

Dr. Elfriede Wedam
Sociology 145 Religion and Society
Loyola University Chicago

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT: DEBATE BETWEEN TONY BLAIR AND CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS ON “IS RELIGION A FORCE FOR GOOD IN THE WORLD?”*

Read chapter 14 in *Religion Matters*, “Do We Need God to Do Good?” and the article “Lunging, Flailing, Mispunching” by Terry Eagleton to prepare for listening to this debate. We will watch it in class on Friday, October 4, 2013. Take notes as you listen.

Write a 3-4 page essay following these guidelines.

- a) Who had the most persuasive argument? (Not who you happen to agree with, but who won the debate?) Explain why.
- b) Identify one important idea that you learned while listening to this debate.
- c) Why do you believe that this idea is important?
- d) Identify and explain at least one point made in chapter 14 or in the article by Eagleton that challenged one of the debaters (or vice-versa).
- e) What questions(s) has this debate raised for you? What are you wondering about?

General format: This paper is due **Friday, October 11, 2013, in class**. Please type and double-space, using standard margins. Check for grammar, punctuation, correct word usage, spelling, and typos. I downgrade for writing errors. No late papers accepted. No email papers accepted. This assignment is worth *25 points*.

*This debate was sponsored by the Munk Family of Canada and took place in Toronto. If you wish to see it again on your own, I think you can get free access to at least parts of it at www.munkdebates.com or on YouTube.

