

**5-3-1 Assignment Week 5: Postmodernity and the Moral Life**

**QUESTIONS**

1. What are the two primary ways to examine postmodernity?
2. Describe the two foundational assumptions on which the postmodern understanding of knowledge is established?
3. What is Walter Truett Anderson's story of the three umpires?
4. According to postmodern context, what constitutes the "Great Virtue?"
5. The moral universe can be defined by two words, according to Philip Turner. What are they?

**ANSWERS**

1. One is to explore the intellectual thinking of its most influential thinkers found mainly among philosophers, literary critics, and linguists. The other is to explore common proclivities that describe the whole or at minimum pockets of the culture. (pg. 108)
2. Postmoderns view all interpretations of authenticity as beneficial but not objectively true frameworks. Postmoderns deny that we have the aptitude to move past our structures of reality. (pg. 108)
3. The first umpire says there are balls and strikes and I call them as they are, the second umpire says there are balls and strikes and I call them as I see them and the third umpire says there are balls and strikes and they are nothing until I call them. (pg. 112)
4. Tolerance (pg. 116)
5. Person and self. (pg. 121)

**TERMS**

1. Metanarratives – the grand ideas or foundational constructs that people use to explain reality and bring coherence to the world. (pg.109)
2. Emotivism – An argument that all moral judgments are expressed as preferences, attitudes, or feelings rather than evaluative judgments. (pg. 115)
3. Deconstruction - a mode of analysis that intends to take apart all expressions of objective meaning, showing that everything is capricious linguistic developments, masks for cultural power, and rationalization for oppression. (pg. 109)

**SUMMARY**

Authenticity is perceived by post-moderns as useful, but not objectively true. To put it simply, postmodernism denies the existence of a unified world as the subject of our perception. Postmodernists believe there are many worldviews, each of which has its own merits, rather than one correct worldview. There are many sources used to seek answers. Some see it as a threat, while others see it as a panacea.