GE Honors Contract Application Write-Up

I am enrolled in RS 361 for the Fall 2014 semester, an upper-division GE course held on Fridays from 11 - 1:45 pm as a collaborative session online. I am going to be working with Professor James Findlay, the instructor for this course in completing the GE Honors Contract. In order to earn credit for the GE Honors Contract, I will be writing a research paper centered on the relationship between Morality and Religion. My research paper work will focus on how ethics and morals are related or overlap to the concept of religion. It is a topic that I found interesting because I come from a family of religious Catholics, and I too find myself practicing this belief. Although it is a topic that was covered during the first week of class, I found it very interesting on how many different opinions there are about this topic. Many of my peers do see a correlation but some do not as they see to a different way of interaction that does not connect these two issues. I will be covering all these opinions in my research paper to thoroughly go over on every perspective from every side.

In order to complete the first requirement of the GE Honors Contract, I will read passages from two books recommended by the professor: "Fear and Trembling" by Soren Kierkegaard and "Religion and Morality" a book on a collection of essays edited by Gene Outka and John P. Reeder, Jr. Specifically, I chose to include in my research paper ideas from an excerpt from the Part II section called *Traditions in Judaism and Christianity* called "Worthy of Worship": A Catholic Contribution by Eric D'Arcy. Another section of text that I am interesting in looking at further is from Part III of the book called Modern Philosophical Discussion called *Is Morality Logically Dependent on Religion?* by William K. Franken. I checked these two books out at the Oviatt library and will be renewing them on September 2nd so that I can use them throughout the semester. If necessary, I will also use online resources such as websites and the CSUN database articles that are related or that I would like to include in my paper. I will check in with Professor Findlay to verify the use of these web pages and/or articles. I will use direct quotes from the book to support my ideas and will cite my essay using APA style format.

In order to fulfil the second requirement of the GE Honors Contract, I will inform Professor Findlay via email that I will go to his office hours in order to go over the progress of my research paper. I plan to meet with Professor Findlay on a bi-monthly basis – 2x a month. The schedule I plan to follow in order to update the professor on the research paper process is in the following days: 9/8, 9/22, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 11/24. I will also ask any questions or concerns that I might have about the research topic as the semester goes along. The content of my research paper will be evaluated based on grammar and follow the same guidelines as the Major Paper assignment also due for this class. I need to state my opinions as well as highlight other's points of views. I eventually plan to have a 10-12 page research paper completed by the end of the semester and will submit it to the GE Honors Department to substitute RS 361 as an Honors course for the Fall 2014 semester.