**HI 345 Religions in America Site Visit Permission Form for Recording and/or Photography**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Contact email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church/Religious Organization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This student at Worcester State University is visiting a local religious organization for a project in the Fall 2019 course “Religions in America.” Each student will document a religious community in the Worcester area and write up a profile to be presented to the class. As a part of the project, a student may request to photograph or record inside the religious space for research purposes. Photographs or recordings will not be posted online or shared on social media. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Hangen, [thangen@worcester.edu](mailto:thangen@worcester.edu) or 508-929-8688.

Person granting permission \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact info (phone and/or email) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , give permission for the student named above to:

(check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ take photographs

\_\_\_\_\_\_ record sound

\_\_\_\_\_\_ make a digital video recording

Stipulations or special instructions: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Site Visit Checklist**

Obtain this basic information for your community

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Timestamp and duration of your visit & what day of the week |  |
| Name of Site / Community (what do they call themselves?) |  |
| Religion, Denomination, or Affiliation |  |
| Building Address, Phone # and Website |  |
| Congregation’s leader or contact person |  |
| Date founded |  |
| Date the building was built and/or renovated into its current form |  |

What to pay attention to …

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Format, length of time, and description of the service you attended |  |
| Music in the service (instruments? People?) |  |
| Scriptures or holy texts used by this group |  |
| Languages spoken during the service |  |
| Description of the building’s exterior |  |
| Description of the interior space(s) |  |
| Approx # of people at the service, or size of the congregation. Ages? Gender? |  |
| Any special programs or community outreach efforts they sponsor (like ESL classes, a soup kitchen, etc) |  |

Did you observe any of the following?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sermon, homily or speech |  | Media screen projecting words or images |  |
| Taking up a collection, asking for donations |  | People reading or reciting together |  |
| Singing by the congregation |  | Laughter, exclamations or applause (how responsive is the audience?) |  |
| Singing by a choir or professional soloist |  | Special time directed at children |  |
| People greeting each other |  | Participation by teenagers or children |  |
| Hymnbooks or music aids |  | Silent prayer or meditation / silences |  |
| Prayer (who prays? How long? What’s said?) |  | Spontaneous speech or speaking in tongues |  |
| Piano or Organ |  | Lighted candles or burning incense |  |
| Other musical instruments (specify) |  | Directed standing/sitting/kneeling |  |
| Specialized clothing |  | Blessing, ordination or other ritual |  |
| Communion, Eucharist, or ritual food offering |  | Food or refreshments (not ritual food) |  |
| Written bulletin or printed service outline |  | Reading of scriptures or holy texts |  |

**Site Visit Template** (At least 3 pages, double-spaced) – due Oct 23, PRINTED & BROUGHT TO CLASS

**Cut / paste or retype the outline below into a Word document and complete each section**

I. Your Name and Date of your Visit

II. Identifying information for the religious community

III. Description of the religious community’s physical characteristics (exterior, interior)

IV. What you observed during your visit (report without opinion, just your objective observations)

V. Your personal reflections, experiences, or feelings during your visit

VI. Questions you plan to answer in your further research

**Microhistory Template** (Minimum 1200 words, double-spaced) – due Nov 4, SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY TO BLACKBOARD as Word doc (.doc or .docx) or PDF. Please include presentation slides, if any

**Cut / paste or retype the outline below into a Word document and complete each section. Information in italics is to guide that section and can be deleted after your writing.**

I. Your Name and Title of Your Project

II. Introduction / Overview of Religious Community

*basic identifying information, location, size*

III. Historical Background

*both of this faith tradition generally and the specific community locally*

IV. Distinctive Features of this Community in 2019 in Worcester

*include any relevant details or observations from your visit*

V. Conclusion

VI. Reflection: What you learned from this project about religious pluralism in Worcester

VII. Sources Cited