

Introduction to World Religions

Study Guide

2nd Edition
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Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Defining Religion	7
1.1 Dimensions of Religion and Religious Beliefs	7
1.2 Types of Theism	8
1.3 The Theisms of Religions	8
1.4 Origins of Religion	9
1.5 Religious Theories	9
1.6 Religious Orientations	10
Chapter 1 Review Questions	11
Chapter 2: Indigenous Religions	12
2.1 Iroquois Nation	13
2.2 Inuit	13
2.3 Lakota	14
2.4 Apache	15
2.5 West African Religions	16
Rites of Passage	16
2.6 Other Indigenous Religions	17
Chapter 2 Review Questions	19
Chapter 3: Hinduism	20
3.1 Hindu Gods and Goddesses	21
3.2 Sacred Writings	22
Four Varna	23
Four permissible goals	24
3.3 Daily Sacrifices and Rituals	24
Pilgrimage	25
Old Holy cities as per Puranic Texts	25
3.4 Festivals	25
Gurus	25
3.4 Denominations	26
3.5 Demographics	26
Chapter 3 Summary	27
Chapter 3 Review Questions	28
Chapter 4: Buddhism	29
4.1 Who was Buddha?	29

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

4.2 The Three Refuges	30
4.3 The Four Noble Truths	31
The Noble Eightfold Path	32
4.4 The Four Immeasurables	32
4.5 The Middle Way	33
4.6 Nature of Existence	33
4.7 The Three Marks of Existence	33
Dependent Arising	33
Liberation	34
Practice	34
4.8 The Three Jewels	35
4.9 Buddhist Ethics	35
4.10 Schools and Traditions	36
4.11 Buddhism Today	37
4.12 Demographics	38
Chapter 4 Review Questions	39
Chapter 5: Asian Religions	40
5.1 Buddhism	40
Ancient and pre-historic	41
Modern History	41
Demographics	42
5.2 Confucianism	42
Historical Development of Confucianism	42
Confucianism traits	43
Confucianism texts	44
Respect of Ancestors	44
5.3 Taoism	44
Important themes	45
5.4 Chinese Ethnic Religions	46
Chinese Holidays	46
5.5 Shinto	47
Religious Practices	47
Chapter 5 Review Questions	49
Chapter 6: Judaism	50

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

6.1 Defining Character in Judaism	50
6.2 Creation Story	51
6.3 Jewish Religious Texts	52
6.4 Jewish Ethics	52
Prayers	52
Religious Clothing	53
Jewish holidays	53
The Synagogue	53
Dietary Laws for Jews	54
Purity Laws	54
Life Cycle Events	55
6.5 Community Leadership	55
6.6 Hasidism	56
6.7 The Enlightenment and New Religious Movements	57
6.8 What Do Jews Believe About The Afterlife?	57
Chapter 6 Review Questions	58
Chapter 7: Christianity	60
7.1 Martin Luther	60
Beliefs	61
7.2 Creeds	62
The Chalcedonian Creed (451 AD)	62
The Athanasian Creed	63
7.3 Jesus Christ	63
Trinity	64
7.4 Scriptures	65
7.5 Eschaton	66
Death and Afterlife	66
7.6 Worship	67
7.7 History	69
7.8 Major Denominations Within Christianity	71
Chapter 7 Review Questions	74
Chapter 8: Islam	76
8.1 Articles of Faith	76
8.2 Resurrection and Judgment	78

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

8.3 Five Pillars	78
8.4 Jurists	79
8.5 Islamic Lifestyle	80
8.6 History	81
8.7 Denominations	82
8.8 Demographics	83
Chapter 8 Review Questions	85
Chapter 9: Modern Times	87
9.1 Religious Movements	87
9.2 Liberalism	88
9.3 Marxism	89
9.4 The Great Awakening	90
9.5 Christian Science	91
9.6 Jehovah's Witnesses	91
9.7 Mormonism	92
9.8 Evangelicalism	92
9.9 Cults	93
Chapter 9 Review Questions	94
Answer Key	96

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 1: Defining Religion

Religion encompasses different ideas across the globe. Religion is a cultural system of practiced beliefs and rituals that include a holy text, holy individuals, holy places, and ethics by which people should live. Religion can be the belief in a personal God or gods that direct the world's order or have set the world in place and stepped back.

Religion includes symbols and doctrines. Most religions include rituals for those who choose to practice. Many religions attempt to answer the question of what happens to the body, mind, spirit, and soul upon death. Some religions teach ethics for individuals in this life so they might be rewarded in the next life or after death, while others believe the body and essence of the person ceases to exist after death.

Some religions have millions of followers, while others are comprised of only a few. All religions have a set of beliefs and dogmas that define the relationship between the follower and the sacred, or Divine One.

Religion is universal in the world and it is a very ancient institution. Since the beginning of time, individuals and entire cultures have tried to understand the essences of life and death and their relationship with the creator.

While everyone believes their religion and/or religious practices hold the “correct” answer to these questions, it is important to understand the beliefs of others. Studying religion gives insight to the ethics and morals of other people.

1.1 Dimensions of Religion and Religious Beliefs

Myths are tenets within religion or one component of the religion. The word itself may seem to say the component is made up or untrue, but in this case, the word myth is an aspect of the religion. A myth may be something that carries historical or symbolic meaning within that religion. Every religion has myths.

Supernatural or sacred beliefs are also components that are part of a particular religion.

Rituals are the repetitive actions a believer or holy person practices. A ritual is a sequence where something is done first, then a second something, then a third, etc. Rituals may be prayers said at a certain time of day or they can be the order of the worship. Rituals can be words, songs, or objects used in a holy place. Holy places can be outdoor locations where something pertinent to the religion happened or they could be a building like a church, mosque, or temple.

Doctrine is used to teach religious beliefs within a particular religion. The doctrine of a religion holds the law or “codified” (written) beliefs of that religion; this is used to teach children and the newly initiated the principles and beliefs of the religion. It may include the ethics, morals, and

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

rituals of the religion and reasons why the religion holds those ideals sacred. These doctrines are accepted by the church (religion) and may include a creed of beliefs the candidate must know.

1.2 Types of Theism

Theism is the belief in a god or gods that drives the religion and connects the individual to the universe. The word “theism” is derived from the Greek word “theos”, meaning “god”.

Mono (meaning “one”) and theism is the belief that there is one all-powerful god.

Poly (meaning “many”) theism is the belief that many gods and/or goddesses exist. Some individuals who are polytheistic also believe that gods worshipped by other religions are acceptable as well.

Pan (meaning “all”) theism is the belief that all in the universe is part of one whole and that is the same as god. Pantheists do not believe in a “personal” god. God is not personal to them, but an impersonal force that is non-anthropomorphic.

Panentheism are similar to the pantheists in that the universe is one with god. But, they believe god is the universe, but there is more to the universe and that god is part of that as well. They do hold a belief in a personal god; in panentheism, god speaks, has thoughts, is good, and is loving.

Henotheism (“heno” means “one”) is the belief in the worship of one god, but worshipers do not deny there are other gods. Followers believe they owe loyalty to their god while still respecting other gods.

Deism or deists believe in a single god creator, but reject organized religion. Their god is one of rationality. They do not have a “personal” relationship with god. While god set the world in motion, he does not intervene or interfere with daily life.

Atheism is about not believing. An atheist does not believe there is a god in the world, which is a rejection of all gods.

Agnosticism is a theory of knowledge rather than a religious belief. Agnosticism states it is not possible to have an absolute knowledge of god or to be certain of god’s existence.

1.3 The Theisms of Religions

Monotheistic religions are: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Rasta, Baha’I, Zoroastrians, and Vodou (Voodoo).

Polytheism religions are: Zurvanism (off-shoot of Zoroastrianism), pagan Aztecs, Greeks, Celts, Egyptians, Norse, Sumerians, and Babylonians.

Panentheism: The Science of Mind.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Henotheism: Ancient Hebrews. They worshipped one god, but did not actively deny the existence of other gods.

1.4 Origins of Religion

Religion originated in different places, independent of one another, all over the world. In several parts of the world (Americas and Africa), religion was an oral tradition rather than a written one. Many of the religions that were developed in these areas practiced beliefs, such as animism. Animism is the belief that plants and other inanimate objects have a soul. They also practiced polytheism and totemism. Totemism is the belief that humans have a relationship with a spirit being or totem. That spirit being can be an animal or a plant. Whereas polytheism is the belief in many gods, some polytheistic beliefs hold that there is one major god with several demi-gods. In East Asia, religions honor ancestors, nature, and polytheism. The major religions are Taoism, Confucianism, and Shinto.

In India, religion is based on a group of deities and reincarnation. Religions from India include Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism. These religions teach that there is a non-intervening, distant god(s) that does not provide directly for salvation. The religions of India teach reincarnation in cyclical time; all individuals have to be reincarnated at least once.

Religions originating in the Middle East are Judaism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism, and Baha'i. These religions have sacred books, and rather than cyclical time, they are based on linear time. A strong disbelief in reincarnation exists. There is a single god who does intervene in human affairs, but provides personal salvation to followers.

1.5 Religious Theories

Animistic Theory

Animistic theory holds the belief that all things have a spirit or a soul; this includes animals, plants, rivers, mountains, the sun, the moon, and stars. These spirits or souls can be helpful to humans or they can be harmful. Animists believe that all spirits must be appeased and worshipped. Worship requires sacrifices, prayers, and dancing. The goal is for the spirit to bless the worshiper's crops, fertility, and health, and to protect them from harm.

Edward Tylor (1832-1917) developed the current working animistic theory. Tylor was an anthropologist who studied primitive cultures and it is here that he noted the practice of animism. Records of animism date back to the Israelites and their practice of idol worship.

Closely akin to Animistic Theory is Max Muller's Theory of Nature Worship.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Nature Worship Theory

Max Muller (1823-1900) was a 19th-century philosopher who developed the theory of nature worship. Much like Tylor's coining of the phrase "Animistic Theory", Muller noted that worship of nature had its origins in the earliest of religions practices. While both theories place heavy emphasis on nature and a spiritual component, Muller held that the early Vedic gods [Agni (air), Vayu (sun), and Surya (fire)] were the forces of nature that were worshipped. This theory is based on Vedas, the oldest document of its kind. The written text cannot be empirically dated to an exact period, but it is believed to have been written prior to the time of Homer the Poet (850 BC).

James Frazier and the Magic Theory

James Frazier (1854-1941) was a Scottish social anthropologist who authored *The Golden Bough* (1890), which detailed the similarities of magical and religious beliefs around the world. He posited that humans start their religious journey by moving through three stages: primitive magic, religion, and science.

Karl Marx

Karl Marx (1818-1883) was a German philosopher, economist, journalist, and revolutionary socialist. He is best known for his writing of *The Communist Manifesto*. He believed that religion was a way for the wealthy to control the poor. He noted that the working class was poor and oppressed, and religion gave them hope, making them easier to be managed by the wealthy. Marx stated, "Religion is the sign of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, just as it is the spirit of a spiritless situation. It is the opium of the people."

Sigmund Freud

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), an Austrian neurologist and founder of psychoanalytic theory, was born into a Jewish household; however, he was an atheist. He viewed religion as a myth held by people who needed a powerful father figure to take care of them. He often talked about religion as something to overcome and noted that the God illusion was something to be set aside in favor of modern science and reason.

Emile Durkheim

Durkheim (1858-1917) was the founder of the study of sociology. He believed that religion helps to create a unified system of beliefs for the group. Religion is the practice of sacred things. This single morality, belief, and practice unites individuals into a group, often called a "church". Individuals are given a set of moral behaviors to abide by and immorality is defined for them. They are expected to conform to the group beliefs – to be religious was to be part of the community.

1.6 Religious Orientations

Religious orientations involve a person's connection to the belief in the nature and existence of a god or gods. It also involves the individual's willingness to adopt the prescriptions set in motion by the religion as it applies to morality, community, and spirituality.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

- Intrinsic orientation is when an individual feels a personal connection to their chosen religion or god. The individual adopts religion as part of their daily life.
- Extrinsic orientation is when a person views religion as only one part of their life, but they do not engage in a steady, daily practice of the chosen religion.
- Prophetic orientation is when the individual is connected to the sacred world in such a way that they receive personal revelations from the deity.
- Sacramental or priestly orientation is a connection to the deity or divine by carrying out the rituals of that religion.
- Mystical orientation is a connection and feeling of oneness with the universe.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 1 Review Questions

- Scholars are more likely to define religion to mean which of the following?
 - Renewal
 - Worship
 - Reconnecting
 - Belief in a higher power
- The dictionary defines _____ as “a religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order.”
 - Sacrifice
 - Rituals
 - Doctrine
 - Myths
- Which of the following types of religions is not likely to follow a non-anthropomorphic deity?
 - Monotheistic
 - Polytheistic
 - Panentheistic
 - Henotheistic
- Zoroastrians can be thought of as a _____ religion.
 - Monotheistic
 - Polytheistic
 - Panentheistic
 - Henotheistic
- Supernatural techniques intended to accomplish specific aims is referred to as:
 - Anima
 - Taboo
 - Totem
 - Magic
- Which of the following is not true about religion?
 - It is a cultural generality
 - It helps maintain social control
 - Different societies conceptualize divinity, supernatural entities, and ultimate realities very differently
 - It can promote social change
- Who is credited for saying, “Religion is the sign of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, just as it is the spirit of a spiritless situation. It is the opium of the people.”
 - James Frazier
 - Karl Marx
 - Sigmund Freud
 - Edward Tylor
- The belief that all things have a soul best describes which religious theory?
 - Animistic Theory
 - Nature Worship Theory
 - Magic Theory
 - Totemism
- Adrian believes in God and attends church when he can, but he does not participate in daily prayer or reads from the bible. Adrian could best be described as having which type of orientation?
 - Intrinsic orientation
 - Extrinsic orientation
 - Prophetic orientation
 - Mystical orientation
- All three major monotheistic religions developed in this region.
 - Europe
 - Africa
 - Middle East or Southwest Asia
 - Northwest Asia

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 2: Indigenous Religions

Native Americans have worshipped various aspects of nature since they walked over the land bridge of the Bering Strait into North America. Each tribe practiced their own religion, some of which were animistic, while others were pantheistic.

Animistic religion is the worship of inanimate objects. The belief is that all objects, places and creatures of the earth all have a spiritual essence. Native American Culture connects in a spiritual way to all the natural forces and elements of the earth like water, fire and the land itself. These forces can include all aspects of nature from the dirt under our feet to the birds in the sky and the wind in which they fly upon. It is the Native American belief that no creature can hold dominion over another. Instead, they instead live in harmony with all aspects of the earth. To thank an animal for their sacrifice during a hunt is a good example of this. The act of giving thanks is not to appease some spirit that they believe would do them harm otherwise or to appease some ritual. It is instead an act to signify that animal's life is as important as those that hunted and killed it. The animal in its death has bestowed a great gift of life.

Religion for the Native American is not an institution. They do not attend a "church", but rather worship in the open. Many stop when they see a beautiful scene, such as a sunset, and worship. Some Native Americans hold that there is a great spirit called Wakan Tanka, which in Sioux translates to "Great Mystery". Others worship Mother Earth. The Great Spirit of the Panthiestic View is believed to be both Father Sky and Mother Earth, a single, divine entity. It's the creator of earth, history and all existence. The Shohone call it Tam Apo with means "Our Father." The Chicasaw call it Ababnili. The Ojibwe call it "Gitchi Manitou." The Blackfoot call it "Apistoke." The Arapaho call it "Chebbeniathan." The Abenaki call it "Gici Niwaskw." The Huron call it "Ha-Wen-Neyu." The Cheyenne call it "Maheo."

Native Americans are also tied to the land and the life cycle of humans. They are keenly aware of an invisible force that is connected to birth, puberty, and death. Many of their ceremonies are a celebration of the life cycle. For Native Americans, religion is a journey, not a process. In fact, they may not see what they do as "religion", but a part of their lives and the principals by which they live. Therefore, Native American religion is not one that is evangelistic. They do not recruit individuals to be a part of their religion; it is one of spirituality, not membership.

Native Americans use many different avenues to worship, but all are a part of their daily life. They may practice the Snake Dance, kachinas, the Sun Dance, sweat lodge ceremonies, and the sacred pipe. While these are specifically religious ceremonies, they are ceremonial aspects of their world that includes many ceremonies for their families, clan, or tribe. The outsider wants to separate these ceremonies and quantify them as "religious" ceremonies, but they are the spirituality of the daily life and existence of the Native Americans.

The ceremonies are community based and have no real meaning outside of the specific community in which they are practiced. It is up to that community to ascribe the specific meaning to the ceremony. A ceremony is not held for personal benefit, but for the benefit for the entire community.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

An example would be a dance that invites rain. While individuals participate in the ceremony, the individual has a symbiotic relationship with the community and they are one in the same.

Native Americans locate their sacred powers spatially, not in terms of time like the Christian world. The Christian world tends to relegate worship to an hour on Sunday mornings whereas the Native American looks to the place of in terms of spatial configuration.

One example is that Native Americans identify the places of a spiritual power. These places are “alive” with the spirits. These are manifestations of what Native Americans call the “Sacred Mystery” or “Sacred Power”. The Sacred Mystery is also referred to as the “Great Spirit”. This is also the “Great Unknown”, which manifests itself to humans in the form of occurrences and shapes. The occurrences can be a constellation, solar eclipse, or in an artifact like a feather from a bird. All of the world is seen as “alive”; this applies to humans and animals, even extending to mountains, rivers, rocks, and trees.

2.1 Iroquois Nation

The Iroquois nation was situated in the eastern woodlands of North America (the present-day state of New York) and their territory extended into Canada. Their religious practices centered on the land that surrounded them and the rituals they performed for their agriculture, hunting, and gathering. With fertile land and abundant resources, the Iroquois Nation flourished. The Iroquois believed in the “Great Spirit” (Ha-wen-ne-yu”), who provided their abundance.

The Iroquois did not elaborate on details of the Great Spirit, but instead described some of the “lower spirits” that surrounded him. One of the lower spirits was He-no, who was depicted as a man in a warrior costume. He-no controlled the weather and owned the thunder.

The Iroquois also had an evil spirit, who was the brother of the Great Spirit. The evil spirit was named “Ha-ne-go-ate-geh”, which translates to “evil-minded”. This evil spirit also had inferior spirits he controlled.

The Iroquois people believed in the afterlife. When they died, they believed the Great Spirit would judge them and determine if they needed punishment in the afterlife. Scholars believe this belief in the afterlife contributed to the success of the Iroquois Nation.

2.2 Inuit

The term Inuit means “caters of raw flesh”. Today, the Inuit are known as Eskimos, although they do not embrace that term. Their culture is very similar to others found in Northern Russia and some Northern Scandinavian Countries. Inuits believe that Anua (souls) exit in all people and animals. Their religious practices center on a complex system a hunter has to follow in order to hunt and harvest so that the animals will continue making themselves present to the hunters. They perform

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

many rituals prior to embarking on a hunting trip. The keeper of the sea mammals is Sedna, or Takanaluk, who releases the fish to be hunted by the Inuits. There are Keepers and Masters for each of the land mammals as well.

Inuits believe that a sickness, or lack of hunting success, was brought on by breaking hunting taboo. A shaman, or Angakut, performs a ritual by entering a trance with the aid of a drum beating and others chanting; this helps the shaman to leave their body and travel great distances to determine the of the sickness.

2.3 Lakota

The Lakota were members of the Great Sioux Nation of America. Lakota means “friends or allies”. They were part of the Great Sioux Nation along with the Dakota and Nakota (sharing similar religious beliefs). They are known as the Plains Indians and as the Western Sioux. In movies, the Lakota are often represented as the “typical” Indian that lived on the Plains. The Lakota were nomadic people who worshipped around the movement of the sun and the stars.

The Lakota did not have a “system” of religion. Their religion was integrated into their daily life. At the center of their religion is Wakan Tanka, or Tunkashila (Grandfather or Great Spirit). Their religious system is based on that of respect, bravery, wisdom, and generosity.

The Lakota’s rich oral history includes that of the Seven Sacred Rites. These rites were handed down from an encounter during the “Starving Times”. Two hunters were not finding game when a woman appeared to them. The first hunter lusted for her and was reduced to dust. The second hunter listened to her instructions and returned to the village and told everyone she had a message for them the next day. He, being of pure heart, goes to the village and carries her message. Ptehincalaskawin (White Buffalo Calf Woman) gives the tribe a sacred pipe and tells that in times of need, they should smoke the pipe and pray for help; she carries their prayers upward. Next, she gives them the Seven Sacred Rites.

The first rite – Inikagpi. To renew life. This usually includes a purification in a sweat lodge that is a dome (symbolic of a pregnant woman) where the purpose is to pray for health and well-being.

The second rite – Hanbleceyapi. To attain knowledge and understanding. The rite is undertaken with a holy man where the individual goes on a vision quest to communicate with the spirits. The person takes a blanket and a pipe and travels to an isolated hill to pray. In seeking his vision, he does not eat or drink for four days.

The third rite – Wanagi Wicagluha, which is the keeping of the spirit. This is performed by someone who has lost a loved one and is mourning. For one year, the spirit stays around the community. The community takes food to a special place to feed the spirit daily. During this time, the love for the spirit is increased in their loved ones. After one year, a ceremony is held to “release” the spirit of the loved one.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

The fourth rite – Wiwanyang Waipi, which is the sun dance. It is the most important rite and is held during the summer when the moon is full. Those who participate in the ceremony voluntarily make a pledge to make offerings of their flesh to increase the power of the nation. A tree is placed at the center of the ceremony to symbolize Wakan Tanka, the center of the universe.

The fifth rite – Unkapi involves making relatives. The youngest in the family performs the rite to bind them to others in the community and to Wakan Tanka.

The sixth rite – Isnati Awicalowanpi is the puberty ceremony. This rite is for girls who have already had their first menses so they will grow up to be upstanding Lakota women.

The seventh rite – Wankayeyapi involves throwing the ball. The ball represents the course of a man's life. A young girl is in the center of a square and throws the ball up in the air towards one of the four corners. Those in the corners vie for the ball, which represents knowledge. Those who catch it are believed to be more fortunate than others.

The Lakota are also noted for their dreamcatchers.

2.4 Apache

The Apache were not noted for their religious practices. They were not an agricultural society and they did not practice rituals around the seasons as others did. All their energy was focused on survival. They did not practice rituals for marriage and death. In fact, death was considered to be the ultimate foe. Their lives were centered on their "power" rather than spirituality. Individuals were encouraged to seek whatever supernatural attachment they desired. The focus of the people was building their power.

