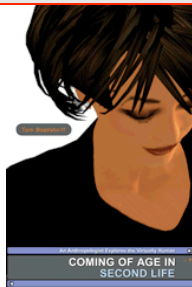


## COURSE TEXTS

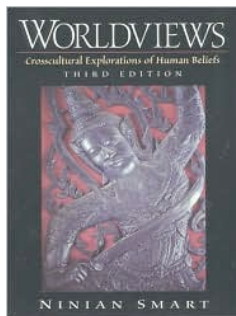


### ***Coming of Age in Second Life***

— Tom Boellstorff

*Coming of Age in Second Life* shows how virtual worlds can change ideas about identity and society. Bringing anthropology into territory never before studied, this book demonstrates that in some ways humans have always been virtual, and that virtual worlds in all their rich complexity build upon a human capacity for culture that is as old as humanity itself.

(<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/8647.html>)

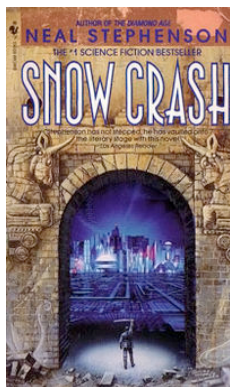


### ***Worldviews: Crosscultural Explorations of Human Beliefs***

— Ninian Smart

This book offers a balanced, wide-ranging, and *realistic* approach to the *full range* of worldviews, showing how, whether religious or secular, they define the human values that drive the engines of both continuity and change worldwide. It shows readers the *dynamics* of each tradition, and emphasizes that although the various traditions may all share similar aspects, they each assign varying levels of *importance* to specific areas. Explores the major religious traditions and secular ideologies (Marxism, nationalisms, scientific humanism) from six dimensions: experiential/emotional; narrative/mythic; doctrinal/philosophical; ethical/legal; ritual/practical; and social/organizational. For anyone interested in comparative worldviews, religious and secular.

(<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Worldviews/Ninian-Smart/e/9780130209801>)



### ***Snow Crash***

-Neal Stephenson

From the opening line of his breakthrough cyberpunk novel *Snow Crash*, Neal Stephenson plunges the reader into a not-too-distant future. It is a world where the Mafia controls pizza delivery, the United States exists as a patchwork of corporate-franchise city-states, and the Internet-incarnate as the Metaverse-looks something like last year's hype would lead you to believe it should. Enter Hiro Protagonist-hacker, samurai swordsman, and pizza-delivery driver. When his best friend fries his brain on a new designer drug called Snow Crash and his beautiful, brainy ex-girlfriend asks for his help, what's a guy with a name like that to do? He rushes to the rescue. A breakneck-paced 21st-century novel, *Snow Crash* interweaves everything from Sumerian myth to visions of a postmodern civilization on the brink of collapse. Faster than the speed of television and a whole lot more fun, *Snow Crash* is the portrayal of a future that is bizarre enough

to be plausible.  
(<http://www.amazon.com/Snow-Crash-Bantam-Spectra-Book/dp/0553380958>)



***Exploring Religious Community  
Online.***

- Heidi Campbell

Campbell (communication, Texas A&M U.) discusses religious communities that form on the Internet, addressing such aspects as the Internet as a social and a spiritual network, identity narratives in cyberspace, creating community through email, connecting on-line and off-line community, and perspectives and attitudes. Annotation ©2004 Book News, Inc., Portland, OR (<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Exploring-Religious-Community-Online/Heidi-Campbell/e/9780820471051/>)