Kohler Seminar Reflection 5-11-13

1. For me this idea of presenting a seminar for an exhibition seemed like a unique and creative way to express our knowledge of religion that we had gotten over the last few months. The preparation for the seminar was a little odd and hard to do because we didn’t really want a scripted seminar and we wanted to keep our ideas for the actual seminar. When it came to the real seminar I was a little uneasy because there was not many people there and it seemed like none of the spectators were going to participate, however once we got started I got more into it and felt a lot better about how it was going to turn out. I started out okay, I was talking but it appeared that I was talking to quiet and nobody could hear me, once I got a reminder from m peers that we needed to speak up I did my best to be more clear and speak up when I was talking. I was really happy that after little while we had some participation from other people like Lori fisher and another lady who actually challenged one of my peers which was pretty cool to watch what she had to say and how he responded to her argument.
2. From what I saw during our exhibition my peers had great points shared great ideas and had a deep understanding of the content we have been studying. There was also a huge amount of respect and tolerance within our group which is traits we have been practicing and it was defiantly shown with the responses and ideas. Although our class seems to be moderate about our beliefs it was great to have some diversity in the groups we had Christians, atheists, and agnostic; this diversity in my opinion made the discussion go deeper and interesting.
3. Although it was a great seminar I feel like I didn’t get influenced by it or feel a change in beliefs. we had many discussions before this that we went through beliefs and ideas about religion so it was not a totally new thing for me to be hearing my peers thoughts. I did get a better understanding on how fragile religion can be, for example when the lady from the side group spoke up I didn’t understand what she was saying or how she had come to think in that way, then I realized how easy it is to get different meanings from anything in religion making it so easy to get perhaps the wrong idea from it. It also showed me why you have to have respect during a discussion like this to avoid offending people.
4. I think that even though religion is so complicated in many ways it still seems to all be related as well. We talked about how religion is a bad influence in the world but didn’t get to the subject of “Do you need evil to have good”. These two subjects don’t appear to be related but when you look at how much good and evil is in religion, it raises the question of whether or not you need to have evil in religion to have good in as well. For instance how can some people kill thousands if not millions of people in the name of religion, and others spend there while lives helping people in the name of the same religion. I think that because religion is so complicated that almost all subjects in it are related to each other.
5. My thoughts on some of these subjects have been greatly changed and others not as mentioned above. I have gotten a great understanding for the reasons that we have respect and tolerance for other beliefs. With all the pain in our world caused by religion I feel that a lot of it is caused by simple misunderstandings and human error to see what is good and evil. If more people felt like I do in my opinion and stay open minded and use religion for an excuse to do good and not evil then there would be less violence in this world. Take the crusades for example, if the Europeans had been open minded to others ideas and had not used religion as an excuse to invade other countries then thousands of lives would have been spared. Same goes for 911, if those terrorists would have seen that others have chosen a different path of beliefs and believed practically the same ideas as they did then other lives would have been spared. In conculsion I remain a non-practicing person but also have a set mind to remain open-minded and avoid judging others for there beliefs.