Vision Quests

The practice of seeking religious knowledge was common. The individual would go into the hills or forest for several days without food and water, and seek a guiding spirit to appear to him. The individual may change his name afterwards depending on the spirit that appeared. Often, this was a rite of passage for young men.

Smoke

Smoke held a sacred place for Indians; it could be the vehicle for prayers to go upward or it could be used in a smoke house to clean away evil spirits. Indians smoked tobacco and peyote, which is a hallucinogenic that can produce visions that last up to 24 hours.

Missionaries

Initially, the explorers coming to the New World were interested in profit for the crown. Those trekking to the New World ignored existing culture and religious practices; instead, they believed the inhabitants did not have a god. It was under this belief the Europeans operated, enslaved, and killed those who got in their way in the New World. However, during the "Age of Discovery" in the 1500s, Spanish and French missionaries began competing for the saving of souls of the newly

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

discovered Indians. In 1537, Pope Paul III declared the Indians had souls and were not to be killed or enslaved, but to be converted to Catholicism, thus opening up their souls to salvation. Subsequent letters from missionaries encouraged others to come to the New World and convert the godless Indians. Protestant missionaries soon followed the Catholic missionaries in an effort to “win” souls.

2.5 West African Religions

To say African religions are homogenous would be incorrect. Although there are principles central to the different religions, very little can be generalized across all African religions. Most of them believe in a creator god that made the universe. After that, the creator withdrew and he does not have any concerns about the day-to-day life of the people.

The Dinka of South Sudan believe that god withdrew after the first woman lifted her pestle to pound millet and struck the sky. This act introduced sickness and death, and it also freed the people from the god’s daily control.

Many religions do not pray to the Supreme Being, but to the less intermediary gods. Prayer to the primary god is done only after prayers to the lesser gods has been exhausted.

African religions do not adhere to a specific doctrine, but are more concerned with that which supports sustaining the community. Rituals are performed to show a person’s responsibility to the community with the spiritual forces of nature and the gods.

West African God – Asante of Ghana, where elders regularly pour libations and offer prayers to the Creator Nyame. Ancestors are guardians of the moral order. In Nigeria, the Yoruba hold that the Creator is Olorun with secondary divinities called the “orisha”.

In East Africa, the Supreme Being is Mulungu, which is omnipresent, is prayed to as a last resort.

The Nuer people of South Sudan and the Dinka god are only addressed in times of need.

Possession trances

As with other cultures, intimate contact is made with god through possession trances. The person is induced into an altered state of consciousness by inhaling vapors of medicinal preparations to rhythmic drums, dancing, and chanting.

Rites of Passage

West African religion celebrates several rites of passage.

Birth, growing up (**puberty**), **marriage**, and **death** are all marked with religious observances along the way. After a birth, West Africans wait three days before celebrating the birth by slaughtering a goat. This is to ensure the child is strong enough to live. It is at this time when the child receives a

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

name. In Kenya, the Gikuyu seclude the mother and child for four to five days after the birth to increase the chances of the child surviving.

Names are significant for Africans. Names are determined by what is happening when the child is born. If it was raining when the child was born, her name will reflect that fact.

Puberty is marked and charted. The ceremonies that accompany different stages are often marked by the child withdrawing from the community. Some rites involve enduring pain without objection like a girl's circumcision.

Marriage involves all of the community. In some parts of Africa, polygamy is allowed; for example, when the man is wealthy and the current wives have been consulted. In most areas, it is frowned upon. The Yoruba of southwestern Nigeria and the Krio in Sierra Leone have a pre-wedding ceremony where the bridegroom calls for his intended and the tribe keeps producing old women until they finally give him his bride. Usually a bridal price, or "lobola", is paid to the family.

Death is a serious matter. Sometimes it takes years to transition. Burial grounds are carefully chosen and some are under the house or near the home, while others are farther away. The Baganda in Uganda dig a grave for a child when they are still young.

Mali's West African Dogon

The Dogon people believe in the Culture of Masks (Awa), which assures safe passage into the spirit world. Women are prohibited from the cult.

The Lebe cult worships the agricultural cycle.

The Binu cult entails sacrifices and taboos.

2.6 Other Indigenous Religions

Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrianism is one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions. It was founded nearly 3500 years ago in ancient Iran by the prophet Zoroaster. They believe in one God, called Ahura Mazda, which means "wise lord". He is the creator of the universe and is just. Everything God created is pure, and therefore, should be kept pure, such as rivers, land, and the atmosphere. This is the first ecological religion.

In Zoroastrianism, Ahura Mazda has an adversary named Angra Mainyu, or "destructive spirit". There is a battle between good and evil; Ahura Mazda is in Heaven and Angra Mainyu is in Hell.

Ahura Mazda is omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, impossible for humans to conceive, unchanging, the creator of life, and the source of all goodness and happiness.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

In death, the Zoroastrian funeral is on of “Tower of Silence” where the body is laid out to be eaten by the animals since the body is impure. A decaying corpse is considered sacrilege, so it is given to the birds and animals. If that cannot happen, the body is cremated.

Ancient Egyptian Religion

The pharaoh was considered a divine ruler. They had many myths regarding the world and built animal totems to worship. The afterlife was a place the soul and the body went after death. The bodies were embalmed; this was the first religion to do so. They were then mummified.

Egyptian gods were often depicted as a human body with an animal head. The most important deity was the sun god, who had several different names. Osiris was the god of the dead and ruler of the underworld. His consort was Isis.

Greek Religion

Greek religion is not the same as Greek mythology, as the latter encompasses the traditional tales. However, there is some intermingling between the two. Greeks believed that the gods existed and they were to perform rituals and sacrifices to them. If one did not give the god his due, there would be reprisals. In times of crisis, the Greeks prayed to the relevant god and to other deities that might be able to help.

Roman Numen Religion

Roman religion was also called Roman Mythology. Religion was based on mutual trust (fides) between god and man. The object was to secure cooperation and benevolence. Initially, religion was devoid of a moral element, as it focused on the rituals.

The Roman Numen religion was based on rituals, spells, and magic. Prayer and magic were used to reach the gods. Much of what was done was to flatter the gods to seek their assistance. The annual festival of Lupercalia was the ritual dance of the Salii in honor of Mars.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 2 Review Questions

- Which of the following is true of indigenous religions?
 - They believe there are little differences between a god and an ancestor
 - They believe there are major differences between a god and an ancestor
 - Indigenous religions often focus on a High God
 - Indigenous religions usually worship androgynous deities
- Researchers conclude that animists believe which of the following statements?
 - The barriers between the natural and the supernatural are not clear
 - The barriers between the natural and supernatural are well-defined
 - Animals were once human beings
 - The supernatural world is inferior to the natural one
- The Native American vision quest is an example of _____.
 - A marriage ceremony
 - A girl's reception into the tribe
 - A rite of passage
 - Assisting the spirit of a dead person to move on
- The Iroquois Nation was located in the modern-day city of _____.
 - Alberta, Canada
 - Minnesota, USA
 - New York, USA
 - Mexico City, Mexico
- Which term means "friends or allies"?
 - Inuit
 - Lakota
 - Iroquois
 - Apache
- Which of the following is not a rite of the Lakotas?
 - Keeping of the spirit
 - Throwing the ball
 - Renew life
 - The moon dance
- Which of the following is not a rite of passage celebrated by many African religions?
 - Puberty
 - Acquisition of land
 - Marriage
 - Death
- By definition, Zoroastrian temples are _____.
 - A representation of the sun and are circular in design
 - Constructed entirely of marbles quarried in Iran
 - Set apart from the contamination of the outside world
 - Located within walking distance of the Towers of Silence
- Most early Greeks believed that the gods were:
 - In control of natural events
 - The key to understanding natural events
 - The source of everything
 - Not the source of everything
- Which of the following is an important goal of a vision quest?
 - Building a seaworthy canoe
 - Communicating with the spirit world
 - Baking a giant cornmeal cake
 - Immersing oneself in social life

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 3: Hinduism

The Hindu religion is the major indigenous following of the Indian subcontinent. There are about 1 billion followers, and therefore, it is the largest religion (after Christianity and Islam). The beginnings of Hinduism are based on the historical Vedic religion of the Iron Age India. There is no single founder; rather, it is based on diverse traditions. It is the oldest living religion in the world.

Hinduism is not one religion with a systematic set of beliefs and is not driven by a set of rules, such as the Ten Commandments. The belief system and the practices are flavored by the location, community, and caste system, and includes a collection of intellectual and philosophical points of view. Hinduism includes a spectrum of laws that instruct on daily morality. Hindus believe in one Supreme Being. Hindus believe in the truth of the Vedas, (sacred scripture), but even those can be interpreted widely.

Hindu texts are divided into the Sruti (revealed) and the Smriti (remembered). The texts discuss not only theology, but also philosophy, rituals, and temple building. The major scriptures include the **Mahabharata, Ramayana, Vedas, and the Bhagavad Gita.**

Hinduism teaches the belief in reincarnation. The end goal for Hindus is to end their own reincarnation and liberate their spirit. The Ganges River is a sacred river to the Hindus and provides a lifeline to their people. The most sacred animal to the Hindus is the cow.

There are three belief concepts in: truth, dharma, and karma. Even with the common beliefs, the practice and adherence to those beliefs are different depending on location.

Truth is eternal. The wise pursue knowledge and understanding of the truth and the only reality. Hindus believe in the truth of the Vedas, the sacred scripture.

The one true God of Hindus is **Brahman**. Brahman is formless, limitless, all-inclusive, and eternal. However, Brahman is a God that is real rather than an abstract concept.

The **Vedas** are the ultimate authority for Hindus. They are the Hindu scriptures that contain the revelations that were received by ancient saints and sages. Hindus believe the Vedas are timeless; if everything in the world were to be destroyed, the Vedas would still remain.

Dharma is the concept of righteousness, moral law, and duty. Hindus believe that everyone must make the dharma central to their life. Do one's duty, and behave in a moral and right way are the mandates. There is not a comparable English word that adequately describes the concept, except to say it is the "right conduct".

Atman, or the soul, is eternal. It is not created and cannot be destroyed. The soul has existed forever, but during reincarnation, the soul will reap what was sown in one life as it is placed in a different body for the next life. While the soul is immortal, the goal of the individual soul is **moksha**. **Moksha** is the liberation of the soul from endless death and rebirth. The soul then unites with Brahman

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

when it realizes its true purpose. That purpose can be one of the three paths: knowledge, devotion and the unconditional surrender to God (Brahman), or the path of duty.

Hinduism is both pantheistic and polytheistic. It is pantheistic because it equates God with the universe, and it is considered polytheistic because there are gods and goddesses who personify different aspects of the one true God, Brahman. Individuals have numerous ways to worship depending on their family, location, and community.

3.1 Hindu Gods and Goddesses

There are many Hindu gods and goddesses. Here is a just a few:

Brahma, the creator

There is a Hindu Trinity and the “Creator” of that Trinity is Brahma. He creates everything in the universe. The Hindus believe that everything is cyclical, and therefore, Brahma has to recreate aspects of the universe at times. The only aspects that do not have to be recreated are Brahman and certain Hindu scriptures. Certain things must be destroyed and recreated in order to be renewed in an ideal form.

Vishnu, the preserver

Vishnu is the second member of the Hindu Trinity. Brahma creates order and harmony, while Shiva destroys it to prepare for the next creation. Vishnu’s job is to maintain the order and harmony in the universe. Vishnu has several avatars (incarnations) and is worshipped in many forms. These avatars descend to earth to intervene to help restore moral order. Two of Vishnu’s avatars are:

Rama

Rama was a young prince who was exiled from his kingdom for 14 years. He is the embodiment of an ideal son, brother, husband, and king. He is the hero in the epic Ramayana, where he strictly follows the dharma.

Krishna

Probably the most well-known god in the Western world is Krishna. Krishna is the teacher of the sacred scripture, the **Bhagavad Gita**. In the epic of **Mahabharata**, Krishna is the friend and mentor of Prince Arjuna. Krishna is playful and prankish, but promises to return to earth whenever dharma declines.

Saraswati, the goddess of learning

Saraswati is the consort of Brahma, the Creator. Hindus seeking an education are encouraged to pray to her since she is the goddess of learning, wisdom, speech, and music. Those who are taking exams often pray to her. She is the daughter of Shiva and Durga.

Lakshmi

Lakshmi has many roles in the Hinduism. She is the goddess of good fortune, well-being, wealth, and is a consort to Vishnu. She is also Sita, the wife of Rama; Rukmini, the wife of Krishna and Dharani; the wife of Parashu Rama; and even an avatar of Vishnu.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Durga Devi

Durga is compassionate to her devotees, but is a powerful and frightening goddess who fights to restore moral order (dharma).

Indra, the King of Heaven and lord of the gods

Indra is the provider of rain and commands thunderbolts.

Surya, the sun

Surya also goes by the name Soorya. He is a golden warrior who arrives in a chariot pulled by seven white horses.

Agni, the fire god

Agni is the sacrifice who is the priest performing a ritual. The sacrifice is the ritual fire and any offering placed into the fire. Agni is also the witness to all rites performed.

Hanuman, the monkey king and devoted servant

In the exciting and educational story of Ramayana, Hanuman helps Rama by his feats of strength, devotion, and courage, which warrants deification.

Ganeshna

Ganeshna is an elephant on a mouse. He is the most popular Hindu god, and is the son of Shiva and Parvati. He is the god of wisdom, knowledge, and wealth.

Mahadevi

Mahadevi is the supreme goddess. She is feminine and is the female form of Brahman. She has three variations: **Kali, Durga, and Parvati**. Kali is the goddess of destruction. Durga is a female creative power and is compassionate. Parvati is the fertility goddess and is a maternal figure.

3.2 Sacred Writings

Aryans arrived in India around 1550 BCE. As they came from Iran, they introduced horses and chariots. The Aryans were practicing the Vedic religion and used the written word of the four Vedas, which were in Sanskrit. These Vedas form the foundation of the written word of Hinduism.

- **Rig-veda** – Over 1,000 hymns, poems, riddles, and legends. It is the oldest and largest collection.
- **Yajur-veda** – Includes the recitations for priests to use during sacrifices.
- **Sama-veda** – A book of chants for priests to use during sacrifices.
- **Atharva-veda** – Prayers and magic to ward off evil.

Each book includes: **Mantra** (hymns), **Brahmanas** (ritual instructions), **Aranyakas** (instructions for hermits), and **Upanishads** (philosophy). The Vedas are currently used as historic texts rather than daily reading. The **Bhagavad Gita** is considered the most important text and is the book used when following the Hindu religion.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

The Upanishads state the way to knowledge and the god Brahman is through meditation. Brahman is not considered male or female, but rather a divine and impressionable god who is the foundation of all. All living souls are part of the Brahman and individually is considered an illusion. When a Hindu believes there is something other than Brahman, this false knowledge is called **Maya**. Ignorance is called **Aidya**. Both of these block people from attaining enlightenment.

Written around 300 BCE to 300 CE were the **Laws of Manu**, or the **Code of Manu**. These are **classical Hinduism** and are additional Hindu texts that deal with the ethical and social standards one must follow for proper living. The greatest sin listed is that of killing a cow. The proper person practices pleasantness, patience, control of the mind, intelligence, knowledge, truthfulness, non-irritability, control of the senses, and purity.

Four Varna

The Laws of Manu outline the caste system known as the **Four Varna**. India adopted this caste system.

- **The Brahmin**, or priests, are the highest level of the caste system
 - **The Kshatriya**, or warriors/nobles, are the next highest level of the caste system
 - **The Vaisya**, or merchants/artisans, are the next level of the caste system
 - **The Sudra**, or slaves/peasants, are the lowest level of the caste system

The first three castes are those men who have been reborn or twice-born (reincarnated). The lowest level of the caste system consists of those who are considered once-born. The untouchables were those who were not in the caste system and could not associate with anyone in the caste system, as these individuals were ritually impure.

Within the caste system, there is a further breakdown. Women do not have independence in any stage; the caste system is exclusively for men. The women are expected to dedicate themselves to the men in their lives, such as fathers, husbands, and their children.

There are also four stages through which a person can progress:

1. **Student Stage**: An apprenticeship where the student lives with the master and learns the texts.
2. **Householder Stage**: When the man marries and becomes a father, gets a career, and joins the community. However, his duties are over when the first grandchild is born. The grandfather can be removed from duties and enters the Forest Retirement Stage.
3. **Forest Retirement Stage**: The grandfather can now take the time to contemplate the meaning of life since he has been removed from daily duties.
4. **Forest Dweller or Ascetic State**: “**Another life**”. The forest Dweller works to attain salvation by following the philosophy of **sannyasin**. The soul detaches from mental and economic concerns, neither hating nor loving anything.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Individuals move from one caste to another with each life, but only if they live a good life in the present state.

While still influential in society, the caste system has been outlawed in Indian society.

Four permissible goals

The four permissible goals correspond to the four states of life for a Hindu. If the goals are met, all human needs are satisfied. The goals are:

Dharma – The student stage. The follower learns the ethics, virtues, and righteousness required in Hinduism.

Artha – Represents wealth. The person has wealth, glory, and money in their material possessions. The dharma must be followed for the wealth to be permissible.

Kama is pleasure. Pleasure is allowed as long the laws of the dharma and artha are followed.

Moksha is the final goal, which is the liberation of the soul from reincarnation. An individual can reach Moksha once they realize the first three goals will not bring them fulfillment.

Darshans represent a pathway for Hindus to achieve enlightenment. There are six philosophical pathways within the Hindu religion and Hindus are free to choose one of the pathways.

Sankhya – The oldest philosophy in which there are no “personal” gods. There is spirit matter in the universe, but nothing else.

Yoga is the practical application of Sankhya. The individual meditates and connects to the Brahman in this way.

Mimansa – The individual does a close reading of the Vedas in order to search for understanding. There are rituals involved and the focus is on the gods.

Vaisheshika and Nyaya – Generally grouped together, the Vaisheshika teaches nine distinct elements that compose the universe. Nyaya teaches that through reason and logical analysis, the individual can achieve true knowledge. Without the nine elements, nothing else exists in the universe.

Vedanta – Teaches that human suffering is the direct result of the belief (illusionary) that the world is real.

3.3 Daily Sacrifices and Rituals

In order to follow the path to enlightenment, Hindus practice these rituals to connect with the universe. They must sacrifice to the Brahman by reading and studying the scriptures. They sacrifice to the deities and make offerings to their ancestors. They feed animals and the poor, and follow their community priest in their rituals in their temples. Hindus can also use their home for worship. Most

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

practice worship on a daily basis with altars in their homes dedicated to the god their family worships. They place their deity on a shrine in the house and offer food as a sacrifice. For the devout Hindu, worshipping at sunrise and sunset (at least) is required.

Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is not mandatory for Hindus, but many Hindus undertake them. There are different sites a Hindu can visit and all are equally respected.

Char Dham (The Famous Four Pilgrimage sites). The four holy sites are **Puri, Rameswaram, Dwarka, and Badrinath**. Alternatively, they are the Himalayan towns of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri, and they compose the *Char Dham (four abodes)* pilgrimage circuit.

Kumbh Mela is the pitcher festival and is held every 12 years. It is the holiest of the Hindu pilgrimages, and the location is rotated between Allahabad, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain.

Old Holy cities as per Puranic Texts

Major Temple Cities. Puri hosts a major Vaishnava Jagannath Temple and Rath Yatra celebration. Three relatively new temples of fame and major pilgrimage are: Shirdi, home to Sai Baba of Shirdi; **Tirupati**, home to the Tirumala Venkateswara Temple; and Sabarimala, where Swami Ayyappan is worshipped.

Shakti Peethas – Where the Mother Goddess is worshipped. There are two principle locations, Kalighat and Kamakhya.

3.4 Festivals

Hindu festivals occur throughout the year and are symbolic rituals that illustrate the individual and social life to dharma. Festivals are usually held at the change of the seasons. The festival is also dependent on the location in India. The three main festivals are **Holi, Diwali, and Dussehra**.

Holi	This festival is celebrated in the spring and is dedicated to Krishna. It was originally a fertility ceremony.
Diwali	This is a festival of lights that welcomes in the Hindu New Year. A pilgrimage can be made to the holy sites of Lakshmi and Kali to help bring prosperity and good fortune.
Dussehra	Celebrates the god Rama's fight and victory against evil. In some areas, there is a joint celebration with a larger holiday of Durga Puja, where the goddess Durga defeated a buffalo demon.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Gurus

Gurus are the religious leaders in Hinduism. They are the teachers who show individuals the path to enlightenment. A student treats the guru with service; for example, the student touches the feet of the guru with great respect. The goal of being a student is to become as wise as the guru. A guru serves as a spiritual master, avatar, and advisor. However, a book can provide the same service as a guru.

3.4 Denominations

Hindus do not claim denominations and there is no central authority. Academics, however, do place contemporary Hindus into four denominations: Vaishnavism, Shaivism, Shaktism, and Smartism. The difference is in the god they worship as the Supreme One and in the accompanying traditions.

Vaishnavas worship Vishnu or Krishna as the Supreme God. Shaivites worship Shiva, while Shaktas worship Devi as the Supreme Goddess and feel all other gods are manifestations of her. Smarta Hindus believe in six different deities and all are free to worship the one that they choose.

When Westerners think of Hindus, they typically refer to the Smarta belief system.

3.5 Demographics

Demographically, after Christianity and Islam, Hinduism is the world's third largest religion.

