**Rationale:** Understanding world belief systems is an integral aspect of global cultural understanding. In order to comprehend the significance of this universal phenomenon, one must dissect the foundations and origins and diffusion of these belief systems

**Directions:** Our first major project of the year will be a combination of using technology, in-depth research and looking at world religions from a global perspective. Once you have researched one of the world’s major religions, you will then create a webpage that shows how the religion has **changed over time**. *You are NOT simply giving a presentation on the history of the religion.* Your choice of turning points to include must be significant. When assessing the major shifts of global religions, you will want to ask yourself a few key questions as a guideline:

* How the religion was originally practiced? What were some of the key beliefs that can be traced to original scriptures and texts at the religion’s inception?
* Was there more than one turning point for a major religion? What are some key events that changed how the religion was practiced by followers? What are some key decisions made by the followers/leaders of the religion that may have changed the original intent and practices of the founder?
* What were some of the wider consequences once those changes were in place? Were there key changes as the religion spread from one place to another? Who/what were the catalyst in the diffusion?(trade/merchants)
* How does the religion stand now? If the original founder of the religion were to evaluate how the religion is practiced today, would they recognize it?
* What was the role of the women then and now according to the belief/religion practiced? Did this lead to any social benefits (or social evils such as *sati,* stoning to death, no education for women)
* Create the spread of religion on AP World History Regions

**CRITERIA for the Website (75 points)**

1) Content: accurate information? Shows depth of understanding? Acknowledges significant and key turning points of the religion? (30 points)

2) Visuals: deliberate and thoughtful choices of visuals, video clips and (or) podcasts? Reflective of key shifts in religion? (15 points)

3) Organization/Layout of webpage(s): logical organization of pages? Thoughtful progression? Neat and readable text? (10 points)

4) Research: reveals solid research? Proper bibliography included (10 points)

5) Use of Media: effective use and set up of website? (10 points)

**PRESENTATION (25 points)**

Do you use of all the qualities of a good verbal presentation (i.e.: articulate words, good pacing, etc.) Do you use your webpages in an effective manner during your presentation?

Do you show a good understanding of your religion through answering questions

**Due Date September 25, 2014**