

Study Questions - Midterm One

1. What do we mean when we say that religion defines identity and guides relationships?
2. Explain the four- part description of religion given in our Sacred Paths text.
3. Explain the dimensional triangle and how and why this is considered a circular encounter.
4. Explain the relationship between all six dimensions of religion.
5. What are theories on the origin of religion and what are the distinctive evidence for religion in Neanderthal, Cro-Magnon (Upper Paleolithic) and Neolithic times? (Chap 2, Sacred Paths)
6. What are the components of the numinous and mystical experiences? What are the three distinctive types of mystical experience ?
7. What is the "system of the world" prevalent in traditional societies? How does the system show up in Holy sites?
8. What are all the components of sacred time and how is it established? Have examples
9. Be able to explain the three ways to establish a cosmic dwelling.
10. What are the definition and functions of myth according to Eliade? According to Campbell, what does history reveal about myths?
11. What are the events and sequence of the hero's journey in the monomyth of Campbell? Explain and give an example from life.
12. Define ritual. What are the principle features of ritual? What part do symbols play in rituals?
13. What is the symbolism of Terra Mater, Sun, Moon, Sky and Sky Gods, Water, and Cosmic Tree?
14. Explain the Native American sacred places discussed in class and the symbolism involved in these places. What do these places tell us about Native American Religion?
15. Explain the four-part meaning of an initiation. How does this relate to identity and relationship?

MIDTERM ONE KEY WORDS

Identity/relationship Six dimensions of religion dimensional triangle experiential dimension mythical dimension ritual dimension doctrinal dimension ethical dimension social dimension boundary questions religion sacred phenomenology numinous mystical nature mysticism monist mysticism theist mysticism profane	transcendence threshold illud tempus illo tempore hierophany theophany Kauwa-auwa pole Achilpa tribe Kwakiutl tribe System of the World Break in space Fixed point Axis mundi Center of the world Sacred time Definitions of myth Eliade: functions of myth Campbell: power of myth	Hero's Journey Definition of ritual Features of rituals kenosis pleurosis Sacramental Representational symbols Rites of passage symbolism of sky symbolism of terra mater symbolism of sky gods symbolism of moon symbolism of sun symbolism of water symbolism of Body-House Cosmos symbolism of cosmic tree culture heroes
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Study Questions - Midterm Two

1. Explain the Native American sacred places discussed in class and the symbolism involved in these places. What do these places tell us about Native American Religion?
2. What are the important parts of the Native American creation myths and the myth of White Buffalo Calf Woman we discussed in class?
3. How does the Navaho Blessing Way Ceremony relate to myth?
4. Explain the importance and order of a Vision Quest and the Apache puberty rite.
5. Define doctrine and describe its functions. How does doctrine relate to ethics? Define ethics and explain the patterns in the ethical process?
6. What do we mean by the social dimension of religion? Explain the ideas of church, denomination, sect, and cult. What factors affect conventionality? What are the dilemmas of institutionalization?
7. What were the characteristics of the indigenous people in the Indus Valley before the invasion of the Arians? What is the importance of the Arians to the development of Hinduism?
8. What are the characteristics of the Hindu Trimurti (three main Gods of India) and how does it relate to the concept of Brahman?
9. Explain the components of and the importance of the Rig Veda, Upanishads, the Law of Manu, and the Bhagavad-Gita in the formation of the Hindu religion.
10. Explain the three main paths of transformation : Knowledge, Action, Devotion in Hinduism?
11. Describe a Hindu Fire Ritual and Puja.
12. What is Buddha's story of enlightenment?
13. Describe and explain each part of the Four Noble Truths and Eight-Fold Path from Buddhism.
14. Explain the workings of the Noble-Eightfold Path showing how it leads toward nirvana. What is the importance of meditation?
15. What is signified by "dependent co-arising" and how does it relate to Dharma?
16. Explain the Buddhist teachings about impermanence and no-self (anatman).
17. In what ways was Buddha a rebel saint?
18. What does Tripitaka mean? Explain the parts to this Buddhist scripture.
19. Explain the characteristics of the three major developments within Buddhism: Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana.
20. Contrast Hindu identity and relationship to "the other" with that of a Buddhist and a Native American.