Table 1: Top 10 Countries with the Largest Population of Hindus

India	973,750,000	Nepal	24,170,000
Bangladesh	12,680,000	Indonesia	4,050,000
Pakistan	3,330,000	Sri Lanka	2,000,000
United States	1,790,000	Malaysia	1,720,000
United Kingdom	890,000	Burma	820,000

**Updated by World Atlas in 09/2017*

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 3 Summary

Key Terms

Agni	Krishna	Shiva
Aranyakas	Kshatriya	Sita
Atharva-veda	Kumbh Mela	Smartism
Atman	Lakshmi	Sudra
Avatars	Laws of Manu	Surya
Avidya	Mahabharate	Upanishads
Bhagavad Gita	Mahadevi	Vaisheshika
Brahman	Mantra	Vaishnavism
Brahmanas	Maya	Vaisya
Char Dham	Mimansa	Vedas
Darshans	Moksha or Nirvana	Vendanta
Devas	Nyaya	Vishnu
Divali	Parvati	Yajur-veda
Durga	Rama	Yoga
Dusehra	Ramayana	
Ganapati	Rig-veda	
Ganeshna	Sama-veda	
Gurus	Samsara	
Hanuman	Sankhya	
Hinduism	Saraswati	
Holi	Shaivism	
Kali	Shakti Peethas	
Karma	Shaktism	

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 3 Review Questions

- Hinduism's rich developments through India could be attributed to _____.
 - Frequent foreign invasions in India
 - The constant floods and fires across India
 - India's isolation from other areas
 - India's extensive natural resources
- _____ is the earliest sacred text of Hinduism.
 - Upanishads
 - Vedas
 - Aranyakas
 - Brahmanas
- Which god is considered the most complicated in the Hindu religion?
 - Vishnu
 - Brahma
 - Rama
 - Shiva
- Which river is most sacred to the Hindus?
 - The Yangtze River
 - The Indus River
 - The Danube River
 - The Ganges River
- Which of the following is not a concept of Hinduism?
 - Duplicity
 - Truth
 - Dharma
 - Karma
- Merchants/artisans belong to which level of India's caste system known as the Four Varna?
 - The Brahmin
 - The Kshatriya
 - The Vaisya
 - The Sudra
- Select which statement is false.
 - Smarta Hindus are allowed to worship any of the six different deities they choose
 - Vaishnavas worship Devi as the supreme goddess
 - Academics divide Hinduism into four denominations based off of the central god of worship
 - Hindus do not claim denominations and there is no central authority
- When Westerners think of Hindus, which sect do they commonly name?
 - Vaishnavas
 - Shaivites
 - Smarta
 - Gurus
- Hindus believe in the four permissible goals that need to be met to satisfy all human needs. Which is the final goal Hindus must meet?
 - Moksha
 - Artha
 - Kama
 - Dharma
- The _____ is a festival of lights that welcomes in the Hindu New Year.
 - Holi
 - Diwali
 - Dussehra
 - Sankhya

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 4: Buddhism

Buddhism is both a religion and a way of life. There are approximately 300 million people who espouse the Buddhist beliefs. The origins of Buddhism go back about 2500 years. The founder was a 35-year-old named Siddhartha Gautama, now known as the Buddha. The term “Buddha” comes from the term “Budhi”, meaning “to awaken”.

4.1 Who was Buddha?

Buddha was born into a royal family in Lumbini (present-day Nepal) around the year 563 BC. The royal family he was born into was “Shakya”. His mother had a dream prior to his conception; she dreamt that a white elephant moved around her, struck her right side, and disappeared within. She told her husband, the king, of the dream and he called on his Brahmans. They told him he would have a son and to keep him in the palace. After it was confirmed his wife Maya was pregnant, she asked to travel to her home city to give birth. On the way there, she saw a beautiful garden with blossoms on the trees. She reached up to pick one and gave birth to the son. He walked seven steps and proclaimed, “I alone am the World Honored One.” The mother and son were showered in blossoms and a light rain. They returned home and his mother died seven days later. He was raised by his aunt, who was also his father’s wife. The seven steps were significant and represented North, East, South, West, Past, Future, and Now. Buddha is often honored with the white elephant and the lotus blossom.

His parents named him Siddhartha. He was a member of a rich family, and all his needs and wants were taken care of in the finest of fashions. His father was an elected chieftain who wanted Siddhartha to become a king like himself. After Siddhartha was born, an astrologer visited and made the prediction that the young prince would either become a great king or he would renounce worldly possessions and become a holy man. For this reason, the king was very reluctant to allow Siddhartha to leave the palace grounds. At the age of 29, he finally managed an outing. He started going out more, witnessing the suffering of the “ordinary” people. Those he encountered included an old man, a corpse, an ascetic holy man, and a sick man. These four scenes made an impression on Siddhartha and he referred to them as “the four sights”. As a result of his travels, he abandoned his royal life and embarked upon a spiritual quest.

Initially, Siddhartha went to study with the finest religious men of the day. He learned how to meditate. He mastered the art of meditative attainment, but he soon discovered these practices did nothing to elevate the suffering of the common people, so he continued on his quest.

Next, Siddhartha tried asceticism. Here, he deprived himself of food, held his breath, and exposed himself to pain. This was a common practice among the Sharmans, which differed from the practices of the Vedics. Siddhartha almost starved himself to death. Just short of dying, he accepted milk and rice from a village girl, and modified his approach.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Siddhartha then devoted himself to meditation, which is how he discovered the Middle Way. The Middle Way is a path between the extremes of self-indulgence and self-mortification. It is from this path that Siddhartha Gautama became the Buddha. He continued his spiritual quest by meditating under a sacred fig tree known as a Bodhi tree. He was in the town of Bodh Gaya, India. At the age of 35, he sat under the tree, vowing not to rise until he had attained enlightenment. He sat for several days, destroying the restraints of his mind and liberating himself from the cycle of suffering and rebirth; when he arose, he was a fully enlightened being.

Upon arising, Buddha was able to gather a number of followers. He traveled through the northeastern part of the Indian subcontinent and talked of the path of awakening he had discovered. In 483 BCE, at the age of 80, he died in Kushinagar, India.

Buddhist Concepts

Buddha was a teacher, not a god. He did not claim to be a god, but someone who taught the path to enlightenment. He taught of the Four Noble Truths, the Noble Eightfold Path, and the Three Refuges.

4.2 The Three Refuges

The three refuges are Samsar^á, Karma, and Rebirth.

Samsara

The “cycle of birth and death.” Humans crave pleasure and they are adverse to pain; this is true, from birth to death. Humans are controlled by these attitudes, and therefore, they perpetuate the cycle of conditioned existence and suffering (samsara). This also is a cause and condition of the next rebirth after death. Each time the human is reborn, the involuntary cycle repeats. Buddhists strive to end this involuntary cycle by applying the teachings of Buddha. The uninterrupted cycle of death and rebirth is called “cyclic existence” (“Samsara” in Sanskrit).

Karma

The force that drives Samsara. The good deeds and the bad deeds produce “seeds” in the mind that come to fruition either in this life or in the next. Buddhists try to avoid unwholesome actions and the cultivation of positive actions is called “sila”. Karma is an action or thought that springs from mental intent (“cetana”); as a result, actions happen to the person based on their reaping of what they have sown. In Theravada Buddhism, there is no divine salvation or forgiveness for one and their Karma. The process of Karma is impersonal and part of the makeup of the universe. Mahayana Buddhists believe the mere hearing the texts of Mahayana sutras can remove negative Karma. Vajaryana also believe the recitation of mantras can cut off previously negative Karma.

Rebirth

This refers to when a person goes through a succession of lifetimes as one of many different forms, each running from birth to death. Buddhists do not believe in a permanent self or an unchanging eternal soul. Buddhists do not believe they are independent of the rest of the universe. The rebirth can take place in one of the 10 forms:

1. Hellish beings: Those who live a lifetime in one of the many hells (Narakas)
2. Preta: Hungry ghosts that are with the living, but invisible to most people

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

3. Animals: They share space with humans, but are considered another type of life
4. Human beings: This realm of rebirth is one in which nirvana is possible
5. Asuras: Lowly deities, demons, titans, antigods, and fighting spirits
6. Buddhas
7. Bodhisattvas
8. Heavenly beings
9. Sravaka: Disciples of Buddha
10. Pratyeka: A Buddha for himself

A skilled Buddhist can attain rebirth in a higher heaven. These are known as non-returners. Rebirths in the formless realms can be attained by those who meditate on the arupajhanas, which is the highest form of meditation. In East Asian and Tibetan Buddhism, there is another state, an intermediate state, called “Bardo”. Bardo is between one life and the next.

4.3 The Four Noble Truths

Buddha wanted to find out the cause of suffering. Through his enlightenment, he came to know the causes of suffering and the solution. The teaching of the Four Noble Truths is central to the teachings of Buddhism. The four truths explain the nature of the dukkha. The dukkha is suffering, anxiety, and dissatisfaction; the root causes; and how it can be overcome.

The First Noble Truth

The first truth is that life is suffering. This is the nature of the dukkha and the reason for the first truth. Dukkha is commonly translated as “suffering”. It can also be anxiety, dissatisfaction, and unease. The suffering can be physical or mental illness. It can also be growing old and dying. Included in suffering are disease, fear, embarrassment, disappointment, and anger. The anxiety and stress can be an attempt to hold on to a changing world. Dissatisfaction may arise from the fact that all forms of life are impermanent and constantly changing. The first truth is realistic. Buddhism works to explain how suffering can be avoided and how individuals can be truly happy.

The Second Noble Truth

The second noble truth addresses the fact that most suffering can be caused by desire, such as craving and aversion. Humans suffer when they expect others to conform to their expectations. Buddha emphasized that getting what one wants does not bring happiness. Rather than always trying to get what one desires, individuals should modify their wanting. Wanting deprives people of contentment. The desire (dukkha) is one of ignorance of the truth and the true nature of things. The craving is powerful and the desire to exist can cause the person to be reborn, and therefore, may cause suffering.

The Third Noble Truth

The third truth is that the suffering of man can be overcome. This is the path to real happiness. The person must give up cravings and seek to live every day, not dwelling on the past or seeking the

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

future. The person needs to have more time and energy to help others, which is referred to as “nirvana”.

The Fourth Noble Truth

The Fourth Noble Truth, the **Noble Eightfold Path**, is the path to being moral and the cessation of the rebirth.

The Noble Eightfold Path

The Noble Eightfold Path is part of the Fourth Noble Truth and entails being moral in all things, which includes what one says, does, and how they make their livelihood. This is accomplished by focus; the individual must be mindful of their thoughts and actions. The goal is to develop wisdom by understanding the Four Noble Truths and by developing compassion for others.

The Noble Eightfold Path consists of eight interconnected factors. When those factors are combined, they lead to the cessation of the dukkha. These eight factors are: Right view, (also called “right understanding”), right intention (“right thought”), right speech, right actions, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration. Keep in mind that these are not stages. Rather, they are eight dimensions of one’s behavior, and they operate dependent on each other. All together, they are the path.

Division	Eightfold Factor	Description
Wisdom	Right view	Viewing reality as it is, not just as it appears to be
Wisdom	Right intention or attitude	Intention of renunciation, freedom, and harmlessness
Ethical conduct	Right speech	Speaking in a truthful and non-hurtful way
Ethical conduct	Right action	Acting in a non-harmful way
Ethical conduct	Right livelihood	A non-harmful livelihood
Concentration	Right effort or energy	Making an effort to improve
Concentration	Right mindfulness	Awareness to see things for what they are with clear consciousness; being aware of the present reality within oneself, without any craving or aversion
Concentration	Right concentration	Correct meditation or concentration; leads to enlightenment

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

4.4 The Four Immeasurables

While searching for enlightenment, Siddhartha practiced yoga with his teacher, Kalama, and developed the Four Immeasurables. Those immeasurables are love, compassion, joy, and self-control. These are also known as the “Brahmaviharas” or the “Divine Abodes”. The best known of the immeasurables is loving-kindness meditation. The practitioner attempts to cultivate wholesome attitudes towards all beings. The prayer states:

1. May all sentient beings have happiness and its causes
2. May all sentient beings be free of suffering and its causes
3. May all sentient beings never be separated from bliss without suffering
4. May all sentient beings be in self-control, free of bias, attachment and anger

4.5 The Middle Way

One of the most important guiding principles of Buddhist practice is the Middle Way, which is the path Buddha discovered during his enlightenment. The Middle Way has many definitions, such as:

1. A path of moderation away from the extremes of self-indulgence and self-mortification
2. The middle ground is that between metaphysical views, such as things either do or do not exist
3. Perfect enlightenment is nirvana, a state where it becomes clear to the person that all dualities that are apparent in the world are delusory
4. The Mahayana Branch notes another term for emptiness and the ultimate nature of all phenomena. This is a lack of inherent existence and avoids the extremes of permanence and nihilism (nothingness).

4.6 Nature of Existence

There is a wealth of intellectual writings on Buddhism by Buddhist scholars. Some Buddhist schools discourage doctrine, while others feel it is essential.

The goal of the Buddhist path is the concept of the liberation (nirvana), which is closely associated with overcoming ignorance (avidya). In awakening the inner self, one develops a dispassion for the objects of clinging and is liberated from suffering (dukkha and the cycle of rebirth samsara). Buddha recommended viewing things as being characterized by the three marks of existence.

4.7 The Three Marks of Existence

The Three Marks of Existence are impermanence, suffering, and not-self.

Impermanence is the view that all things and experiences are unpredictable, unsteady, and not permanent. Everything, even that which we use our five senses to detect, are in a state of flux, where

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

all is ever-changing. Impermanence addresses the aging process, the cycle of rebirth, and any experience of loss. Attachment to things is futile and leads to suffering.

Suffering is the most central concept to Buddhism. The term “suffering” also encompasses pain, sorrow, affliction, anxiety, dissatisfaction, discomfort, anguish, stress, misery, and frustration.

Not-self, or Atman, is the third mark of existence. Buddha rejected the idea of self or “I”. He rejected the statements of “I have a self” and “I have no self.” When followers asked if the self was one with the body, he refused to answer.

Dependent Arising

The Twelve Nidanas describe a causal connection between the successive characteristics of cyclic existence. Each one of these gives rise to the next:

1. Avidya: Ignorance – spiritual ignorance of the nature of reality
2. Samskaras: An individual’s set personality, their predisposition
3. Vijnana: Consciousness, an awareness of the world
4. Namarupa: Traits, referring to the mind and the body
5. Sadayatana: The senses (eye, ear, nose, tongue, body, and mind-organ)
6. Sparsa: Contacts with other things
7. Vedana: Feelings
8. Trsna: Desire or thirst
9. Upadana: Clinging or grasping; the word also means “fuel”, which feeds the continuing cycle of rebirth
10. Bhava: Clinging to existence
11. Jati: Literally “birth”, but life is understood as starting at conception
12. Jaramarana: Old age and death

Suffering ends when the person attains nirvana.

Liberation

Nirvana

Nirvana means “cessation” or “extinction”. In this context, it is the end of craving and ignorance, and therefore, suffering. The end of suffering means the end of rebirths. The term for one attaining nirvana is “arahant”. The term “parinirvana” refers to the complete nirvana that is attained by the arahant at the moment of death; this is when the physical body expires.

Buddhas

A Buddha is a fully awakened being who has completely purified his mind of desire, aversion, and ignorance. A Buddha is no longer bound by Samsara. Many Buddhists do not consider Siddhartha Gautama as the only Buddha. Theravada and Mahayana Buddhists believe that the next Buddha will be named Maitreya.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Bodhisattvas

Bodhisattva means “enlightenment being” and refers to one who is on the path to Buddhahood. This person wishes to attain Buddhahood for the benefit of others.

Practice

Devotion

Devotion is extremely important. The devotional practices include bowings, offerings, pilgrimage, and chanting. There are different practices depending on the location. In Pure Land Buddhism, the devotion is to the Buddha Amitabha. In Nichiren Buddhism, the devotion is to the Lotus Sutra.

Yoga

Buddhism uses meditative absorption, or yoga. Buddha expressed yogic ideas in his early sermons. The person practicing the meditative absorption must combine it with the liberating cognition. There is a difference in Buddha’s teachings and early Brahminic texts; Buddha noted that meditative states alone are not liberating. The person must have a liberating cognition, which is based on mindfulness.

4.8 The Three Jewels

- **The Buddha** – Buddha is a title that is used when the person attains nirvana
- **The Dharma** – These are the teachings, or law of nature, as expounded by Gautama Buddha
- **The Sangha** – The individual who has attained any of the four stages of enlightenment, or simply the congregation of monastic practitioners

Gautama Buddha presented himself as a model, according to the scriptures. The Dharma offers a refuge by providing guidelines for the alleviation of suffering. Those seeking this are also seeking nirvana. The Sangha is considered the authentic teachings of Buddha. This also notes that the truths of Buddha’s teachings are attainable.

4.9 Buddhist Ethics

Sila is translated as “virtuous behavior”, “morality”, and even “ethics”. The individual must make an intentional effort. It is one of the three practices (sila, samadhi, and panna), and the second is paramita, which refers to moral purity of thought, word, and deed.

The four conditions of sila are chastity, calmness, quiet, and extinguishment.

Sila is the overall principles of ethical behavior. In the several levels of sila, one is the “basic morality”. In basic morality with asceticism, there are five precepts; in novice monkhood, there are eight precepts; and in monkhood, there are 10 precepts. We will discuss the primary eight precepts below.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

The first five precepts are the training rules on how to live a better life, one that is without worries so one can meditate well:

1. To refrain from taking a life (non-violence towards sentient life forms) or ahimsa
2. To refrain from taking that which is not given (not committing theft)
3. To refrain from sensual misconduct (including sexual)
4. To refrain from lying (always speak the truth)
5. To refrain from intoxicants that lead to loss of mindfulness, specifically drugs and alcohol

The principles are not required, but are a part of the training. The cultivation of the dana and ethical conduct will refine the consciousness to a level where the rebirth in one of the lower heavens is likely, even if the person discontinues Buddhist practices.

In the eight precepts, the third precept is even stricter when it comes to sexual misconduct and it becomes a precept of celibacy. The next three are as follows:

6. To refrain from eating at the wrong time (eat only from sunrise to noon)
7. To refrain from dancing and playing music, wearing jewelry and cosmetics, and attending shows or other performances
8. To refrain from using high or luxurious seats and bedding

The rest of the precepts may be observed by laypeople, but only for a short time. They are as follows:

9. To refrain from taking food at an unseasonable time that is after the mid-day meal
10. To refrain from dancing, music, singing and unseemly shows
11. To refrain from the use of garlands, perfumes, ointments, and other things to beautify a person
12. To refrain from using high and luxurious seats and beds
13. To refrain from accepting gold and silver

4.10 Schools and Traditions

There are several ways to classify Buddhists. Some scholars use the classification of Theravada, Mahayana, or Vajrayana. Others use geographical regions or cultural areas, such as Theravada, East Asian Buddhism, and Tibetan Buddhism.

Each has their own traditions of Buddhism and treats different concepts as central. Each tradition has its own core concepts, with some similarities, such as:

- All accept the Buddha as their teacher
- All accept the Middle Way, dependent origination, the Four Noble Truths, the Noble Eightfold Path, and the Three Marks of Existence
- All accept that members of the laity and of the Sangha can pursue the path toward enlightenment

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

- All consider Buddhahood the highest attainment

Theravada School

The Southern Buddhism, Theravada is conservative and generally closest to early Buddhism. The branches in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia have survived, although it has declined on the Indian subcontinent. Theravada is practiced today in Sri Lanka, Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and in some portions of China, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Bangladesh. It has a growing following in Europe and America as well.

Theravadin Buddhists believe that personal effort is required to realize rebirth. Village monks teach and serve the lay communities, while solitary monks meditate. A layperson can perform good works and those can be traded to the gods, who may reward the effort with material benefits.

Theravada Buddhists believe anyone can be a Buddha. They do not believe in deities and they do not perform rituals.

Monks are closer to being enlightened than a layperson. The layperson can only hope to be reborn as a monk, which would put them one step closer to being a Buddha. Theravada Buddhists believe those who attained enlightenment are saints. They do not believe in Bardo.

Mahayana Traditions

Mahayana Buddhists are Eastern Buddhists. Beginning in the 5th century CE, this sect flourished in India. This form is more liberal and uses a wider range of texts. The Mahayana Buddhists' path is a path all can follow, not just monks. These Buddhists follow the path to become Bodhisattvas, just as Buddha did.

Mahayana teaches helping others to achieve enlightenment. They believe in Bardo and they use more rituals than the Theravada. They feel that Buddha was not a god, but the essence of all things, and that anyone who so desired and was willing to dedicate themselves to the pursuit could become a Buddha.

Native Mahayana Buddhism is practiced today in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, parts of Russia, and most of Vietnam. The Pure Land School of Mahayana, which is a strand of Eastern Buddhism, is the most widely practiced today.

Vajrayana Traditions

Northern Buddhism, Vajrayana, involves magical and mystical elements. Followers use mantras and circle meditations. The Vajrayana attempt to recapture the expertise of the Buddha. Vajrayana is practiced in China, Mongolia, and Tibet. In China, it is its own sect; in Tibet, Vajrayana is a main component of Tibetan Buddhism.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

4.11 Buddhism Today

After the Middle Ages, Buddhism was almost a dead practice in India. However, it was still being practiced in surrounding countries. Now, it is expanding in India and in many other regions around the globe. According to scholars, there are between 230 million to 1.691 billion followers. This type of Buddhism is classified as “Chinese Folk” or a “traditional” religion.

The formality of the religion is differs depending on the location. The traditional variation is where the person takes refuge in The Three Jewels.

While there is a worldwide network of Buddhists, the numbers are difficult to estimate. Many do not define themselves as Buddhists. Throughout East and Southeast Asia, Buddhism is practiced alongside other religions, including Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto, shamanism, and animism. Buddhists do not have congregationalist memberships and do not participate in public ceremonies. Political climates and forces may make the adherence and practice of Buddhism more difficult, especially in China, Vietnam, and North Korea.

China and India are funding Buddhist shrines in some Asian countries.

Many individuals are drawn to Buddhism given the fast pace of life and high stress levels. They become interested in the peacefulness of Buddhism. Some of the interest stems from the desire to meditate to overcome stress and anxiety, deepening one’s personal spiritual experience. One form of Western Buddhism is Kadampa Buddhism. It was first introduced in the west in 1976 by Buddhist Master Venerable Geshe Keisang Gyatso.

4.12 Demographics

Estimates indicate that Buddhism is the fourth largest religion in the world behind Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism. Sangha, the monks’ order, which was founded during the lifetime of the Buddha, is the oldest organization on earth. Buddhism was the first world religion and the world’s largest religion. In 1951, Buddhism was the world’s largest religion, with 520 million adherents; Christianity was the second largest religion, with 500 million adherents.

Theravada Buddhism is the dominant form of Buddhism in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Burma. There are approximately 124 million adherents.

Mahayana Buddhism is an East Asian form that uses Chinese scriptures, and is dominant in most of China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Vietnam, and in communities within Indochina, Southeast Asia, and the West. The major concentration of Mahayana Buddhism is in Southeast Asia, where there are approximately 500 million to 1 billion followers.

