Comparative Worldviews

### Western vs. Eastern Perspectives

Directions: Read the following worldview descriptions and choose a worldview for the statements below. Think of a reason why you chose each worldview for the statements and be prepared to explain your responses.

**Western Worldview**

Two ideas have shaped the Western worldview.

1. Rene Descartes’s Cogito ergo sum (I think therefore I exist) really states that a person’s identity is established with the mind separate of the whole organism. When Descartes determined that the mind and body are split, the next step was easy, the individual can be divided up into even more categories.

2. The mechanistic worldview as described by Sir Isaac Newton established the belief that the model of the universe is a huge machine put together with a vast amount of different objects. The world as a “machine” fits nicely into the scientific revolution, when the primary goal of scientists was to establish outside forces that cause change.

**Eastern Worldview**

The Eastern view of the world can simply be stated “All is one.” The world is one big organism that is interrelated, connected, and shares the same ultimate reality. The highest aim is to become aware of the unity and mutual interaction of all things, referred to as “Enlightenment.” The act of enlightenment involves intellectual acts as well as experiences that involve the whole person are religious in nature. For that reason, Eastern philosophies and Eastern religions are intertwined.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1. If it rains, it rains.

\_\_\_\_\_\_2. I am in a hurry to find an answer.

\_\_\_\_\_\_3. Good and evil are in a battle.

\_\_\_\_\_\_4. I believe the facts that the sun is the center of the universe.

\_\_\_\_\_\_5. Birds are higher up on the food chain than worms.

\_\_\_\_\_\_6. We are marching forward through time.

\_\_\_\_\_\_7. The flower is the clouds and the rain and the sunshine too.

\_\_\_\_\_\_8. Good and evil are one and the same.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 9. It is raining because a low pressure system is moving in the region.

\_\_\_\_\_\_10. Infinity exists.