

Teaching World-Views: Its Importance in English Education

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Abstract. H. Richard Niebuhr, the American theologian, in his 1951 book *Christ And Culture*, presented a paradigm for understanding the foundational beliefs of Christianity in the way its various manifestations relate to mainstream culture. I have expanded it to include the secular world as well. This paradigm, I have found, is an effective pedagogical tool for introducing Japanese college students majoring in Global Studies to basic political and religious belief systems. Niebuhr divides these belief systems, or world-views, into five categories: Against Culture, Culture In Paradox, Above Culture, Transformer of Culture, and Of Culture. Japanese students, through learning the paradigm, gain valuable reference points for Western religious and political life.

Keywords: Against Culture, Of Culture, Above Culture, Culture in Paradox, Transformer of Culture