Vajrayana, or Tibetan Buddhism, is found in Bhutan, Nepal, Mongolia, and areas of India, China (Tibet and Inner Mongolia), and Russia. There are approximately 20 million adherents.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 4 Review Questions

- Who is considered the founder of Buddhism?
 - Siddhartha Gautama
 - Jesus
 - Muhammad
 - Abraham
- The Middle Way is the path between extremes of which of the following pairs?
 - Good and evil
 - Self-indulgence and self-mortification
 - Self-loathing and self-admiration
 - Natural realities and supernatural realities
- Buddha was separated from the outside world by his father because his father feared he would become a _____.
 - Priest
 - Philosopher
 - Wandering sage
 - Madman
- Which of the following is not one of the Five Precepts?
 - Thou must not eat meat
 - Thou must not steal
 - Thou must not lie
 - Thou must not commit inappropriate sexual acts
- The first known iconic reputation of the Buddha appeared in the form of a _____.
 - Ceramic urn
 - Sculpture
 - Cave painting
 - Coin
- _____ is the view that all things and experiences are unpredictable, unsteady, and not permanent.
 - Dependent arising
 - Nirvana
 - Avidya
 - Impermanence
- Theravadin Buddhists believe that _____ is required to realize rebirth.
 - Pureness
 - A just life
 - Personal effort
 - Enlightenment
- Which statement is true of Buddhism today?
 - Buddhism flourished during the Middle Ages
 - Buddhism is often practiced alongside other religions, such as Taoism, Confucianism, and shamanism
 - Buddhists participate in a congregationalist membership and public ceremonies
 - Western Buddhism, Kadampa Buddhism, was first introduced in 1796
- Buddhism is estimated to be the _____ largest religion in the world.
 - First
 - Second
 - Third
 - Fourth
- The _____ aggregates (components) is made up of our sense of self.
 - Three
 - Five
 - Seven
 - Twelve

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 5: Asian Religions

Part 1: China

There are several different religions in China, and this evidence is based primarily on surveys of the people.

- Folk religions and Taoism: Approximately 30%
- Buddhism: Approximately 18%
- Christianity: 4%
- Ethnic minority's indigenous religions (including Vajrayana and Theravada): 4%
- Islam: 2%
- Agnostic or atheist: 42%

In China, religion is multi-religious, or pluralistic. China is an extremely large country that includes 56 ethnic and minority groups. There are more than 1 billion living in China, and the largest group is the Han Chinese, which is comprised of approximately 900 million people.

The Chinese are more family-related and do not demand adherence of family to a particular religious practice. In some ways, the use of the term “religion” to describe the practice of Buddhism and Taoism may be incorrect; they are more like cultural practices, thought systems, or philosophies, compared to religious doctrine. Therefore, there is some debate about what to call the practices – religious, cultural, or other?

In China, freedom of religion is a government policy. That freedom is protected by their constitution. Taoism, Buddhism, Islamism, Protestantism, and Catholicism have all developed a following in the country. There is a special governmental committee at the State Council that renders assistance to all confessional groups in China.

5.1 Buddhism

Buddhism is a popular and widespread religion in China. While the statistics show it is only self-reported at 18%, many do not declare Buddhism as a “religion”. Others practice Buddhism along with other religions. It was introduced in the 1st century.

Buddhism made its way to China from India. The religion follows the path of the Great Silk Road in the 11th century BC. Today, Buddhism is popular in Tibet and Inner Mongolia. There are approximately 9500 Buddhist temples and monasteries in China, with most of them being built over 2000 years ago. The Chinese Buddhist Society, founded in 1953, brings together Buddhists of all nationalities.

Buddhists are usually classified according to the language spoken. There are three communities: Mandarin, Tibetan, and Bali. Most Mandarin Buddhists are Han Chinese. The Tibetan Buddhists, usually called “Lamaist”, are from Tibet, Mongolia, Yugur, Lhoba, Moinba, and Tujia. The Bali

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Buddhists are people from the Dai and Bulang ethnic groups that usually live in the Yunnan Province.

Those who are Han believers may not be steadfast believers, but those who practice intermittently. Because of loose ties to Buddhism, it is hard to quantify the number of religious followers.

It was in the 18th and 19th centuries that European ideology spread to China. The Western religions gained some during the Taiping Rebellion. The Communist party came to power in 1949 and was atheist in orientation. Even though the government does not proffer a religion and is largely atheistic, they do, in most cases, protect the citizens to worship as they choose. However, that does not mean the government (and others) does not persecute different religions; they have throughout history. It appears beliefs like Taoism and Buddhism were supported since they are such integral parts of Chinese culture.

The largest religions in China are Shenism, Taoism, and Buddhism. All religions are scattered throughout the country. Many of the world's tallest statues are found in China. The world's largest statue, the Spring Temple Buddha, is now located in Henan. China also houses the world's highest pagoda and the world's tallest stupa (a dome-shaped structure erected as a Buddhist shrine).

Ancient and pre-historic

Prior to Chinese civilization, in the area known as East Asia that includes the territorial boundaries of modern-day China, the people practiced animistic practices. Tribes or shamans offered sacrifices, or offerings, that were used to communicate to the spiritual world. A shaman is a religious leader of the tribe who has special powers that include the ability to communicate with the spirit world and usually the ability to take herbals to heal people.

The primitive elements of animism, folk religions, and shamanism were practiced and evolved into Taoism. Taoism, along with Confucianism and other folk religions, constitutes approximately 400 million followers in China alone. The Han Chinese practice a shamanic religion indigenous to their culture. Some literature ignores the contributions this practice has made to religion in China. A number of ethnic groups still practice shamanic religions.

Modern History

The People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, officially creating an atheist government. The government views religion as emblematic of feudalism and foreign colonialism so they elected to maintain a separation of church and state. During Cultural Revolution of the 1960s, there was a change: it led to a policy of the elimination of religions, and a huge number of worship places were destroyed. By the late 1970s, the policy relaxed and the Cultural Revolution became more tolerant of religious expression. Since 1980, programs have been dedicated to rebuilding the Buddhist and Taoist temples. The government now expresses support for religious freedom. The government organized the World Buddhist Forum in 2006 and the International Forum on the Daodejing in 2007. The government has adopted the policy that religion is part of the Chinese culture.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

In present-day China, there are five religions the state recognizes: Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism, and Protestantism. The government also exercises some control of organizations it recognizes. While recognizing some, the government has chosen to ban other new movements.

Demographics

Chinese Buddhists are dispersed throughout China. The southern provinces have had a revival of ethnic Han Shamanism. The Chinese folk religion is found in central and northeastern provinces, but they are secularized. Northern Taoist and Buddhist practices are present in the north.

In the area where Tianshi Taoism developed, Sichuan is a stronghold of Taoism. Christians are mostly located in the easternmost provinces and coastal areas. Tibetan Buddhism remains the dominant religion in Tibet.

Islam is in the ethnic Hui areas, mostly in Ningxia and the province of Xinjiang. There are still many non-Han minority ethnic groups with their own traditional ethnic culture and follow their own religion, such as Dongbaism. Intellectuals tend to embrace Confucianism.

5.2 Confucianism

Historical Development of Confucianism

Confucius was a Chinese philosopher who lived in the 5th century BC. He was born in 551 BC on September 28th and died 479 BC in the Lu state of China, now present-day Qufu. His original name was Kong Qui, but he is known as Confucius. He was a Chinese teacher, editor, politician, and philosopher. His life was noted for being undramatic, or “plain and real”.

His doctrine was one of conservation of ancient traditions and the following of the commands of Heaven, which were representing the emperor. Confucius believed in feudalism; he taught that people needed a leader and a return to this system would give them one. He also taught that leaders were appointed celestially and possessed the *Te*, a sacred power. Virtue was a reward and he did not believe in punishment to change behavior. He is most noted for his sayings that continue to live on, such as:

“Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life.”

“It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop.”

“I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand.”

A book called *The Analects* was about his life and teachings, and was published a century after his death.

Confucianism has lost its importance; today, there is only a small portion of the Chinese people who follow this religion.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Mencius

Mencius was a follower of Confucius who studied under the grandson. He wrote a book about Confucius 100 years after this death. He stated that people were generally good, but were influenced by a poor environment. He noted how important it was to overturn a bad government so as to help human beings rise to their level of goodness.

Hsun-tzu

Hsun-tzu was another follower of Confucius; however, he believed humans were basically evil. He stated humans needed to be trained so they could be good. He felt people should follow the moral code of the universe rather than worshipping or calling on deities. He is noted as the most non-religious teacher of Confucianism. He did, however, believe in social rites, which he felt were needed in order for people to become educated and connected to society.

Han Dynasty through the present

The Han Dynasty embraced Confucianism and made it the official state culture. Taoism was also the official state religion. The Confucians of the time were put in charge of the education of the children and they were very highly regarded. Temples to Confucius were built and he was worshipped.

The social and political system of Confucianism remained until 1912 when the new Republic of China rejected it; subsequently, it was rejected by the People's Republic of China. Since 2000, there has been a revival of Confucianism and it is now supported by the central government. The People's Republic of China has been setting up institutes for Confucian education all over the world. Beijing houses the headquarters of all Confucius Institutes. In 2010, 300 institutes were established. The intellectual community in China is growing and a greater number of people seek to make Confucianism an institutional religion.

Confucianism traits

There are no theological claims or religious texts in Confucianism. The value is social. There are no monocratic orders and little interest in the afterlife is expressed. Followers of Confucianism place more value on the here and now, and death is not feared. Confucius did not speak or write about the afterlife.

- **Li** – Li is the living of life as it is “supposed” to be lived (with respect and courtesy for all of society)
- **Jen** – Jen is love and goodness; the individual is supposed to perform social duties properly
- **Shu** – Shu is the principle of reciprocity or treating others as one wants to be treated

Golden Mean or Superior Man

Confucianism advocates that the individual live a moderate lifestyle called the “Golden Mean”. This promotes living without extremes and avoiding excess. A man of the Golden Mean has five constant virtues: Self-respect, generousness, sincerity, earnestness and benevolence.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Five Basic Relationships

Confucius held that the family is sacred and deserves special loyalty. He outlined five major life relationships:

- **Friend to friend** – Each should treat each other with respect
- **Elder brother to younger brother** – The elder brother should act with courteousness, while the younger brother should be humble
- **Father to son** – The father should be kind to the son and the son should respect the father
- **Husband to wife** – The husband should be righteous and his wife should be obedient
- **Ruler to subject** – The ruler should be benevolent and the subject should be loyal to the ruler

Confucianism texts

There are Five Classics and Four Books of Confucianism text. The Four Books are: *The Great Learning*, *The Doctrine of Men*, *The Analects of Confucius*, and *The Mencius*. The Classics include: *The Classic of History*, *The Classic of Theory*, *The Classic of Rites*, *The Classic of Changes*, and the *Spring and Autumn Annals*.

The I Ching, or Classic of Changes, is one book within the sacred texts of Confucius that involves divinity. The I Ching is thousands of years old and predates Confucius. In order to use the book, one must flip coins, toss sticks, or use some type of tool to assist them while meditating on a concern. This is a spiritual element of Confucianism.

Respect of Ancestors

Chinese respect of ancestors dates back to prehistory. This is an integral part of the Chinese religious practices and holds a mandatory place in Confucianism. Within Confucianism and Chinese culture, all value family, and devoutness to family is a top virtue. The veneration of ancestors is a practice that extends to legendary and historical figures.

There are two major festivals that involve ancestor veneration, the Qingming Festival and the Double Ninth Festival. The veneration of ancestors is also conducted at other ceremonies, including weddings, funerals, and triad initiations. The worshipers offer prayers and include food, incense, and candles, and burn offerings of joss paper. These types of activities often take place at graves or tombs of ancestors or at a household shrine.

5.3 Taoism

Taoism also referred to as **Daoism** is a composite of related philosophical and religious traditions and concepts that started in China around 6th century BCE. Taoists focus on non-action (wu wei), spontaneity, health, longevity, and immortality. These traditions have been practiced for over 2000 and have spread internationally.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Popular Taoism embraces reverence for nature and ancestor spirits. Organized Taoism is different than folk religion. Some professional Taoists view folk religion as debased. Chinese alchemy, astrology, cuisine, martial arts, traditional medicine, feng shui, and styles of qigong breath training are part of Taoism.

Taoism started as a religion in the late Eastern Han Dynasty (220 BCE – 25 CE). Northern and Southern Dynasties (366 CE – 589 CE) adopted, Neo-Taoism, which combined some concepts and methods from a rival religion, Buddhism. The educated were attracted to it because of its beauty and power, while emperors supported it for political reasons. The silver age of Taoism was from the Tang Dynasty (618 CE – 907 CE) to the Northern Song Dynasty (960 CE – 1127 CE); many sects developed during this period. There was a growth of Taoist temples and Taoist masters in China. After the Yuan Dynasty (1271 CE – 1368 CE), Taoism divided into two main sects: Quanzhen and Zhengyi Dao.

During the Cultural Revolution, Taoism was banned, along with all other religions. However, Taoism is undergoing a major revival today. Shenism, which includes Taoism, might currently be the largest religion in China. Approximately 20-30% of the population worship Shenist ethnic deities, or they adhere to the Taoist institutions.

As recently as 2007, China was part of an International Forum on the Daodejing; celebrities and government officials expressed their support of Taoism, stating it was one of the foundations of Chinese culture. Taoist clergy are launching missionary systems that are spreading the word on a global scale.

Important themes

Yin and Yang

The Yin is the feminine force. The Yin is associated with wetness, darkness, coolness, and evil. The Yang is the masculine force. It is associated with warmth, dryness, goodness, and light. Combining the Yin and Yang produce the Tai Chi disk, which is the harmonious interaction between the two that governs the universe.

Tao

Tao is the path, or the way. It is the flow that follows the universe. It is calm, passive, yet stronger than anything else found in the universe. It is delicate, silent, and recurring.

- Te is power, or integrity. It is the sensible application of the Tao in a person's life
- Wu wei is the art of accomplishing things without having to assert oneself in an active manner. It is the art of "doing without doing"
- P'u is when one is directly aware of the state of wu wei
- Ch'i is a state that is achieved through proper nutrition, physical activity, and breath control

The *Tao Te Ching* is the most important text in Taoism. This book has been assembled over many centuries. There are 81 sections that were written to a benevolent ruler. The second most important

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

book, *Chuang-zhu*, addresses the proper conduct of oneself. *Lieh-tzu*, *Kuan-tzu*, *Classic of the Sacred Jewel*, and *Classic of the Great Peace* are four more texts used by Taoists.

The Three Jewels

The Three Jewels assist a person in living in harmony with the Tao. They are:

1. Compassion or love
2. Economy or simplicity
3. Humility and modesty

The Three Senses of Tao from the Tao Te Ching

1. The concept of the ultimate reality. This involves understanding that all things are Tao, but knowing the Tao cannot be defined.
2. This is the Mother of the World. She is the force behind all nature and the way of the universe.
3. The way of human life. The goal of living in harmony with nature. This is considered as attaining harmony with the Tao and the goal of all Taoists.

Enlightenment

The goal is to become one with the Tao, or enlightenment. When a person is one with the Tao, they become a sage. A sage is open to life, tranquility, simplicity, unity, intellect, and reserve.

Death and Afterlife

Some religions are concerned with the afterlife, but the Taoists. Though death is not feared, it is not preferred. It is an additional stage of life and one will pass into it. The Tao continues after death; the emphasis is placed on maintaining life and enjoying it and the Tao as long as possible.

5.4 Chinese Ethnic Religions

The collection of ethnic religions and traditions are Chinese folk religion, or Shenism. For most of civilization's history, this been the majority belief systems in China and among the Han Chinese. Shenism has Chinese mythology and includes the worship of shens. Shens can be nature deities, city deities, national and clan deities, as well as cultural heroes, deimgods, dragons, and ancestors.

Chinese folk religion has about 400 million adherents, comprising about 6% of the world's population. In China, there are over 30% of the population that adheres to Shenism or Taoism.

Chinese Holidays

- **Chinese New Year** – Begins at the end of January until the beginning of February and continues until the full moon of the next month. This is a time of cleansing and prepares one for the next year.
- **Pure and Bright Festival** – Takes place in April. Individuals celebrate spring and they give respect to their ancestors.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

- **Dragon Boat Festival** – Occurs in the beginning of summer, typically June. There are dragon boat races and rice cakes. This exorcising of evil spirits is important for Taoists.
- **All Souls Day** – Occurs in late August and celebrates the release of ancestors from purgatory. Some leave offerings outside for wandering spirits.
- **Autumn Harvest** – This festival celebrates the harvests and is held during the full moon in September.
- **Chiao** – This holiday celebrates the universe’s renewal and is held during winter.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Part 2: Japan

Religions in Japan 2011:

- Non-religious: 67%
- Buddhism: 22%
- Other religions: 3%
- Christianity: 2%
- Not stated: 6%

Japanese people usually do not identify with one religion; however, they take elements of various religions and incorporate them together. Shinto and Japanese Buddhists are not two competing faiths in Japan; rather, they are viewed in a complex way.

Japanese people have full religious freedom with minority religions being practiced, such as Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Sikhism. Families are typically associated with a religion, not because they practice the religion, but because they are associated with a Buddhist temple or Shinto shrine due to their birth location. Their family's association with a family line and the attachment to a religion is what is defined for the child. However, about 70% of Japanese do not profess a religious membership.

5.5 Shinto

Shinto means “the way of the gods”. It is the indigenous religion and is practiced by approximately 83% of the population. Adherents do not make a profession of faith, but merely practice certain aspects of Shinto. Shinto originated in prehistoric times and was a religion with respect for nature and for sacred sites. These sites may have been used to worship the sun, trees, sounds, and rock formations. Each of these is associated with a deity, or kami. Shintoism is a complete polytheistic religion, and worship is performed at shrines. Individuals practice a ritual of purification before they visit the shrines.

Shinto does not have a founder or canon. There is a variety of denominations of Shinto. Nihongi and Kojiki contain a record of Japanese mythology. In the Shinto sects of Tenrikyo and Konkokoyo, there is often leader and a dogma. When Buddhism gained popularity, Shinto fell out of favor. However, Shinto and Buddhism started to be practiced in tandem. Where Shinto sites were built, Buddhist temples were also constructed.

Religious Practices

Most Japanese participate in rituals that are a combination of many religions. Each landmark in a person's life is marked by celebrations, yet they may hail from different religious traditions. For instance, a baby's birth is celebrated with a formal shrine visit at one month, and the third, fifth, and seventh birthday. When the child turns 20, there is another visit to the shrine.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Weddings are often performed by Shinto priests, but Christian wedding ceremonies are also quite popular. They use a liturgy, but oftentimes there is not an ordained priest.

Japanese funerals are often held in the Buddhist traditions, as well as anniversary of death celebrations, with 91% of Japanese funerals taking place in Buddhist tradition.

There are two categories of holidays in Japan. There are festivals that are mostly Shinto and relate to the cultivation of rice and the spiritual well-being of the community. Annual events are largely of Chinese or Buddhist origin. Festivals are local events that follow local traditions. These events are sometimes sponsored by schools, towns, or community groups, and are associated with Shinto shrines.

While most holidays are secular in nature, some involve visits to local shrines.

New Year's Day and Obon entail a visit to a Shinto shrine or Buddhist temple. There are different customs, yet they usually involve special foods. Adherents dress in a kimono and visit shrines to pray for family members and blessing for the coming year. They eat noodles on New Year's Eve and play a poetry game.

During Obon, spirit altars are set up in front of Buddhist family altars. Family graves are cleaned up for visits. There is folk dancing and prayers at the Buddhist temples and in the home.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 5 Review Questions

- Which statement is true?
 - In China, freedom of religion is a government policy
 - Religion in China is homogeneous
 - A recent survey shows that Christianity is the least practiced religion in China
 - The Chinese culture values devote religious practice instead of family
- The Communist party in power during 1949 was predominately comprised of _____.
 - Confucius
 - Atheists
 - Hindu
 - Tao
- In modern-day China, which religion is not officially recognized by the Chinese government?
 - Buddhism
 - Catholicism
 - Judaism
 - Islam
- Confucius did not speak or write about _____.
 - Sexual relations
 - Fairness
 - Charity
 - The afterlife
- In Confucianism, the Golden Mean promotes _____.
 - A spiritual connection with nature
 - An active commitment to reaching enlightenment
 - Living without extremes
 - Harmony amongst mankind
- Taoism was started as a result of which Chinese Dynasty?
 - Xia Dynasty
 - Han Dynasty
 - Tang Dynasty
 - Ming Dynasty
- Which of the following statements is true?
 - The Yin is associated with warmth, dryness, and goodness
 - The Yin is the feminine force
 - The Yang is associated with wetness, darkness, and evil
 - The Yang is the masculine force
- The Chinese celebration that occurs in late August and celebrates the release of ancestors from purgatory is known as _____.
 - The Pure and Bright Festival
 - The Dragon Boat Festival
 - All Souls Day
 - Chiao
- What is the goal of all Taoists?
 - To live in harmony with nature
 - For humanity to be at peace with each other
 - To live a holy and righteous life to be rewarded in the afterlife
 - To spread the word of Taoism
- Which of the following statements about Shintoism is false?
 - Shinto worship is performed at shrines
 - Individuals must purify themselves before they visit a shrine
 - Adherents of Shinto must make a profession of faith
 - Shintoism is a polytheistic religion

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 6: Judaism

Judaism is a monotheistic religion and originated in the Hebrew Bible. This Bible is known as the Tanakh. Later texts are known as the Talmud. There are several different practices within the Jewish faith: Orthodox Jews (Haredi Judaism and Modern Orthodox Judaism), Conservative Judaism and Reform Judaism. The major difference in these groups is how they approach Jewish Law.

Orthodox Judaism maintains that the Torah and Jewish Law are divine in origin. The laws are eternal, unalterable, and are to be strictly followed. The Conservative and Reform practices of Judaism are more liberal. Conservatives promote a more traditional interpretation of the requirements of the Judaism, while Reformed Judaism teaches that Jewish Law is more of a set of guidelines rather than a set of restrictions. Judaism had its own courts that enforced Jewish Law. While the courts still exist today, the compliance is more voluntary by practicing Jews. Rabbis and scholars use sacred texts to interpret the law rather than one person ruling all Jews.

Judaism is a historical religion dating back over 3000 years, and is the oldest monotheistic religion. The Hebrews/Israelites were referred to as “Jews”. The Tanakh has a reference to Jews in the book of Esther. The term “Jews” replaced the title “Children of Israel”. The traditions have influenced many other religions, including those of the Abrahamic religions, such as Christianity, Islam, and Baha’i. The laws of the Jews have even influenced the laws in secular Western ethics and civil law.

Jews are an ethnoreligious group; there are individuals who were born as Jews and then those who convert to Judaism. They comprise an estimated 13.4 million (2%) of the world’s population. Approximately 42% of the Jews of the world reside in Israel, while another 42% reside in the United States and Canada. The remaining Jews reside in Europe.

6.1 Defining Character in Judaism

The Hebrew God is portrayed as a unitary and solitary God. There are no relationships with other gods. God created man “in his own image”. Jews do not believe that this means humans “look” like God, but God is incorporeal and that man has the ability to reason, like God. Genesis 2:7 states, “God formed man.” It uses the Hebrew word “vayyitzer”, meaning “formed”.

