considerable background”; “excellent”, “very helpful”, “too dated”, “more of these”, “UGH”)

**Draft Reading List**

1. Diaz, Junot. “Apocalypse: What Disasters Reveal”
2. New Agriculturalist: Country Profile – Haiti
3. Tverberg, Gail. “Haiti’s Energy Problem” (in “The Oil Drum”)
4. Ayiti Kale Je (Haiti Grassroots Watch), “Why is Haiti Hungry?”
5. Arthur, Charles. Haiti in Focus (Selected chapters: Land and People; History; The Economy;
6. Corbett, Bob. “Why is Haiti So Poor?”
7. Corbett, Bob. “Introduction to Voodoo in Haiti”
8. Corbett, Bob. Comments on Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the International Community and Haiti by Alex Dupuy
9. Danticat, Edwidge. (ed) The Butterfly’s Way (Selections: *Present, Past and Future; Restavek; A Cage of Words; Adieu Miles and Good-Bye Democracy*)