MIDTERM TWO- KEY WORDS

Kiva Bad Spirit Tower Earthen mounds Pipe Stone Primal religions mana animism fetishism taboo totemism Shaman polytheism monotheism	nicotiana rustica body soul and free soul Doctrinal dimension Ethical Dimension Social Dimension Church denomination sect cult religious ecology Brahman moksha avidya	varnas Brahmans Kshatriyas Vaishyas Shrudra Stages of life Samnyasin Jnana Marga-path of knowledge yoga karma marga- path of action cool karma hot karma
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monism Navajo Emergence Myth Navajo Blessing Way Ceremony Iroquois Earth Diver and the Twins Vision Quest Apache Puberty Ceremony for females hogan medicine bundle First man and First woman Changing Woman vision quest sweat lodge tobacco rosary White Buffalo Calf Woman Sacred Pipe	Brahma Shiva Vishnu Shakti Sarasvati Kali Lakshmi Atman trimurti maya karma Pre-Aryan civilization Aryans Vedas Rig Veda Upanishads Bhagavad Gita Krishna Arjuna	bhakti marga- path of devotion vedic fire ritual Agnihotra puja kirtana darshana prasad Siddhartha Gautama Buddha Four Noble Truths Eight –Fold Path impermanence dependent co-arising anatman dharma nirvana Theravada Buddhism Mahayana Buddhism Vajrayana Buddhism
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Study Questions - Final

1. Explain the meaning and relationship of the six Dimensions of Religion.
2. How do the three great myths of Judaism (creation- liberation-covenant) affect the Jewish worldview?
3. What is the importance of the Prophets?
4. What is the history of the Jews from the time of Moses to the development of Rabbinic Judaism? How do these events shape the Jewish identity?
5. What is the sacred scripture of Judaism? What is the Torah? What are the names of the most important books? What are the Mishnah, Gemara, and the Talmuds? How have all these books shaped the Jewish understanding of themselves as a chosen people?
6. How does the Jewish path of transformation incorporate the Torah, repentance and the mitzvot?
7. Explain the Jewish understanding of God as transcendent, immanent, one and unique.
8. What are the significance and meaning of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?
9. Explain the timing, characteristics, audience, and component sources of the four Gospels of Christianity and how they differ from each other in flavor and content.
10. What are the six characteristics of the teaching of Jesus? What is He telling us about our identity and relationships?
11. How did Jesus contrast the notions of a Jewish Messiah and how was he in harmony with those notions?
12. What is the importance of Paul of Tarsus in terms of theology and leadership in the early church?
13. Explain the Christians ideas of the Mystical Body of Christ, Jesus as the Suffering Servant of God and Salvation by Faith.
14. Tell me the story of Muhammad's life?
15. Explain the importance of the Qur'an to Muslims. What is the nature of God? How does this sacred text inform a Muslim's identity and relationships?

16. Explain the Five Pillars of Islam in detail. What do they reveal about identity and relationship?
17. What is the Path of Knowledge in Islam? How does it relate to the Shari'ah ?
18. What is the meaning of the most sacred concept and symbol from each ritual presentation given in class (The Sun Dance, Divali, Kalachakra, Eucharist, Seder Meal, and Hajj)?
19. Explain the relationship between all six dimensions of religion.
20. Explain the concept of personal identity (selfhood, meaning, purpose) for each religion we have studied this quarter.
21. What are the paths of transformation for each religion we have studied this quarter?

FINAL KEY WORDS		
Identity/relationship	repentance	Pre-Islamic Arabia
Six dimensions of religion	Mitzvoth	Mecca
Torah	Shema	Ka'ba
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus,	Rosh Hashanah	Abu Talib
Numbers, Deuteronomy	Yom Kippur	Kadija
Tanakh	Holocaust	610 C.E.
Abraham		Qur'an
Isaac	Jesus of Nazareth	Surahs
Jacob	Source theory of the gospels	ayas
Israel	Gospel of Mark	Allah
Biblical patriarchs	Gospel of Matthew	Medina
Moses	Gospel of Luke/Acts	Hijrah
Ark of the Covenant	Gospel of John	630 and 632 C.E.
YaHWeH	Synoptic Gospels	Five Pillars of Islam
Law at Sinai	Q-Source	Mijrab
Ten commandments	Messianic secret	Muezzin
Passover	New Moses	Hajj
Kings' David and Solomon	Bar Kochba Revolt	Ihram
Messiah	Eschatology	Tawhid
Assyrians	Paul of Tarsus	Unity of knowledge
Neo-Babylonians	Mystical body of Christ	Iblis
Jewish Prophets	Suffering Servant	Jinn
Prophetic contribution	Salvation by Faith	Book of Life
King Cyrus of Persia	Interpretation of Genesis	Cosmic Islam
Ezra	Original sin	Iman
Maccabean Revolt	Greco-Roman world	Shari'ah
Hanukkah	Pax Romana	Lesser Jihad
Septuagint	Dualism	Greater Jihad
Pharisees	Reformation	Ummah
Mishnah	Martin Luther	Hadith
Gemara	Indulgences	
Talmud		