There are two yods in the Talmud, or two impulses found in humans. The yetzer tov and the yetzer ra. The yetzer toy is the moral conscience and it reminds the person of God’s law when the person is considering what to do in a situation. The other is yetzer ra, which is the impulse one has to satisfy their own desires. While there is nothing intrinsically evil about the yetzer ra (since it was created by God), it is a natural part of mankind. The yetzer ra also drives man to do good things like eat, drink, have a family, and make a living. However, the yetzer ra can also lead the person to sin unless it is kept in check.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

6.2 Creation Story

Judaism teaches that God created all Heaven and earth. This includes all things like Adam, who was created out of dust. Then God created a companion for Adam named Eve. She came from Adam's rib. They lived in the Garden of Eden until Eve was tempted; she and Adam ate from the fruit of the forbidden tree.

After they were expelled from the Garden of Eden and many generations had passed, God became unhappy with His people. He told Noah to build an ark and place designed animals on the ark. He then created a massive flood and killed all left on the land. Since Noah and his family were saved, all subsequent generations came from him and his family. Abraham, a descendent of Noah, became the father of the Jews. He had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac.

Isaac was almost sacrificed to God by his father. God spared him and then forbid the sacrifice of humans. All the descendants of Isaac are considered to be patriarchs in Judaism.

Moses was chosen by God to be a prophet. He was selected to receive the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai and to have God's true name of YHWH (Yod Heh Vav Heh) revealed to him. Moses had led the Israelites across the Red Sea, per God's instructions.

Moses delivered the Ten Commandments to the Jews; they are as follows:

1. Worship no gods other than YHWH
2. Make no images of God
3. Do not take the Lord's name in vain
4. Keep the Sabbath holy
5. Honor thy father and thy mother
6. Do not kill
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal
9. Do not bear false witness
10. Do not covet

The Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle

The two engraved tablets that contained the Ten Commandments were of such importance they were placed in a special wooden box that was called the Art of the Covenant. This was a portable tabernacle and it was displayed for worship by the Jewish people. The Art was the placed in the first temple, which was destroyed in 586 BCE; the Art has been lost to history ever since.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

6.3 Jewish Religious Texts

There are two main religious texts in Judaism:

- Tanakh
 - Torah
 - Nevi'im (prophets)
 - Ketuvum (scriptures)
- Talmud (classic rabbinic literature)
 - Mishnah – Oral, political, and civil laws
 - Gemara – One of the most important non-biblical books

6.4 Jewish Ethics

The halakhic tradition guides Jewish ethics. There are other moral principles and central Jewish virtues. The major values are justice, truth, peace, loving-kindness (chesed), compassion, humility, and self-respect. A specific Jewish ethical practice is the practice of charity (tzedakah) and to refrain from negative speech (lashon hara). The idea of the proper ethical practices regarding sexuality and many other issues are of dispute among Jews.

Jews believe that human free will is fundamental. The concept of original sin is rejected; every person has the ability to choose good or evil.

Prayers

Traditionally, Jews recite prayers called Shacharit, Mincha, and Ma'ariv three times a day, and on the Shabbat and holidays, a fourth prayer is added. Amidah is at the heart of each service. The declaration of faith is called Shema. The Shema is a recitation of a verse that is from the Torah. The Shema is a central prayer to Jewish life.

Prayers are recited alone or in a communal group. If they are recited in a communal group, a quorum of 10 adult Jews, called a minyan, must be present. In Orthodox and a few Conservative Temples, the Jews state that a minyan must be male. In other practices of Conservative and Reform Judaism, the count can include females.

Jews also recite prayers during the day based on the service or act they are performing. Upon awakening, the Jewish custom is to pray before eating or drinking different goods and after eating a meal.

Different Jewish denominations practice diverse types of prayers, including texts, the use of musical instruments, the frequency of the prayers, and the number of prayers recited at various times.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Religious Clothing

A rounded brimless skullcap is worn by many Jews while they pray, eat, recite blessings, and study Jewish texts, it is called a kippah. Some Jewish men wear them all the time.

In Orthodox denominations and communities, only men wear the kippot. However, in some communities, women also wear the kippot. The kippot ranges in sizes that include a small, round beanie that covers the back of the head to a large, snug cap that covers the entire crown of the individual.

A prayer shawl is called a tallit. The tallit may have knotted fringe or tassels on the four corners called tzitzit. A prayer shawl is worn by men and women during prayer services. In the Sephardi community, boys who have been through bar mitzvah can wear the prayer shawl. In Ashkenazi, it is customary to wear a prayer shawl after marriage.

A small tallit, or a tallit katan, is a fringed garment worn under the clothing during the day; sometimes, the fringe hangs freely outside the clothing.

Two square leather boxes containing biblical verses (Tefillin) are worn with one box attached to the forehead and the other straps is wound around the left arm. Jewish men and some Jewish women wear it during the morning prayers.

Jewish holidays

Jewish holidays are special days that Jews celebrate. There are central themes in the relationship with God, such as creation, revelation, and redemption. These days appear on the Jewish calendar. Jewish religious observances are grounded in Jewish Law (halakhah), or the path one walks. This is an elaborate framework of the divine (mitzvot) commandments with rabbinic laws and traditions.

Halakhah does not just govern religious life, but day-to-day life. One learns how to dress, what to eat, and how to help the poor. One shows gratitude to God by observing halakhah.

There are several practices in Jewish life that are important.

The **Mitzvah** are “commandments”. Sometimes the word is used to refer to rabbinic (Talmudic) law or it can be general good deeds. Mitzvot is the plural form of Mitzvah.

The 613 Commandments

Maimonides, the Jewish philosopher, made a list of 613 commandments, which he found in the Jewish Bible. In addition to the 613 mitzvot, there is a large body of rabbinical rules and laws, and they are just as binding as the mitzvot. Punishments are less severe. Rabbinic law can be changed, though it is not often done. The rabbinical part of the halakhah is divided into three groups: gezeirah, takkanah, and minhag.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

The Synagogue

A Jewish house of worship is called a synagogue. The use of the synagogue predates the destruction of the second temple. After the temple was lost, the synagogue replaced ritual sacrifice with Torah readings, teaching, and praying.

There are guidelines to Jewish worship, such as weekday and Sabbath prayer services, as well as the etiquette for visitors.

Dietary Laws for Jews

The most known Jewish religious practices are that of eating kosher foods. The laws of kashrut are a little puzzling to the outsider, but they hold great meaning for Jewish people now and throughout history. Conformance shows obedience to God, unifies one to the community, and gives them identity as a people.

The food prepared according to these laws is considered kosher. Kosher food is known as treifah or treif. Most of the laws apply to animal-based foods. In order to be considered kosher, mammals must have split hooves and chew their cud. The pig is the best known example of a non-kosher animal; although a pig has split hooves, it does not chew its cud.

Seafood, in order to be kosher, must have fins and scales. Some seafood, such as shellfish, crustaceans, and eels, are not considered kosher. For birds, there is a list of kosher species in the Torah. Some birds listed are no longer living and others that did not survive the translations. Chicken and turkeys are permitted. Amphibians, reptiles, and most insects are prohibited.

Kosher meat and poultry must be slaughtered in a process known as shechitah. If it is not slaughtered properly, it is rendered treif. The slaughtering process must be quick and relatively painless to the animal. Blood, some fats, and the area in and around the sciatic nerve are forbidden.

Jewish Law does not allow meat and dairy products to be consumed together. The order of eating meat and then dairy products can be as long as six hours. The use of dishes, utensils, and ovens can make food treif that would have otherwise been kosher. If a utensil has been used for meat and is now being used for a dairy product, it will render the food treif.

No processed grape products made by non-Jews are allowed by the Orthodox and some Conservative authorities. These products are made by non-Jews and are used in pagan practices. While the Torah does not give the reasons behind kashrut, it does go to the idea of ritual purity. This reduces impulse issues, helps with health, reduces cruelty to animals, encourages obedience to God, and preserves the Jewish community.

Purity Laws

The Tanakh notes circumstances in which a person who is tahor, or ritually pure, may become tamei, or ritually impure. Contact with human corpses or graves, seminal flux, vaginal flux, menstruation, and contact with other people who are tamei can cause a tahor to become impure.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Family Purity

A subcategory of ritual purity laws, known as niddah or separation, relates to menstruating women. This is a vital aspect of halakha. Women were separated from the home during this time. This is not followed by Jews in liberal dominations.

In Orthodox Judaism, the Torah mandates that a woman in her normal menstrual periods must abstain from sexual intercourse for seven days. If her cycle is prolonged, she must continue to abstain for seven more days after her bleeding has stopped. In rabbinical law, the husband is forbidden from touching or sharing a bed with his wife during this time. Afterwards, she must undergo a purification bath called a mikveh.

For Ethiopian Jews, menstruating women are kept in separate huts, and similar to Karaite practice, they are not allowed into a temple's special sanctity. The emigration to Israel and the influence of other Jewish denominations have led to Ethiopian Jews adopting more normative Jewish practices.

Life Cycle Events

The life cycle events bind the Jews to the community and strengthen their identities as Jews.

On the first Saturday after the child is born, the father is called forth at the synagogue to recite the Aliyah and to ask blessings for the health of the child and mother.

Brit milah is the practice of welcoming male babies into the faith through the rite of circumcision on their 18th day of life. The boy is given his Hebrew name in the ceremony. The female infant parallel ritual is called zeved habit or brit bat.

Bar mitzvah and Bat mitzvah marks the passage from childhood into adulthood and takes place when a female Jew is 12 years old and when a Jewish male is 13 years old. In the Reform movement, the age of 13 is for both sexes. In Orthodox tradition, the new adults lead the congregation in prayer and publically read a portion of the Torah. In the Orthodox tradition, only the boys can do this; however, both boys and girls participate in in other denominations.

Marriage is an extremely important life cycle event. Weddings take place under a wedding canopy, which is called a chupah or happy house. After the ceremony, the groom breaks a glass with his foot to symbolize the continuous mourning for the destruction of the Temple and the scattering of the Jewish people.

Divorce is viewed as a tragedy, but sometimes a necessary one. There are some allowances for divorce under Jewish Law.

Death and mourning is a multi-stage process. The first stage is called shiva, which literally means "seven" for the seven days. The tradition is to sit at home and be comforted by friends and family. The second stage is the shloshim, which is observed for one month and done for those who have lost one of their parents. There is a third stage, avelut yud bet chodesh, which is observed for seven months.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

6.5 Community Leadership

The priesthood is an inherited position. There is no official Jewish priesthood today since the Temple was destroyed in 70 CE. There are several different people though who serve different roles to help perform ceremonial duties and are still honored in the Jewish community. Many Orthodox Jewish communities believe they will be needed again when there is a Third Temple.

Kohen is a priest and a patrilineal descendant of Aaron, the brother of Moses. In the Temple, the kohanim were charged with performing the sacrifices. Today, a Kohen is the first person called up for the reading of the Torah, performs the Priestly Blessing, and complies with other unique laws and ceremonies. They also participate in the Redemption of the Firstborn Ceremony, the ritual of Pidyon Ha-Ben, which celebrates that the first-born child is the best and the best things belong to God.

Levi (Levite) is the patrilineal descendant of the Tribe of Levi and son of Jacob. Levites sang Psalms in the Temple of Jerusalem. Levites performed construction, maintenance, janitorial, and guard duties. They also assisted priests and sometimes interpreted Jewish Laws for the public. Today, a Levite is called up to give the second reading.

Prayer Leaders

From the Mishnah and the Talmud to the present, Judaism has required specialists for the practice of some rituals. A Jew can fulfil their own prayers by themselves, but for the reading of the Torah and haftarah, a prayer for mourners, blessings for a bride and groom, and the complete grace after meals, a minyan is required.

The professionals in the clergy are:

- The rabbi of a congregation is a Jewish scholar who is charged with answering the legal questions of a congregation. The role requires the ordination by the congregations preferred authority like a respected Orthodox rabbi, or a Conservative or Reform from academic seminaries. Some congregations do not require a rabbi. Some have a rabbi, but allow members to act as shatz or baal kriyah.
- Hazzan (note: the “h” denotes a voiceless pharyngeal fricative) (Cantor) is a trained vocalist who acts as a shatz. This person is chosen for their good voice and knowledge of the prayers and sincerity in reciting them.

6.6 Hasidism

Hasidic Judaism was founded by Yisroel ben Eliezer (1700-1760). It was founded during a time of persecution of the Jewish people. European Jews had turned inward to Talmud study and many were concerned Jewish life had become too academic. They wanted emphasis on spirituality and joy. Ben Eliezer’s disciples attracted many followers; in fact, numerous Hasidic sects were established in Europe. This way became the life for many Jews. Waves of Jewish immigration into the 1880s carried it to the United States.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

There was a serious schism between Hasidic and non-Hasidic Jews: those who had rejected the Hasidic movement were dubbed as Misnagdim (opponents). Hasidic worship had untraditional ascriptions of infallibility and alleged miracle-workings to their leaders. There was concern it might become a messianic sect. Today, both groups are part of the Haredi Judaism.

6.7 The Enlightenment and New Religious Movements

The Enlightenment movement started in the late 18th CE in Europe by a group of intellectual, social, and political groups. There were reductions in the European laws that prohibited Jews to interact with the secular world. Jews were able to receive education and experience. The Haskalah, or the Jewish Enlightenment, began in Central Europe and Western Europe in response to the Enlightenment and the new freedoms. With the promise of political emancipation, many Jews saw no reason to observe Jewish Law, so they assimilated into Christian Europe.

Subsequently, these movements spread to the United States and Great Britain. Reform Judaism and Liberal Judaism developed and relaxed legal obligations. Prayer looked more Protestant. In the United States, wealthy Reform rabbis who felt that Jewish Law should not be entirely abandoned supported seminaries to train rabbis for immigration from Eastern Europe.

Birth rates for American Jews have dropped from 2.0 to 1.7. Intermarriage rates range from 40-50% in the US and only 1/3 of children of intermarried couples are raised as Jews. The Jewish population in the United States shrank from 5.5 million to 5.1 million. The Baal Teshuva movement is a movement of Jews who have returned to the religion or who have become more observant.

6.8 What Do Jews Believe About The Afterlife?

Jews believe unrighteous Jews and Gentiles are punished in Genion (Jewish Hell) for up to 12 months after death. After, they are purified the righteous continue on to Gan Eden (Heaven).

The truly wicked endure a full year of punishment in Genion. Their body is consumed, their soul is burned, and the wind scatters them under the soles of the feet of the righteous.

The Messiah

The Messianic Age is a period in human history that will be initiated when the messiah comes. Then, the righteous dead will be resurrected, but the wicked will not. It will be a time of peace and restoration of the land and the organizations of Israel.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 6 Review Questions

- Who is considered to be the founder of Judaism?
 - Solomon
 - Abraham
 - Moses
 - Isaac
- How did God first appear to Moses?
 - As an Egyptian slave
 - As a cloud on Mt. Sinai
 - As a burning bush
 - As the Red Sea
- Followers of Judaism believe in all of the following except _____.
 - Free will
 - The concept of original sin
 - Every human is capable of choosing between good and evil
 - Universal truths like justice, truth, and charity
- A covenant in Hebrew tradition is viewed as which of the following?
 - An ornamental chest for storing religious talismans
 - A prophecy about the future
 - An agreement between God and man
 - A law handed down by God to men
- Many Jewish men wear a rounded, brimless, skullcap while praying, eating, and studying Jewish texts. What is one of the official names for this cap?
 - Tallit
 - Tefillin
 - Shema
 - Kippah
- In Jewish culture, this tender ritual is done immediately after the coffin has been lowered into the ground as an act to help provide closure to those who are grieving; this aids them in beginning to accept that this is a natural part of the life cycle.
 - Attendees are to recite a special prayer each day for the next seven days
 - Immediate family and other funeral attendees take turns shoveling dirt onto the coffin
 - Funeral attendees are to shake hands with the immediate family members of the deceased
 - Immediate family members should be left by the graveside to grieve in isolation while others walk away
- What do Jews call the Day of Atonement?
 - Ashkenazim
 - Hanukkah
 - Passover
 - Yom Kippur
- Which meal should you serve to someone who follows a Jewish kosher diet?
 - Tomato soup and grilled cheese
 - Chicken and cheese quesadillas
 - Lobster and broccoli
 - Eggs, bacon, and toast

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

9. The Bible (Old Testament) states that it is the custom for Jewish people to pray

-
- a. Once a day
 - b. Three times a day
 - c. Only on the Sabbath and Festival Holy Days
 - d. Whenever it is convenient to do so

10. What do Jews believe about the afterlife?

- a. All Jewish followers go to heaven
- b. There is no afterlife
- c. Unrighteous Jews and Gentiles will be punished in hell for 12 months before being allowed into Heaven
- d. The afterlife has been pre-determined by God and man cannot speculate what happens

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 7: Christianity

Christianity is a monotheistic and Abrahamic religion. It is based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, who is presented in the canonical gospels in the New Testament. Christianity also uses the Old Testament, and is considered canonical. Those who adhere to the Christian faith are known as Christians regardless of the denomination or sect to which they belong.

The Christian belief purports that Jesus is the Son of God. He is fully Divine and fully human. He is the Savior of humanity. Christians also believe that Jesus is the Messiah who was prophesied in the Old Testament and considered the God of Abraham. In contrast, the Jews are still waiting for the Messiah and do not embrace the New Testament or the “Good News”. Jesus’ story is told in the New Testament, where he is born, begins his ministry, is crucified (sacrificial death), and where He is resurrected. Christians believe that this is the victory over evil, offering eternal life for those who believe.

Christianity began in the mid-1st century. Originating in Judea, it migrated to Europe, Syria, Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, Transcaucasia, Egypt, Ethiopia, and India. It was the official state religion of the church of the Roman Empire. After the Age of Discovery, Christianity migrated to North and South America, Oceania, sub-Saharan Africa, then the rest of the world through missionary work and colonists.

The three largest groups of Christianity are the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the various denominations of Protestantism. In 1054 AD, the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox split during the East-West Schism. Protestantism split from Catholicism during the Protestant Reformation during the 16th century. Protestantism split from the Roman Catholic Church because of Martin Luther’s beliefs and his challenges to the Roman Catholic Church. He taught that the words of the Scripture were such that the ordinary people could understand the words of the Bible, which is the belief in the historical-grammatical method or Biblical hermeneutics. Martin Luther believes in sola scriptura, or Scripture alone. Sola gratia means “by grace alone”. Solus Christus is “through Christ alone”. Soli Deo Gloria is “glory to God alone”.

7.1 Martin Luther

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, and he was a German religious leader and priest. He became a catalyst of the 16th-century Protestant Reformation. Over time, he grew disenchanted with the Roman Catholic Church when he felt he could not get the answers he was seeking. He rejected several of the teachings of the church. He was highly concerned about the indulgences the church charged for the forgiveness of sins. As a result, he proposed an academic discussion of the ideas of the church with which he disagreed. As a scholar, he believed he was opening conversation. He refused to denounce his writings, like *The 95 Theses*, and the misgivings he had about the Church, which caused Pope Leo X and the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, 1521, to excommunicate him. He was declared an outlaw by the Emperor.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

In addition, he translated the Bible into simpler terms (instead of Latin) to make it more accessible to the common man. Those who identify with Luther are called Lutherans. Luther himself insisted on Christian or Evangelical as the acceptable name for those who professed Christ.

Martin Luther's translation of the Bible into German influenced the writing of the Bible in English. He married a former nun and set a model for the practice of clerical marriage, which allowed the clergy to marry.

Later in life, he wrote some antagonistic pieces against the Jews, citing that Jewish homes and synagogues should be destroyed and their money taken from them. Many of his followers later condemned him.

He contributed by writing *The Large Catechism* for pastors and teachers and *The Small Catechism* for the laity. He stated the Trinity as follows: the Father creates, the Son redeems, and the Spirit sanctifies. They are a Divine unity with separate personalities. Salvation originates with the Father. Luther's catechetical teaching includes the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. Luther also wrote many hymns that are still sung in many Protestant churches today.

Beliefs

Though there are important differences of opinion concerning the Bible, beliefs, creeds, and afterlife, Christians hold a shared set of beliefs that are essential to the faith.

All believe in eternal life since Christians believe in God and the remission and forgiveness of their sins (salvation). They believe that Jesus arose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, where he sits and rules with the Father. Most denominations state that Jesus will return at the end of the world to judge the living and the dead, and that there will be an afterlife for His followers.

In the early 21st century, there were approximately 2.2 billion followers of Christianity. Christianity still represents 1/3 of the world's population and is the world's largest religion. Among all Christians, 37.5% live in the Americas, 25.7% live in Europe, 22.5% live in Africa, 13.1% live in Asia, 1.2% live in Oceania, and 0.9% live in the Middle East. Further, Christianity has played a critical role in the shaping of the sub-Saharan African and Western civilizations.

One central theme is the belief in the Ten Commandments that were given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai around 13th or 14th century BC. The record of the Ten Commandments is in Exodus 20:2-17 and in Deuteronomy 5:6-21.

Ten Commandments:

1. You shall have no other gods before Me
2. You shall make no idols
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
4. Keep the Sabbath day holy
5. Honor your father and your mother
6. You shall not murder

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
10. You shall not covet

7.2 Creeds

The word “creed” comes from the Latin “credo”, meaning “I believe”. A creed is a doctrinal statement (or confession) that espouses the religious beliefs. They were originally used as baptismal procedures and were later incorporated during the 4th and 5th centuries to become statements of faith.

Evangelical Protestants reject creeds as the definitive statement of faith. This is true even when they agree with some or all of the substance of a particular creed. The Baptists are non-creedal. Those also rejecting creeds are those with roots in the Restoration movement, such as the Evangelical Christian Church in Canada, the Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

One of the most popular statements of the creedal Christian faith is the **Apostles’ Creed**. The Apostles’ Creed is used by Western Christian traditional churches that are liturgical. The Apostles’ Creed is used by the Roman Catholic Church, Lutheranism, Anglicanism, and Western Orthodoxy. Also using the Apostles’ Creed are Presbyterians, Methodists, and Congregationalists. This creed was developed during the 2nd and 9th centuries, and was used for baptismal candidates in Roman churches. This creed also notes the Trinity and God the Creator.

The main points are:

- A belief in God the Father, Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit
- The death, descent into Hell, resurrection, and the ascension of Christ
- The holiness of the Church and the communion of saints
- Christ’s second coming, the Day of Judgment, and salvation of the faithful

The **Nicene Creed** was created during the Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople in 325 and 381 AD. It was ratified as the universal creed of Christendom by the First Council of Ephesus in 431 AD.

The Chalcedonian Creed (451 AD)

The Chalcedonian Creed was adopted at the Fourth Ecumenical Council that was held at Chalcedon, or present-day Turkey. It was written in response to certain heretical views concerning the nature of Christ. This creed establishes the orthodox view that Christ has two natures: one is the son of God and the other is the son of man, and those natures are unified in one person. Since Jesus exists consubstantially (co-essential) with the Father, he also exists consubstantially with us.

He was born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

The Athanasian Creed

The Athanasian Creed was received in Western churches as having the same status as the Nicene and Chalcedonian Creeds. This creed states that worship is of one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in unity; there is neither the blending of the persons nor the dividing of their essences.

7.3 Jesus Christ

A major tenet of Christianity is the belief that Jesus is the Son of God and He came as the Messiah. "Messiah" is Hebrew for "anointed one". The Greek translation is the word "Christ".

Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah and was anointed by God as the Savior of humanity. He fulfilled the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament. Christianity teaches that the one who accepts the death and resurrection of Jesus and sinful human acts can be reconciled with God. After reconciliation, the person is offered salvation and the promise of eternal life.

Most Christians believe that Jesus is God incarnate and "true God and true man", meaning He was both fully Divine and fully human. Since Jesus was human, He suffered the same pains as humans, as well as the everyday temptations of a mortal man. When He was exposed to the temptations, He did not sin. As fully God, He arose from death after his crucifixion.

Matthew and Luke, when writing their Gospels, noted that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born from the Virgin Mary. They did not record much of Jesus' childhood in their canonical Gospels. They did record His birth and some of His infancy. Well-documented in the Gospels is some of His adulthood and the week before He dies. These accounts are in the New Testament. The accounts of Jesus' life include His baptism, miracles, preaching, teaching, and His deeds.

Death and Resurrection of Jesus

Christians regard Jesus' resurrection to be the cornerstone of their religion and faith, and is the most important event in all of human history. Theology is based on the death and resurrection of Jesus. According to the New Testament, Jesus was crucified, died a physical human death, was buried and sealed in a tomb, and on the third day, he rose from the dead. The New Testament discusses several sightings of Jesus after the resurrection. He presents Himself to the 12 apostles and disciples after this death and to more than 500 brethren at one time.

Christians commemorate Jesus' death and resurrection. There is special emphasis during Holy Week, which marks the death and resurrection (Good Friday and Easter Sunday, respectively). The death and resurrection are the most important parts of the Christian faith, as they illustrate how Jesus has power over life and death; therefore, He is able to give people eternal life.

All Christian churches embrace the death and resurrection, but not all do it in the same manner. Some denominations believe in a literal death and resurrection while others believe the story is richly symbolic and spiritually nourishing, but a myth nonetheless. There are many arguments concerning the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus within the Christian faith.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Salvation

Christ's followers were no longer "Jews", but Gentiles. Paul of Tarsus believed that the sacrifice could bring about new kinship ties, purity, and eternal life. Gentiles are those who are Christ-like, descendants of Abraham, and "heirs according to the promise". The God who raised Jesus from the grave gives life to the mortal bodies of the Gentile Christians who are now children of God.

Modern-day Christians are less concerned with how Jews and Christians hold differing beliefs regarding Jesus and how both can still be in God's family. They are more concerned with the idea of salvation and doctrine.

Christianity teaches that in order to be saved from eternal damnation and granted entrance into Heaven after death, one must place their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. He died for our sins and rose again; therefore, we are saved. However, the road to this place is a little different depending on the accompanying doctrine. Roman Catholics teach that salvation does not occur without faithfulness. Converts must live in accordance with the principles of love and must be baptized. Martin Luther taught that baptism was necessary for salvation; however, modern Lutherans and other Protestants tend to teach that salvation is a gift that comes to an individual by God's grace.

Christians also differ in that some believe that an individual's salvation is pre-ordained by God. This theology teaches that humans are completely helpless in redemption of themselves. In contrast, Catholics, Orthodox Christians, and Arminian Protestants believe that the exercise of free will is necessary to have faith in Jesus.

Trinity

The Trinity is the teaching that one God is comprised of three distinct, eternally co-existing people: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Together, these three are sometimes called the "Godhead". In the Athanasian Creed, it is taught that there are not three Gods, but one God. While they are distinct from one another, the Father has no source. The Son is begotten of the Father, and the Spirit proceeds from the Father; they cannot be divided from one in being.

The Trinity represents the immanence and transcendence of God. God is infinite and God's presence may be perceived by the actions of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Trinitarians

"Trinitarism" is the term used to denote those who believe in the Trinity. Almost all Christian churches hold the doctrine of the Trinity. Although the words "Trinity" and "Triune" do not appear in the Bible, churches still hold these beliefs. Beginning in the 3rd century, theologians developed the term and the concept to help commoners understand the teachings of the New Testament. Since then, Christian theologians have been careful to emphasize that the Trinity does not imply three gods, nor that each member is their own god, but 1/3 of an infinite God. That is why the Trinity is defined as "God in three Persons".

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Nontrinitarians

Nontrinitarians refers to those who reject the doctrine of the Trinity. This is a small minority of Christians. There are various nontrinitarian views, such as adoptionism or modalism, which existed in early Christianity; this led to disputes about Christology. Nontrinitarianism appeared later in Gnosticism of the Cathars in the 11th - 13th centuries and in the Age of Enlightenment and in some groups during the Great Awakening of the 19th century.

7.4 Scriptures

Christianity has adherents whose beliefs and biblical interpretations vary. The Biblical canon is the Old and New Testament, and is the inspired word of God. The traditional view is that God worked through the human authors in order to produce what God wanted to communicate.

Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox interpretations

Two senses of scripture are distinguished in Catholicism: the literal and the spiritual.

The literal sense of understanding is the meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture. The spiritual sense is further divided into:

- *The symbolic sense. For example, the parting of the Red Sea is a type of baptism
- *The moral sense. For example, the Scripture contains some ethical teachings
- *Eternity and the consummation of the world

Regarding the following of the rules of sound interpretation, Catholic theology holds:

- *The injunction that all other sense of sacred scripture is based on the literal
- *That the historicity of the Gospels must be absolutely and constantly held
- *That Scripture must be read within the “living tradition of the whole Church”
- *That “the task of interpretation has bene entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome”

Regarding the Following of the Rules of Protestantism

Protestants believe the Bible is self-sufficient and is all that one needs to know – sola scriptura. Ordinary believers can understand the Bible and the scriptures because they are clear with the help of the Holy Spirit. Martin Luther believed that without the help from God, one would be “enveloped in darkness” when trying to understand the Bible. John Calvin stated that, “All who...follow the Holy Spirit as their guide find in the Scripture a clear light.” The Second Helvetic Confession, compiled by the pastor of the Reformed church in Zurich, was regarded as a declaration of doctrine by most European Reformed Churches.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Original Intended Meaning of the Scripture

Protestants often stress the meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture, the historical-grammatical methods. The historical-grammatical method, or grammatical-historical method, is an effort in Biblical hermeneutics to find the original and intentional meaning in the text. One method is the examination of the passage in light of the grammatical and syntactical aspects, the historical background of the literary genre, as well as theological, canonical consideration; this means that the context is taken as a whole, adding a historical perspective to the reading.

7.5 Eschaton

Eschaton is often regarded as the “end of things”, which can be the end of one’s life or the end of the world. This is Christian eschatology, the study of the destiny of humans as it is revealed in the Bible. The major issues are the Tribulation, death, afterlife, the rapture, the Second Coming of Jesus, resurrection from the dead, Hell and Heaven, the Last Judgment, the end of the world, the new Heavens, and the new Earth.

Christians believe that the Second Coming of Christ will occur after the Great Tribulation. All who have died will be resurrected bodily from the grave for the Last Judgment. Then, Jesus will establish the kingdom of God in fulfillment of the scriptural prophecies.

Death and Afterlife

Most Christians believe in Divine judgment. Further, they believe they will either be rewarded with eternal life or punished with eternal damnation; this includes the general judgment at the Resurrection of the dead, as well as the belief (Roman Catholics, Orthodox, and most Protestants) in a judgment pertaining to an individual soul upon death.

In Roman Catholicism, there is a “purification” process. Those who die in a state of grace without mortal sins separating them from God, yet who are still imperfectly purified from the effects of sins, undergo purification through the intermediate state of purgatory. This cleanses the soul, allowing them to achieve holiness in order to enter Heaven. Those individuals who have met this goal are regarded as saints.

Some Christian groups, such as Lutherans, Anglicans, and Seventh-Day Adventists, adhere to mortalism, which is the belief that human souls are not naturally immortal and are unconscious during the intermediate state between bodily death and resurrection. These Christians also hold to annihilationism, the belief that following the Final Judgment, they will cease to exist rather than suffer an everlasting damnation in hell. Jehovah’s Witnesses maintain a similar viewpoint.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

7.6 Worship

Worship is a state of spirit and means to bow down or bow before someone or a god. Worship can happen outside of a church or formal setting. Christians are to worship at least seven days a week. Formal worship occurs on Sundays for most Christians, but not all. Worshipping does not have anything to do with a person's physical position.

Some denominations practice closed communion, meaning only those who are part of the church or denomination are allowed to partake. Catholics restrict participation to members who are not in a state of mortal sin. Most other churches allow open communion, as it is pathway to unity, and they invite all believing Christians to participate.

Some denominations do not practice the customary structure of worship. There are "High Church" services that have greater solemnity and rituals, and have "Low Church" services that have fewer rituals within the service. Seventh-Day Adventists meet each Saturday, while others do not meet on a weekly basis. Charismatic or Pentecostal congregations may take "action" in the service rather than a holding a set service. They may feel led by the Holy Spirit to do spontaneous prayers.

Quakers sit quietly until they are moved by the Holy Spirit to speak. Some Evangelical services are more like concerts with rock and pop music, dancing, and the use of multimedia during the service. Some groups do not recognize a priesthood that is distinct from an ordinary person, so their services might be led by a minister, preacher, or pastor. Still, other groups do not have a formal leader. Some churches use only a cappella music since churches like Church of Christ object to the use of instruments in the worship.

Worship can change depending on the event, such as a wedding, baptism, or a feast for significant holy days. Some denominations separate for the Eucharistic part of the worship. In many churches, adults and children are separated for all or part of the ceremony. In some churches, there is a separate children's worship, Sunday school, or Sabbath school. Other churches invite children to the front of the room for their own message during the adult service.

Sacraments

In Christian belief and practice, a sacrament is a rite instituted by Christ. A sacrament is an outward sign established by Christ that conveys an inward spiritual grace through Christ. The most widely recognized sacraments are Baptism and the Eucharist. The majority of Christians recognize seven sacraments, or Divine mysteries: baptism, confirmation, Eucharist Holy orders, reconciliation of a penitent (confession), anointing of the sick, and matrimony. Combined, these constitute High Church tradition, notably Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Independent Catholics, Old Catholics, most Anglicans, and some Lutherans. The majority of other denominations and traditions typically affirm Baptism and the Eucharist as their sacraments. The Quakers reject sacramental theology. While Protestants may celebrate these rites, they usually call them "ordinances".

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Liturgical Calendar

Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Eastern Christians, and traditional Protestant communities form worship around a liturgical calendar. Typically, these days are celebrated, as they commemorate an event in the life of Jesus or one of the saints. The life of Jesus is celebrated with fasting, like during Lent. Some Christian groups that do not follow a liturgical tradition often retain certain celebrations, such as Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. A few churches do not use a liturgical calendar.

Symbols

The cross, or crucifix, is one of the most recognized symbols in the world. Though it was used by early Christians, it did not appear in widespread use until the 5th century.

The fish was the first symbol used by primitive Christians. From monumental sources, such as tombs, it was discovered that the symbol of the fish was familiar to Christians from the earliest of times – the first decades of the 2nd century.

Christians adorned their tombs with paintings of Christ, the saints, scenes from the Bible, and allegorical groups. The catacombs are the cradle of all Christian art. There were also statues in the 1st century. The pictures and statues speak to the fact Christians did not fear idolatry. Other major Christian symbols were the dove (symbolic of the Holy Spirit), the sacrificial lamb (symbolic of Christ's sacrifice), and the vine (symbolizing the necessary connectedness of the Christian with Christ). These are all from writings found in the New Testament.

Baptism

Baptism is a ritual act that uses water to admit the person to the membership of a church. Different denominations place varying levels of importance on the act. For Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox churches, Lutherans, and Anglicans, baptism is a form of regeneration and is linked to salvation. Other denominations see the act as purely symbolic, an external way to show what has happened internally. There are differences in opinion on the manner of the act. Baptism by immersion, baptism by submersion (completely immersed), baptism by affusion (pouring), and baptism by aspersion (sprinkling) are different ways to accomplish the act.

Prayer

From Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, He conveys a lack of interest in the external aspects of prayer. The concern with the techniques of prayer are condemned as being pagan, while a simple trust in God and freedom to approach Him is emphasized.

In some Christian denominations and traditions, specific physical gestures are emphasized, such as genuflection or making the sign of the cross. In the more traditional branches of Christianity, kneeling, bowing, and prostrations are often practiced. In Western Christianity, the hands are placed palms together and forward, as seen in the feudal commendation ceremony. Another method is palms pointing up and elbows tucked inward.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Intercessory prayer is a prayer offered for the benefit of others. There are many intercessory prayers in the Bible; for example, the apostle Peter prayed on behalf of the sick. The effectiveness of prayer derives from the power of God, not the status of the one praying.

Churches in Eastern and Western Christianity developed the tradition of asking for the intercession of deceased saints, a practice still in effect in the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Oriental Orthodox religions. The Protestant Reformation removed the practice of praying to saints; instead, a belief was instilled to pray for the sole mediatorship of Christ.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God. In the Anglican traditions, The Book of Common Prayer is a guide that provides a set order for church services, such as prayers, scripture readings, hymns, or sung Psalms.

7.7 History

Early Church and Christological Councils

Christianity began as a Jewish sect in the Levant of the Middle East in the mid-1st century. The earliest development was under the 12 apostles, particularly Saint Peter and the apostle Paul; this was followed by the early Bishops, who Christians consider to be the successors of the apostles.

Jewish religious authorities, who disagreed with the apostles' teachings, persecuted Christians; often, this involved severe punishments, such as death. Emperor Nero blamed them for the Great Fire of Rome. Peter and Paul of Tarsus were each martyred in Rome under Nero. Persecutions of the Church happened under the rule of nine subsequent Roman emperors, most intensely under Decius and Diocletian. From the year 150 AD, Christian teachers began producing theological and apologetic works aimed at defending the faith.

Constantine I issued an edict of toleration in 313 AD, and stated persecution ceased in the 4th century. On February 27, 380 AD, Emperor Theodosius I enacted a law establishing Nicene Christianity as the state church of the Roman Empire.

Early Middle Ages

After the decline and fall of the Roman Empire, the papacy became a political force. The church also started missionary activity and expansion among the various tribes. Catholicism spread among the Germanic people, the Celtic, Slavic, Hungarians, and the Baltic people.

Around 500 AD, St. Benedict set out monastic rules that established a system and regulations for the foundation and running of monasteries. Monasticism was a powerful force in Europe and many centers of learning were opened in Ireland, Scotland, and Gaul.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

High and Late Middle Ages

Starting in the 11th century, Western schools were developed into universities, such as the University of Oxford, the University of Paris, and the University of Bologna. The traditional medieval universities evolved from Catholic and Protestant church schools.

Church building and the rise of ecclesiastical architecture reached new heights, culminating in the orders of Romanesque and Gothic architecture and the building of great European cathedrals.

The Crusades were launched under the pontification of Urban II. This series of military campaigns occurred in the Holy Land (and elsewhere), and initiated, in response to pleas from the Byzantine Emperor Alexios I, for aid against the Turkish expansion. In effect, the Crusades did not suppress Islamic aggressions and they contributed to Christian hatred.

From the 7th to the 13th century, the Christian Church went through a gradual alienation, creating divisions of a Latin, or Western, Christian branch – the Roman Catholic Church – and an Eastern, largely Greek branch – the Orthodox Church. These two churches disagreed on some administrative, liturgical, and doctrinal issues. Thus, around 1184 AD, a group of institutions broadly referred to as “the Inquisition”, was established. The focus of this group was to quash heresy, as well as to secure religious and doctrinal unity within Christianity through the processes of conversion and prosecution.

Protestant Reformation and Counter-Reformation

The 15th-century Renaissance brought about a renewed interest in learning, both ancient and classical. The Reformation resulted in the division of the Western Christendom into several denominations, all Christian. In 1517, Martin Luther protested against the sale of indulgences; shortly after, he denied several key points of the Roman Catholic doctrine.

The Roman Catholic Church, in response to the Protestant Reformation, engaged in an extensive process of reform and renewal, also known as the Counter-Reformation, or Catholic Reform. Competition for political rule in Europe existed between the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church.

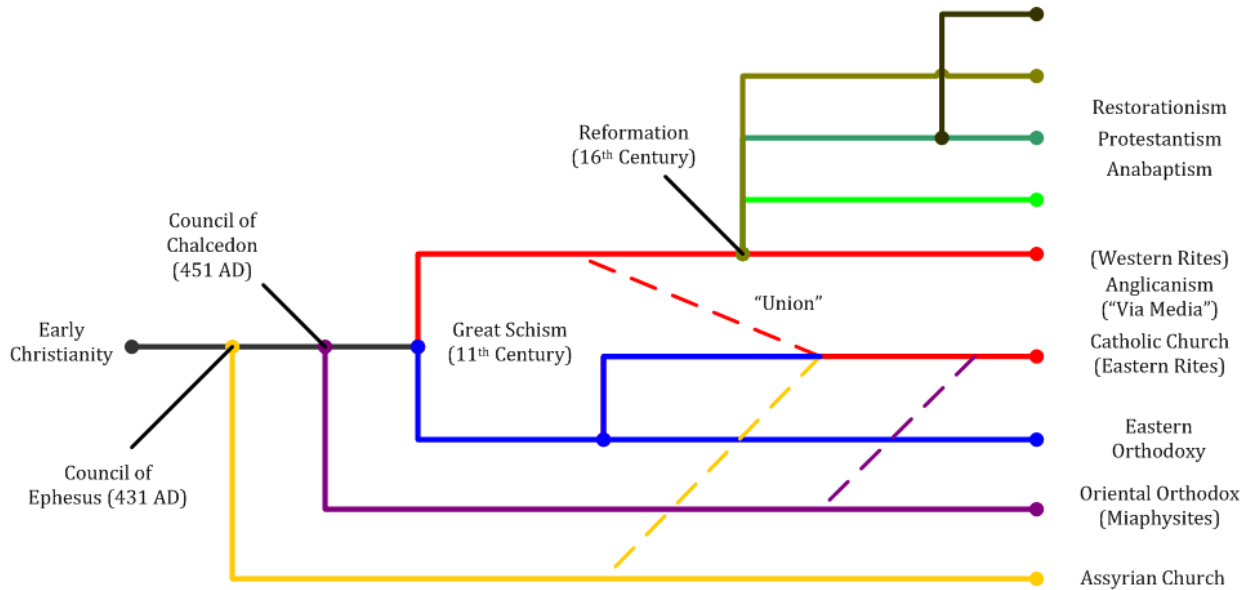
A new wave of missionary activity arose in 1492 with Christopher Columbus’ discovery of America. Christianity soon spread to the Americas, Oceania, East Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa.

The split between Catholicism and Protestantism led to religious violence and the establishment of separate state churches in Europe; for example, Lutheranism in parts of Germany and Scandinavia, and Anglicanism in England in 1534.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

7.8 Major Denominations Within Christianity

There are three major divisions of Christianity: Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Protestantism.



Catholic

Bishops head the Catholic Church in communion with the Pope. The Bishop of Rome is the highest authority with regards to faith, morality, and Church governance. Through Apostolic succession, the Roman Catholic Church traces its origins to the Christian community founded by Jesus Christ, similar to Eastern Orthodoxy. Catholics state there is, “one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic church”. Catholics strive for the reconciliation of all Christians.

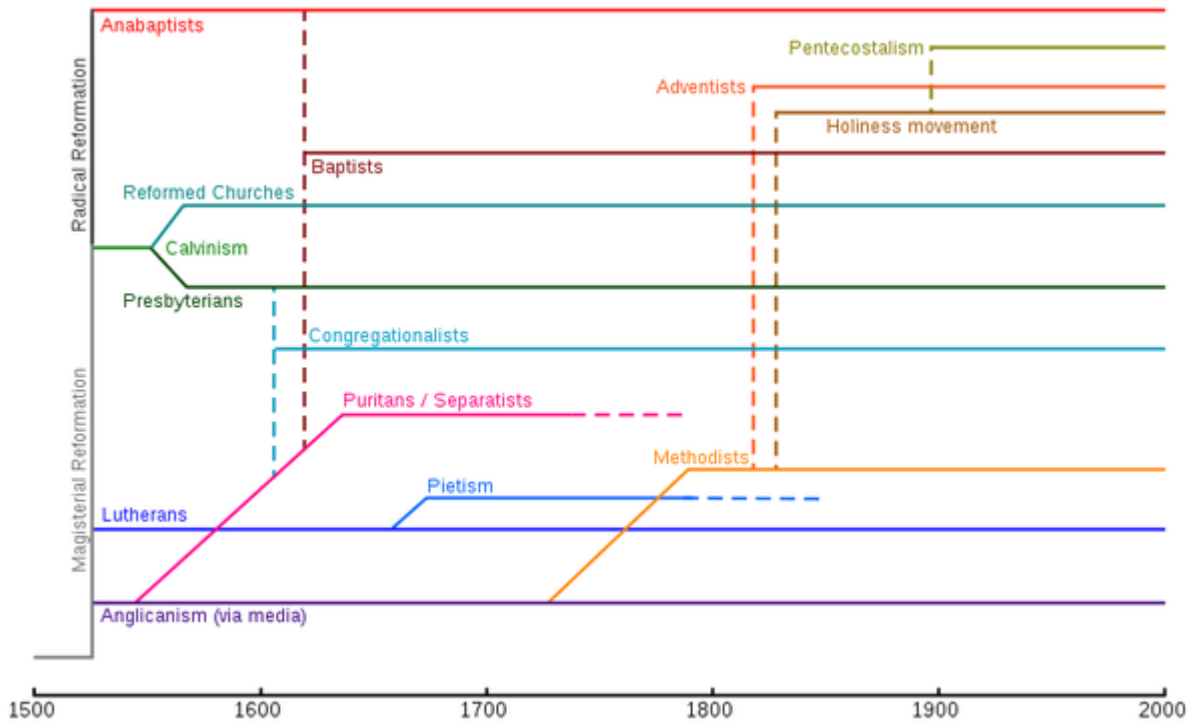
Orthodox

The heritage of the Eastern Orthodox Church can be traced to the foundation of Christianity through Apostolic succession; further, it has an episcopal structure (governed by bishops) through the autonomy of the individual, mostly national churches are emphasized. There are over 200 million adherents to Eastern Orthodoxy, making it the largest single denomination in Christianity.

Protestant

In the 16th century, Martin Luther, Huldrych Zwingli, and John Calvin started Protestantism. Lutherans are the primary theological heirs. Zwingli and Calvin’s heirs are broader denominationally, and are referred to as the “Reformed Tradition”. Under English Reformation is Anglicanism. Other Protestant groups ostracized the Anabaptist tradition; however, in more recent times, it has grown to be acceptable. Some, but not all, Baptists prefer not to be referred to as “Protestants”, and claim a direct ancestral lineage to the apostles in the 1st century.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide



The Methodist church grew out of Anglican minister John Wesley's evangelical and revival movement in the Anglican Church. Several Pentecostal and non-denominational churches emphasize the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit, and, in turn, grew out of the Methodist Church. Methodists, Pentecostals, and other evangelicals stress "accepting Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior", which comes from John Wesley's emphasis on the New Birth. Thus, they refer to themselves as "born-again".

Protestants are the second largest group of Christians after Catholics, yet the numbers are uncertain. It is believed there is approximately 800-900 million Protestants worldwide. Further, there are approximately 1.1 billion Catholics, with a total of approximately 2.1 billion Christian followers.

Others

Esoteric Christianity is the ensemble of spiritual currents that regards Christianity as a mystery religion that possesses certain esoteric doctrines or practices. These are hidden from the public and only accessible by the "enlightened", "initiated", or even highly educated people. A common characteristic in the mystical denomination is the belief in reincarnation. Some of the institutions are the Rosicrucian Fellowship, the Anthroposophical Society, and Martinism.

In the early 1800s, during the Second Great Awakening, there was a period of religious revival in the United States. These individuals believed they were restoring the original church of Jesus Christ rather than reforming an existing church. Restorationists introduced doctrinal defects into Christianity, also known as "The Great Apostasy".

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

In the Midwest and upstate New York, mid-century (19th) camp meetings were held. American Millennialism and Adventism, which arose from Evangelical Protestantism, influenced the Jehovah's Witnesses movement, with 7 million followers and a reaction specifically to William Miller, credited to have started the religious movement known as the Millerites.

The Millerites predicted a second coming of the prophecy (Jesus Christ) in the 1840s, and as history has shown, this did not happen. However, as a result of William Miller's prophecy, a new sector of Christianity emerged, the Seventh-Day Adventists.

Cultural Christian

"Cultural Christian" is a broad term for people who may not believe in the religious claims of Christianity, but who retain an affinity for the culture, art, music related to it. Those who like to celebrate Christmas and Easter, but do not attach religious significance to it could be cultural Christians.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 7 Review Questions

- Christianity began with:
 - The Covenant of the Hebrews
 - The receiving of the Ten Commandments by Moses
 - The enlightenment of Siddhartha Gautama
 - The teachings that Jesus of Nazareth started
- What is the biggest difference between Judaism and Christianity?
 - Christians believe Jesus is the Messiah, God of Abraham and Jews believe the Messiah has yet to come
 - Christianity is a monotheistic religion and Judaism is polytheistic
 - Christianity follows the Old Testament while Judaism follows the Old and New Testament
 - Christians believe Jesus is the son of God and fully human, but Judaism believes Jesus was a mythical (non-human) son of God
- Which of the following is not considered one of the largest sects of Christianity?
 - Roman Catholic
 - Eastern Orthodox
 - Anglicanism
 - Protestantism
- Martin Luther's work had enthusiastic popular support because _____.
 - Many Christians shared his concern about the corruption of the church
 - Many German princes saw this as a way to break away from the church
 - He supported the translation of the Bible from Latin into the vernacular languages
 - All of the above are correct
- The Apostles' Creed is a statement of faith used by many Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Protestant churches. Although it has been translated and many disputes have ensued, one of the central messages presented in the creed is:
 - The belief in the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
 - The belief that the Day of Judgment occurs when a person's soul ascends into Heaven or damned to Hell
 - The belief in the communion of saints; only those who are deceased can experience Christ's salvation
 - All of the above are correct
- Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Eastern Christians, and traditional Protestant communities form worship around a _____ calendar
 - Solar Hijri calendar
 - Julian calendar
 - Liturgical calendar
 - Gregorian calendar

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

7. John Calvin's work, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, is considered _____.
- a. A nonconformist work even by Protestants
 - b. A rejection of the Catholic theology
 - c. A summary of the beliefs of Anabaptism
 - d. The actual explanation of the Protestant faith
8. A major result of the Crusades at the end of the 13th century was _____.
- a. A conversion of the majority of Europeans to Protestantism
 - b. The weakening of Islamic aggressions
 - c. The global spread of Christianity
 - d. A decrease in power for the Roman Catholic church
9. The Christian and Islamic faiths have a lot of similarities. Which if the following statements about the similarities between these two religions is false?
- a. Both religions have a holy place of worship
 - b. Both religions consist of different sects
 - c. Both religions fast
 - d. Both religions believe in the Trinity
10. The cross was not a widely recognized symbol of Christianity until when?
- a. 301 - 400 CE
 - b. 401 - 500 CE
 - c. 501 - 600 CE
 - d. 601 - 700 CE

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 8: Islam

Islam is a monotheistic and Abrahamic religion. There is only one God, who is named Allah. Muhammad is the messenger of God. Currently, it is the world's second largest religion; however, in the next few years, it is predicted to be the most practiced religion. There are well over 1.8 billion followers, or approximately 24%, of the worldwide population. The followers are known as Muslims and they are the majority in over 49 countries. Some Muslims live in Indonesia (13%), the largest majority country. They also live in the Middle East (20%), Sub-Saharan Africa (15%), and South Asia (25%). Many also live in Russia, China, and the Americas. There are two denominations, Sunni and Shi'a (75-90%) and Shi'a (10-20%). The Holy text is the Qur'an. The adherents consider the Qur'an to be the verbatim word of God and the teachings of Muhammad. Followers follow the commands of Muhammad and reject polytheism.

Muslims believe their mission is to love and serve God. Muslims believe that Islam is the complete and universal version that has been handed down for centuries through Adam, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, whom they consider to be prophets. God is merciful, all-powerful, and unique. Like other Abrahamic religions, the Qur'an teaches of a final judgment, with the righteous rewarded in paradise and the unrighteous punished in hell.

The obligatory acts of worship are the Five Pillars of Islam and following Islamic law, which touches on every aspect of life and society. This includes banking, welfare to women, and the environment. The cities of Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem are the home to the three holiest sites in Islam.

Islam is believed to have originated in the early 7th century CE in Mecca. This is the historical viewpoint and is not held by Muslims who believe the faith was started with Adam in the garden of Eden. In the 8th century, the Islamic empire extended from Iberia in the west to the Indus River in the east. The Islamic Golden Age occurred from the 8th century to the 13th century when the Islamic community experienced scientific, economic, and cultural growth. During this period, the Muslim world expanded and involved various caliphates, empires, and traders, and many converted to Islam by missionary activity.

8.1 Articles of Faith

God

Islam's most fundamental concept is the rigorous monotheism called tawhid. God is beyond all comprehension, so Muslims are not expected to visualize God. God can be called by a certain name or attributes. The most common is the *Al-Rahman*, meaning, "The Compassionate". *Al-Rahim* means "The Merciful". God commanded the universe with "kun fayakoon" which translates to "be and it is." The purpose of human existence is to love God. He is a personal god who responds when individuals call upon him in times of need or distress. They do not use intermediaries, such as clergy, to contact God on their behalf. Allah is the term (no plural or gender) that Muslims, Arabic-speaking Christians, and Jews use to refer to God.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Angels

Muslims believe in angels and it is fundamental to the faith of Islam. The Arabic word for angel is *malak* and means “messenger”. The Qur’an states that angels do not have free will and they fully obey God. Angels have the duty of communicating revelations from God, glorifying God, recording the actions of every person, and taking the soul at the time of death. They are also believed to intercede on a person’s behalf. The Qur’an describes angels as having wings. They are messengers with two, three, or four pairs of wings. God adds angels anytime he pleases. Pictures of angels are not allowed in Islam. Attempting to depict anything that is conceptual or immaterial is not accepted in Islam. The pictures of angels in Western art is not allowed in Islam, nor do they believe angels adhere to that image.

Revelations

The Islamic holy books are the records which all Muslims believe were dictated by God to the prophets. Muslims believe the verses were revealed to Muhammad by God through the archangel Gabriel (Jibril). There were many communications between 610 CE until his death of June 8, 632. Muhammad’s companions (*sahabah*) wrote down the revelations while he was still alive; however, most of the information continued to be handed down orally.

The Qur’an is viewed as the final book of God, a revelation. It is the literal word of God and the finest piece of literature in the Arabic language. They believe parts of the Qur’an, the *Tawrat* (Torah), and the *Injil* (Gospels) have been distorted in interpretation and/or in text.

The Qur’an is divided into 114 suras (chapters) and there are 6,236 verses. The earlier suras are revealed at Mecca and focus on ethical and spiritual topics. The later Medinan sura focused on the social and moral issues that concern their community. The Qur’an is a holy text of morals and values; it also holds the law. The Muslim jurists consult the *hadith*, which is the written life of Muhammad. The only “accepted” text is the original scripture that is written in Arabic. The translations into other languages are considered inferior.

Prophets

In Arabic, when even the prophets are referred to the honorific, “peace be upon them” is stated. Prophets were chosen by God and they are human. They are descendants of Abraham and their mission is to bring the “will of God” to the people of all nations. At times, God gave them power to perform miracles so that others would know He is working through them. Their message is to submit to the will of God. The Qur’an lists those who are the prophets of old: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. The “normative” example of Muhammad’s life is called the Sunnah. The example he set is preserved in the traditions that are known as the hadith (reports). The hadith tells his words, actions, and personal characteristics. The Hadith Qudsi is a portion of the hadith and these are the words of God. These differ from the Qur’an in that they are expressed in Muhammad’s words whereas the rest is from the word of God.

Muslims are encouraged to emulate the life of Muhammad. The Sunnah is the crucial piece to understanding and interpreting the Qur’an.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

8.2 Resurrection and Judgment

God has preordained the Day of Resurrection. However, no man knows when this day will happen. There will be trials and tribulations preceding and during the *Qiyamah*. The end times is described in the Qur'an and the hadith. There are also commentaries from scholars. The Qur'an states there will be a bodily resurrection, which is different from the pre-Islamic Arabian understanding of what happens after death and during the resurrection.

Good and bad deeds are how Muslims believe they will be judged in the afterlife. The Qur'an discusses several sins that can condemn a person to Hell. Ultimately, the non-belief in God is the number one sin. Dishonesty is another sin that can condemn one to Hell. The Qur'an states that God will forgive the sins of those who seek him and repent and commit to doing His will. Good deeds that will receive a reward and put one on the pathway to heaven are: charity, prayer, and compassion towards animals. Heaven is considered a place of joy and bliss.

Predestination

Islam teaches predestination or divine preordainment. God has ultimate knowledge of what will happen and can control all that occurs. This is illustrated in the Qur'anic verse, "Nothing will happen to us except what Allah has decreed for us. He is our protector." All good and evil has been preordained by God. However, they do believe that man has free will and the ability to choose between right and wrong. Muslims are responsible for their own actions.

8.3 Five Pillars

The Pillars of Islam are extremely important. They are five basic acts and are considered obligatory for all believers. The Qur'an presents the framework for worship and a sign of commitment to the faith. The pillars are:

1. *The shahadah (creed)*
2. *Daily prayers (salat)*
3. *Almsgiving (zakah)*
4. *Fasting during Ramadan*
5. *The pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj) at least once in a lifetime*

The Five Pillars are important to both denominations of Islam the Shi'a and Sunni.

Testimony

The Shahadah is the basic creed of Islam and is to be recited under oath. The statement is: "I testify there are no deities other than God alone and I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of God." This is foundational and Muslims must repeat the *shahadah* in prayers. Those wishing to convert must also recite the creed.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Prayer

Prayers are recited five times daily. The ritual prayers are called Salah or Salat. The purpose is to focus one's mind on God. This is a personal communication with God and the expression is one of gratitude and worship. Salah is compulsory. However, depending on that day's circumstances, the individual may have to alter the schedule. Prayers are recited in Arabic and the prayer comes from the Qur'an.

Muslims worship in a mosque. The Arabic name is *masjid*. The mosque serves as a place to worship, but it is more to the community – it is a place to gather, meet, and study. The modern mosque has evolved greatly from the 7th century. The mosque contains structural elements, such as minarets.

Alms-giving

"Zakat" is alms-giving. For those who can afford it, alms-giving is giving a fixed portion (2.5%) of one's income to the poor. This can also be used to assist in the spread of Islam. It is a religious obligation rather than a charity. The money one has is because of a "bounty from God". There is no single zakart charity, so total global income is difficult to account for, but muslimaid.org Financial Summary for 2013 reports an income of about \$40.9 million USD.

Fasting

During the month of Ramadhan, Muslims fast from food and drink from dawn to dusk. Sex must also be abstained from during the time period. This is a time to grow closer to God and express one's gratitude. It is also a time to atone for past sins and give to the needy. *Sawm* is not obligatory for those of whom it would create an unnecessary burden.

Pilgrimage

During Hajj in the Islamic month of *Dhu al-Hijjah*, a pilgrimage is made to the city of Mecca. Everyone who is able-bodied and can afford the trip must make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime. There are rituals of Hajj that include walking seven times around the Kaaba and touching the black stone if possible. Adherents walk or run seven times between Mount Safa and Mount Marwah and symbolically stone the Devil in Mina.

Law and Jurisprudence

The path leading to the water place is called *Sharia*. The *Sharia* is Islamic law formed by traditional Islamic scholarship, to which most of the different Muslim groups adhere. In Islam, Sharia is the expression of the divine will. The divine will are the duties that are incumbent upon a Muslim by virtue of their religious belief.

The law of Islam covers all aspects of one's life, including matters of state, like the governance and foreign relations, to issues of daily living. The Qur'an defines *hudud* as the punishment for five specific crimes. Those crimes are unlawful intercourse, false accusation of unlawful intercourse, consumption of alcohol, theft, and highway robbery. The Qur'an and Sunnah also govern the laws of marriage, restitution (injuries and murder), and inheritance. Rules for fasting, charity, and prayer

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

are also included. The writing and prescriptions are somewhat vague and scholars have attempted to apply them to current life.

8.4 Jurists

The “jurist” is an educated class of Muslim legal scholars that is engaged in several different fields of Islamic studies. The term *ulema* is used to describe the body of Muslim clergy. The clergy is required to have completed several years of training and study of Islamic sciences.

There are schools of jurisprudence and they are referred to as a *madhab*. There are four Sunni schools: Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi’I, Hanbali, and sometimes the Zahiri. There are two schools in Shi’a, Ja’fari and Zaidi. Each uses a different methodology called Usul al-fih.

8.5 Islamic Lifestyle

Etiquette and Diet

Islamic etiquette is adab. This etiquette includes how to greet others with “*as-salamu alaykum*” or “peace be unto you”. Before meals, Muslims say *bismillah* (“in the name of God) and use only the right hand to eat and drink. Personal hygiene, cleanliness, and health are very important. Circumcision of males is also practiced in Islam. The funeral prayer is *Salat al-Janazah*. The body is bathed, enshrouded, and buried in a grave.

The diet is restricted. Muslims are prohibited from eating pork products, blood, carrion, and alcohol. All meat must come from an herbivorous animal that is slaughtered in the name of God by a Muslim, Jew, or Christian. The exception is game the Muslim has hunted and killed for himself. Food that is permissible is called halal food.

Family Life

There are legal rights and obligations of family members. The father is financially responsible for the family and must cater to their well-being. The Qur’an states the division of inheritance, most of which is passed on to the immediate family, while a portion is set aside for the bequests and payment of debts. The woman’s share of inheritance is usually half of that of a man who has the same rights of succession.

Marriage is a civil contract in Islam and starts with an offer and acceptance between two qualified parties in the presence of two witnesses. The groom is required to pay a *mahr* (bridal gift) to the bride, as stipulated in the contract. A man may have up to four wives and must believe he can treat them equally. A woman can have only one husband. The process of divorce, known as *talaq*, is traditionally initiated by the husband who pronounces the word “divorce”.

The traditional practices of veiling and seclusions (*purdah*) have changed over the years. In the 20th century, Muslim women attempted to either break the tradition or combine an active life with the tradition of modesty. There is a lot of debate between how modest Muslim women need to behave

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

and what is acceptable. Some argue the veil is traditional and must be kept, while others argue for a more modern approach. The Taliban has sought to keep women's laws traditional.

Military

Jihad means "to strive or struggle". This is meant in the way of God and is defined as, "exerting one's utmost power, efforts, endeavors, or ability in contending with an object of disapprobation." There are different categories of jihad. When used in the military sense, it is the "lesser jihad". When used to discuss the struggle man faces to attain religious and moral perfection, it is the "greater jihad".

Jihad is a collective duty for most Muslims. The performance by some may exempt others. Only for those who are vested with authority (imam) does the jihad become a moral duty. If necessary, the rest of the people may have to mobilize as well.

8.6 History

Muhammad (610-632)

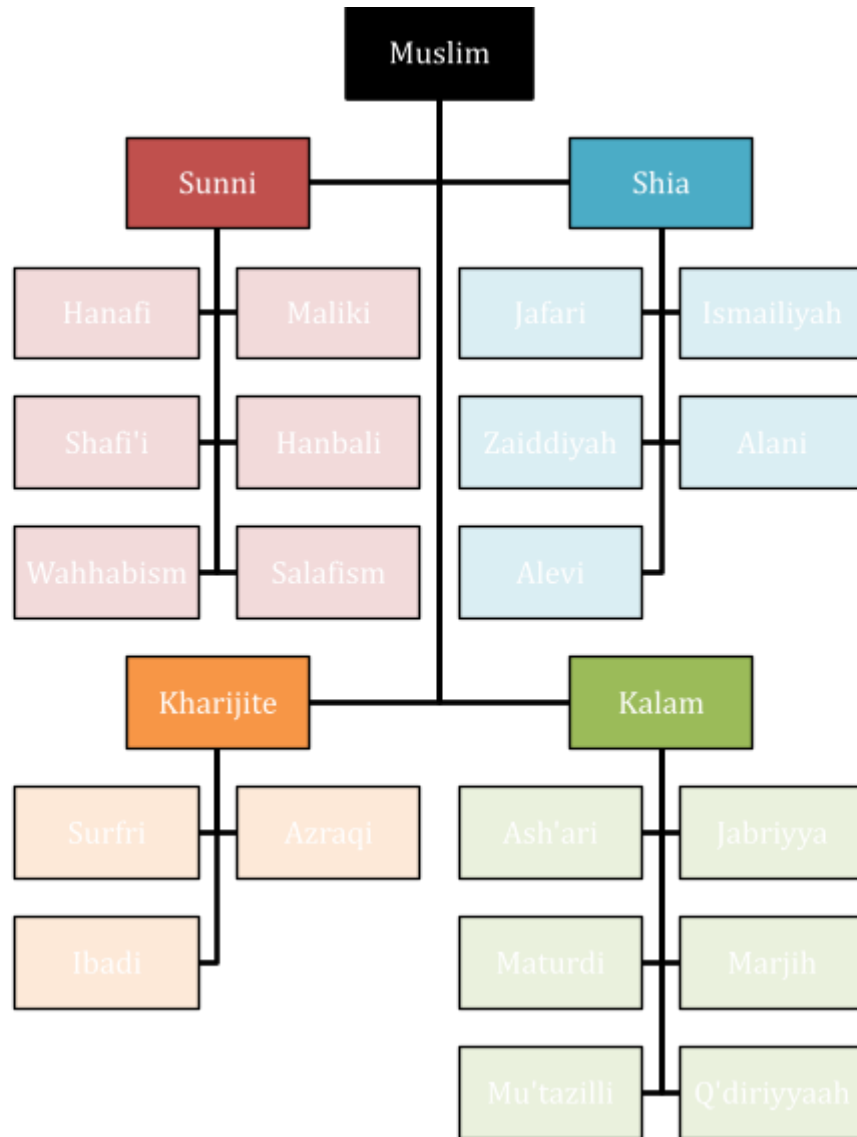
Muhammad was the last of the prophets in the Muslim tradition. During the last 22 years of his life, beginning at the age of 40, Muhammad had revelations he believed to be from God. The revelations were the Qur'an, which he memorized and told to his companions. During this time, he preached to the people of Mecca and implored them to abandon polytheism. His followers were persecuted by the leading Meccan authorities. After 12 years of preaching, Muhammad and his followers performed the Hijra ("emigration") to the city of Medina in 622. There, Muhammad established his political and religious authority.

Within a few years, two battles had been fought against the Meccan forces. The Battle of Badr in 624 in which the Muslims won, and the Battle of Uhud in 625, which ended without a clear winner. There were conflicts with the Jewish Medina clans who opposed Muslims and led to their exile, enslavement, and death. In 628, the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah was signed between Mecca and the Muslims, but was broken by Mecca two years later. The Meccan trade routes were cut off when Muhammad brought surrounding tribes under his control. In 629 Muhammad, was victorious in the nearly bloodless conquest of Mecca, and by his death (632) at the age of 62, he had united the tribes of Arabia into a single religious group.

Caliphates

After Muhammad died, disagreement ensued about who would succeed him as the leader of the Muslim community. Abu Bakr, who was a companion and close friend, was made the first caliph. Caliphates were leaders who followed Muhammad and were commanders of the faithful.

8.7 Denominations



Sunni, Shi'a, Sufi are the major denominations of Muslims and all follow the Qur'an. The differences are mostly political.

Sunni

The Sunni denomination is the largest denomination in Islam, which makes up over 75% to 90% of all Muslims. Sunni Muslims go by the name *Ahl as-Sunnah*, which means "people of the tradition of Muhammad". This is preserved in traditions known as the Al-Kutub Al-Sittah (six major books), which are hadiths (reports) recounting his words, actions, and personal characteristics.

Sunnis believe the first four caliphs were the rightful successors to Muhammad. This is believed since God did not specify anyone else. Sunnis believe that the caliph should be elected by the whole community

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

There are four recognized madh'habs (schools of thought): Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'I, and Hanbali. All are accepted as the Muslim way and one can choose which works best for him.

Shi'a

Shi'as constitute 10-20% of Islam and are the second largest branch. Shi'as believe that during The Farewell Pilgrimage, Muhammad appointed his son-in-law as his successor (Ali ibn Abi Talib) by the Hadith of the pond of Khumm. Shi'as believe he was the first lead (imam) reject the legitimacy of the previous Muslim caliphs since they were not appointed by Muhammad. Shi'as hold that political and religious leadership comes from the direct descendants of Muhammad and Ali.

Sufism

Sufism is a mystical-ascetic approach to Islam that seeks to find divine love and knowledge through direct personal experience of God. One must be trained to use their intuitive and emotional faculties to obtain a direct experience with God. Sufism has been criticized by the Salafi sect for what is termed "an unjustified religious innovation". Many Sufi orders, or *tariqas*, can be classified as either Sunni or Shi'a, but most use the term Sufi.

Other Denominations

Ahmadiyya is a messianic movement founded by Mirza Shulam Ahmad in India in the late 19th century. There are millions of followers. Most mainstream Muslims view the movement as heretical.

The Ibadi is a sect that dates back to early Islam and is a branch of kharijite. Ibadism does not believe sinful Muslims are unbelievers.

The Quranists are Muslims who generally reject the Hadith.

Yazdanism is seen as a blend of local Kurdish beliefs and Islamic Sufi doctrines introduced to Kurdistan by Sheikh Aid ibn Musafir in the 12th century.

(NOI) Nation of Islam is an African-American new religious movement found in the Detroit in the 20th century.

Karaite-Karaism or Karaimism is a transitional religion between Moasism and proto-Shiism. It was brought from Khorezm to the Sabians of the Bosporan Kingdom of Southern Russian after the Umayyad attack of 712 AD.

8.8 Demographics

In 2009, it was reported that of 232 countries and territories, 23% of the world's population, or 1.57 billion people, are Muslims. Approximately 50 countries have a Muslim majority, with Arabs accounting for 20% of worldwide Muslims.

The majority of Muslims live in Asia and Africa. Approximately 62% of the world's Muslims live in Asia, with over 683 million adherents in Indonesia, Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. In the Middle

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

East, non-Arab countries, such as Turkey and Iran, are the largest Muslim countries. In Africa, Egypt and Nigeria have the most populous Muslim communities.

Culture

The term “Islamic culture” refers to the dress codes, festivals, and religion. To the Muslim people, it means the early culture of the caliphates.

Calendar

The formal beginning was chosen to be the Hijra in 622 CE, which was the turning point in Muhammad’s fortunes. The assignment of this year is 1 AH (Anno Hegirae) and the calendar was made by Caliph Umar. It is a lunar calendar, with days lasting from sunset to sunset. The Islamic holy days fall on fixed dates of the lunar calendar, which means they occur in different seasons in different years than in the Gregorian calendar. The most important Islamic festivals are *Eid al-fitr* on the 1st of Shawwal, which marks the end of the fasting month of *Ramadan*. Eid al-Adha is on the 10th of *Dhu al-hijja*, which coincides with the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 8 Review Questions

- Who is considered the founder of Islam?
 - Siddhartha Gautama
 - Abraham
 - Jesus
 - Muhammad
- Which of the following choices is NOT one of the five pillars of Islam?
 - Give to charity
 - Pray five times a day
 - Become a missionary in a foreign land
 - Travel to Mecca at least once in your lifetime
- There are no official clergy in Islam, but people who lead prayers at a mosque are called _____.
 - Imams
 - Rabbis
 - Priests
 - Monks
- Angels are fundamental to the Islamic faith. Which of the following is true about Islamic angels?
 - The Qur'an states that angels have free will
 - Angels are responsible for recording the actions of mankind for God
 - The Qur'an's depiction of angels differs from the Christian view. Islamic angels appear human-like and without wings
 - Angels are often included in Islamic art
- What does that Qur'an say about those who sin?
 - Those who are sin are forever damned to hell
 - God will forgive those who repent and seek to do his will
 - There is only a singular level of hell for all sinners, so liars, non-believers, murders, rapists, etc. will all be tortured in conjunction to one another
 - Hell is for all eternity; once you enter, you cannot leave
- The *hijra* is _____.
 - The emigration of the early Muslim community from Mecca to Medina
 - The annual pilgrimage to Mecca
 - Islamic law
 - Muhammad's official bibliography
- Sunnis and Shi'a are split due to different beliefs in _____.
 - What women can wear
 - Who should lead the Muslim community after Muhammad's death
 - Where the early Muslim community should settle
 - The chapters of the Qu'ran

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

8. A Muslim man can only marry a wife if he can prove that he can provide for her. In Islam, a man can marry _____.
- a. One woman and he is never allowed to remarry in the event of a divorce or death
 - b. Three women, but he must prove he can care for and treat them all equally
 - c. Four women, but he must prove he can care for and treat them all equally
 - d. As many as he chooses, but he must prove he can care for and treat them all equally
9. What is the largest denomination of the Islamic faith?
- a. Ahmadiyya
 - b. Sufism
 - c. Shi'a
 - d. Sunni
10. Islamic holy days are fixed dates on the _____, but most of world follows the Gregorian calendar. So, while Ramadan is always observed in the ninth month on the Islamic calendar, it might be observed in June, October, or some other month for outside spectators.
- a. Hijri calendar
 - b. Badi' calendar
 - c. Genesis calendar
 - d. Jalali calendar

Chapter 9: Modern Times

9.1 Religious Movements

The Enlightenment

The **Age of Enlightenment**, or **The Age of Reason**, was a cultural movement that started in Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. The movement spread to the American colonies and helped to frame the documents the colonies used to gain their independence from Great Britain. The purpose of the movement was to reform society using reason. This movement challenged existing ideas that had been grounded in tradition, especially faith. This advanced knowledge brought the scientific method. Science was a discipline that was promoted through interchange. This movement opposed superstition, intolerance, and the abuses that had occurred in the church and state.

National Variations

Each country embraced the Age of Enlightenment differently and with their own local emphasis. For example, in France, the movement became associated with an anti-government and anti-Church radicalism. In Germany, it was a middle class movement with a spiritualistic and nationalistic tone; it was not deemed a threat to the German government or the established church.

As individuals and localities responded differently to the Enlightenment, so did governments. In France, the government was understandably hostile and moved to censor the ideas. Those embracing the Enlightenment were often imprisoned or hounded into exile. The British government simply ignored the Enlightenment and the leaders in England and Scotland. The government, however, gave Isaac Newton a knighthood and a very lucrative government position in charge of the mint.

Demythologization and Rationalization

A myth is something that is regarded as historical or obsolete. Scholars in the field of cultural studies are researching the idea that the myth has worked itself into modern discourses. With the ease of discussing ideas across the globe, mythological discourse and exchanges play to massive audiences. Various elements of myth can now be found in television, movies, and video games.

Myths have been transmitted through oral traditions. In current times, the transmittal method has been the film industry showing myths to large audiences. Carl Jung noted that myths are the expression of a culture or society's goals, fears, ambitions, and dreams. Films reflect the norms and ideals of the time in which it was created. While the technological aspect of film changes the way the myth is distributed, the core idea of the myth remains the same.

Many contemporary movies have deeply rooted stories based in myths. The Disney Corporation relies on ancient myths from which to construct narratives. They then reinvent the traditional childhood myths and reconstruct the story. The plots are based on rough structures of the myth. Disney is not the only movie-making enterprise that relies on ancient myths, sometimes even

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

current myths, to make stories. The plots of many films are based on technology, battles between gods, and the creation story. These usually provide some sort of cautionary tale that centers around the abuse of the stories or myths. Some of these films are part of the genre of cyberpunk action, fantasy dramas, and apocalyptic tales. While the method of delivery has changed, there is still the pervasive and essential component of the collective imagination.

Any view that appeals to reason as a source of knowledge or justification is called rationalism. The “truth” is one that is constructed by the use of intellectual and deductive reasoning rather than just the senses. There are differing degrees of emphasis on this method or theory that has led to a variety of standpoints. For example, there is the moderate position that reason has precedence over any other way of acquiring knowledge. There is a more extreme position that purports that reason is the unique path to knowledge. In pre-modern times, rationalism is identical to philosophy through the Socratic life of inquiry or the zetetic (skeptical) clear interpretation of authority. Leo Strauss has, in recent times, sought to revive “Classical Political Rationalism” and use it as a discipline that understands reasoning as maieutic, but not foundational. Rationalism is not rationality or rationalization, however.

Rationalism is contrasted with empiricism. In a broad sense, these views are not mutually exclusive. A philosopher can be both a rationalist and an empiricist. In the extreme, the empiricist view is that all ideas come to us through experience, either through the external senses or through inner sensations, such as pain and gratification.

Modern Science

During the 19th century, the Scientific Revolution established science as a source for the growth of knowledge. Science was professionalized and institutionalized. With the expansion of science in society, science became part of the nation-states. The growth of science also meant the growth of technology and innovations. One discovery breeds another discovery, drawing more individuals into the field.

9.2 Liberalism

Liberalism is from the Latin “liberalis” and is a political philosophy or worldview found on the ideas of liberty and equality. Liberal individuals espouse a wide array of views. Their views depend on their understanding of the principles, but generally, they support ideas like free and fair elections, civil rights, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, free trade, and private property.

During the Age of Enlightenment, Liberalism became a political movement and was popular among philosophers and economists in the Western world. Liberalism rejected the notions of hereditary privilege, state religion, absolute monarchy, and the divine right of kings, all of which were popular during this era.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

John Locke, a liberal thinker, is credited with founding Liberalism as its own philosophical tradition. Locke argued that every man had a natural right to life, liberty, and property. The social contract between individuals and the state noted that the government must not violate these rights. Liberals sought to replace the absolutism in government with democracy.

During the American Revolution, the French Revolution, and other liberal revolutions, rebels believed they had the right to overthrow a tyrannical government. Thomas Jefferson took the ideas of Locke and incorporated them into the Declaration of Independence with the phrase, "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The opposing idea to Liberalism was classical conservatism.

Liberal democracies found themselves on the winning side in both World Wars. The term "Liberalism" is still used today, though it has undergone a change. Liberalism has had many ideological challenges from opponents, such as fascism and communism. In Europe and North America, the idea of classical Liberalism was less popular than social democracy and social Liberalism. During the era of the New Deal programs of Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Liberalism became associated with social welfare and state politics. In Europe, Liberalism is more commonly associated with a commitment to limited government and a more laissez-faire economic policy.

9.3 Marxism

In the mid to late 19th century, two German philosophers, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, pioneered a new socioeconomic inquiry based on a materialist interpretation of historical development. They critiqued capitalism. Marxism encompasses an economic theory, a sociological theory, a philosophical method, and a revolutionary view of social change. While there is no one definitive Marxist theory, Marxist analysis has been applied to a variety of different subjects and has been modified during the course of its development. Sometimes, there are even contradictory theories that fall under the rubric of Marxism.

Marxism is based on a materialistic understanding of societal development. This takes into account a society providing for the material needs of its people. The form of economic organization or mode of production is understood to be the basis from which the majority of other social phenomena arise; this included social relations, political and legal systems, morality, and ideology. As technology evolves, the schism between the classes widens. Social organizations become inefficient and stifle further progress. These inefficiencies lead to class struggle.

Marxist states that class conflict arises within capitalism due to the intensifying contradictions between highly productive mechanized and socialized production performed by the proletariat, and the private ownership and private appropriation of the surplus product in the form of surplus value (profit) by a small minority of private owners called the bourgeoisie. As the contraction becomes more apparent to the proletariat, social unrest begins as the two become antagonistic towards each other, which can culminate in a social revolution. The long-term outcome of this revolution will be

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

the establishment of socialism. Socialism is a socioeconomic system based on cooperative ownership of the means of production, distribution based on one's contribution, and production organized directly for use. Marx hypothesized that as production forces and technology combined to advance, socialism would eventually give way to communism.

Marxism has various off-shoots. Different schools of thought place more or less emphasis on classical Marxism, while rejecting other aspects of Marxism. Some aspects focus on the Marxist theories that examine social development, such as production, class, and power relationships. Different adherents look at several reasons for the class gaps. Marxism views religion as a way to make those with a lesser economic status feel better about their position. Religion gives them hope for things to improve.

9.4 The Great Awakening

The First Great Awakening

The First Great Awakening started in 1730 and lasted until about 1743. The awakening was an era of revival that occurred in America. Johnathan Edwards' congregation was involved in a revival later called the "Frontier Revivals". Protestant ministers of all denominations supported the revivals. These individuals were the children and grandchildren of the first colonists who came to the Americas seeking religious freedom. The fervor had grown cold and church attendance was diminishing. As a result, it became important to revive the spirit in America. The pastoral styles had been deep, theologically-based sermons. They were largely impersonal and were an attempt to engage parishioners' intellect. Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield had little interest in engaging the intellect of the people, but rather appeal to the emotions. One such sermon was called "Sinners in the Hands of an angry God".

The First Great Awakening was a precursor to the American Revolution. Joseph Tracy was a minister and a historian who preached and wrote an 1842 book called *The Great Awakening*. This evangelical movement of the 1740s played a key role in the development of democratic thought and the belief in freedom of speech and religion. This was the first time African-Americans were invited to embrace Christianity – and they did so in large numbers.

The Second Great Awakening

The Second Great Awakening was also a religious revival that occurred in the United States, beginning in the late 18th century and lasting until the middle of the 19th century. It occurred in all parts of the US, but was especially strong in the Northeast and Midwest. This movement went beyond the prior movement in that it extended past the educated elite of New England to the less wealthy in different parts of the United States. This epicenter of revivalism was in the "Burned-over" district in western New York, named for the abundance of fire and brimstone teaching denominations.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Coupled with The Second Great Awakening were issues of women's rights. Women worked as abolitionists; as a result, they realized they could also fight for their own rights.

The Third Great Awakening

The Third Great Awakening occurred in 1850-1910 and was characterized by new denominations, highly active missionary work, and the Social Gospel approach to social issues. The Third Great Awakening resulted in more than 1 million converts to Christianity in the United States. It helped to religiously prepare the United States for the bloodbath that was coming with the Civil War in 1861-1865. Revivals swept the armies of the South during the days of the war. It produced the leadership, like that of Dwight L. Moody, and was the impetus to the creation of the Christian and Sanitary Commissions and numerous Freedmen's Societies that were formed in the midst of the war.

9.5 Christian Science

Christian Science is a system of religious thought developed by Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910). She was an American who based her book, *Science and Health* (1875), on her reading of the Bible and her personal experience. The Bible and her book were the central texts of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, which Eddy founded in 1879 in Lynn, Massachusetts. In a 1936 census, nearly 270,000 individuals were adherents in the United States and in 2010, there were 100,000 followers worldwide.

The ideas of Christian Science have been compared to philosophical idealism. Christian Scientists believe that spiritual reality is the only reality and the material world is an illusion; this includes death and sickness. When someone becomes ill, they believe they need to practice healing prayers rather than seek medical attention. They do not have an anthropomorphic conception of God. They do not believe in a conventional Heaven and Hell. They see Christ as the Divine ideal of man. Christian Scientists further believe that Jesus is not a deity, but is Christ's highest human manifestation.

While the deaths of members and their children in the early days can be attributed to the lack of medical treatment and vaccinations, in 2010, the church stated they would not continue to allow that to happen. Medical care and Christian Science healing are not to be mixed. However, Christian Science healing can be used to supplement conventional medicine, but not as a replacement for it.

9.6 Jehovah's Witnesses

Jehovah's Witnesses is a millennialism Christian denomination with nontrinitarian beliefs, which distinguishes it from mainstream Christianity. The Trinity is the three-in-one Godhead: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There are over 7.8 million adherents involved in this practice, with convention attendance of 12 million and the annual Memorial attendance of over 19 million. The direct governing body is a group of elders in Brooklyn, New York, and they establish all doctrines.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Jehovah's Witnesses' beliefs are based on their interpretations of the Bible and they use their own translation, the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. They believe the end of the world will happen and Armageddon is imminent. At that time, God's kingdom on earth will be the solution for all of mankind's problems.

This group emerged from the Bible Student movement and was founded by Charles Taze Russell in the late 1870s. He started the Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society. Joseph Franklin Rutherford organized and made more doctrinal changes, and based the group's name on Isaiah 43:10-12 in 1931: Jehovah's Witnesses.

Jehovah's Witnesses are known for their door-to-door preaching and giving out literature, such as *The Watchtower* and *Awake*. They refuse military service and blood transfusions. They consider the name "Jehovah" as necessary for proper worship. They reject Trinitarianism, inherent immortality of the soul, and hellfire. Members do not celebrate Christmas, Easter, birthdays, holidays, or customs they consider to be pagan. They refer to their body of beliefs as "the truth" and consider themselves to be "in the truth". They consider secular society to be morally corrupt and under the influence of Satan. They limit their social interaction with non-Witnesses.

Those who do not hold their beliefs receive disciplinary action and they *disfellowship* them, or expel them. Baptized individuals who formally leave the church are considered *disassociated* and are also shunned. If they request it and are deemed repentant, they can be accepted back into the church.

Their beliefs of not serving in the military and not saluting the national flag has resulted in some trouble with the government worldwide. Jehovah's Witnesses have been persecuted, and activities have been banned or restricted in some countries.

9.7 Mormonism

Mormonism is the predominant religious tradition of the Latter-day Saint movement. In the 1820s, Joseph Smith, Jr. founded the movement. As it grew in the 1830s and 1840s, Mormonism distinguished itself as a non-traditional Protestantism. This is a new, non-Protestant faith. After Smith's death, the Mormons followed Brigham Young west and called themselves the Church of the Latter-day Saints (LDS Church). There are other variations of Mormonism, such as Mormon fundamentalism, which has maintained practices and doctrines associated with polygamy that have been discontinued by the LDS church.

There is a common set of beliefs, including the use of and belief in the Bible and other religious texts, such as the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants. They also accept the Pearl of Great Price as part of its scriptural canon, with a history of teaching eternal marriage, eternal progression, and plural marriage. There are cultural Mormons who identify with the culture, but not the theology.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

9.8 Evangelicalism

Evangelicalism is a protestant Christian movement that began in the 17th century and became an organized movement in the 1730s in the Methodist Church of England and with the Lutheran Pietists in Germany and Scandinavia. During the series of Great Awakenings of the 18th and 19th centuries, the movement became more significant in the US. Today, it continues to grow in and outside of the United States.

Ritual is not emphasized in Evangelicalism, but rather the piety of the individual. They believe God works changes in the individual that include:

- Personal conversion or being “born again”, based on the passages in The Gospel of John Chapters 3 and 1:12-13
- Creating a high regard for biblical authority and an identification with the biblical story
- Drawing particular attention to teachings that proclaim the saving death and resurrection of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, as forgiveness of sins and new life
- Motivating towards the active expression and sharing of the gospel

David Bebbington has termed these four distinctive aspects *conversionism*, *Biblicism*, *crucicentrism*, and *activism*, noting, “Together, they form a quadrilateral of priorities that is the basis of Evangelicalism.”

9.9 Cults

A group whose beliefs or movements are considered abnormal or bizarre is usually considered a **cult**. The word originally denoted a system of ritual practices and was first used in the 17th century. At the time, it suggested paying homage to a divinity and was borrowed from the French word *culte* and from the Latin word *cultus*, meaning “worship”.

In the 1930s, cults became a sociological study in the context of religious beliefs. Christians have criticized them for their unorthodox beliefs. In the 1970s, the anti-cult movement arose, partly motivated by acts of violence and other crimes committed by cult members. The government reaction to cults has led to controversy. Cults are typically featured in popular culture.

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Chapter 9 Review Questions

- In general, how did many Christians feel about the Age of Enlightenment?
 - They disliked it because it disproved God
 - They disliked it because scientific inquiry was considered a sin
 - They liked it because the discoveries of a lot of findings were consistent with Christian beliefs
 - They liked it because it ultimately proved there was a Heaven and Hell
- Which term is defined as an attempt to explain mysteries, supernatural events, and cultural traditions?
 - Myth
 - Rationalism
 - Empiricism
 - Gospel
- Who was a central figure in the development of classical liberalism?
 - Isaac Newton
 - John Locke
 - Martin Luther
 - Carl Jung
- This person is credited for saying, "Religion is the opiate of the masses."
 - John Locke
 - Isaac Newton
 - Karl Marx
 - Carl Jung
- The Great Awakening was_____.
 - The first great religious revival in America
 - A result of the Enlightenment on American education
 - The opening of new commercial opportunities in the West
 - An attempt to inform colonists of a British religious plot
- Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, argued in her book, *Science and Health*, that sickness is an illusion and could only be corrected by:
 - Another Christian Scientist
 - Priest
 - Sacrificing oneself to God
 - Prayer
- Which of the following statements about Jehovah Witnesses is true?
 - The world will never perish; God will always keep it alive
 - We are still waiting for the second coming of Christ
 - Anybody who believes in God and lives without sin will go to Heaven
 - There is no such thing as Hell; non-believers cease to exist
- The Mormon faith uses many religious texts, excluding _____.
 - The Watchtower*
 - The Bible*
 - Pear of Great Price*
 - Doctrine and Covenants*

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

9. Evangelicalism began in the _____.
- 15th century
 - 16th century
 - 17th century
 - 18th century
10. How do cults differ from a religious sect?
- Religious sects have a more significant number of followers compared to cults
 - Whether the religious symbolism of the group is derived from the society of which it is a part or from a foreign tradition
 - There is no difference; it depends on how societies choose to classify the organization
 - Religious groups are elitist and cults are not

Introduction to World Religions Study Guide

Answer Key

Chapter 1: Defining Religion

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. C | 3. C | 5. D | 7. B | 9. B |
| 2. B | 4. A | 6. A | 8. A | 10. C |

Chapter 2: Indigenous Religions

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. A | 3. C | 5. B | 7. B | 9. C |
| 2. A | 4. C | 6. D | 8. B | 10. B |

Chapter 3: Hinduism

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. C | 3. D | 5. A | 7. B | 9. A |
| 2. B | 4. D | 6. C | 8. C | 10. B |

Chapter 4: Buddhism

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. A | 3. C | 5. D | 7. C | 9. D |
| 2. B | 4. A | 6. D | 8. B | 10. B |

Chapter 5: Asian Religions

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. A | 3. C | 5. C | 7. B | 9. A |
| 2. B | 4. D | 6. B | 8. C | 10. C |

Chapter 6: Judaism

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. B | 3. B | 5. D | 7. D | 9. B |
| 2. C | 4. C | 6. B | 8. A | 10. C |

Chapter 7: Christianity

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. D | 3. C | 5. A | 7. D | 9. D |
| 2. A | 4. D | 6. C | 8. C | 10. B |

Chapter 8: Islam

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. D | 3. A | 5. B | 7. B | 9. D |
| 2. C | 4. B | 6. A | 8. C | 10. A |

Chapter 9: Modern Times

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. C | 3. B | 5. A | 7. D | 9. C |
| 2. A | 4. C | 6. D | 8. A | 10. B |