

World Religions

Unit 1: Theories and Basic Religion

Guiding Questions

1. How do the various theories of the origins of religion reflect the universality of religion?
2. What are the distinguishing features of the four types of religions?
3. How do archeological clues from the Neanderthal, Cro-Magnon, and Neolithic cultures inform us about their religious beliefs and practices?
4. How are the characteristics of “basic religions” similar to those practiced today?

Reading Schedule

1/6 Wednesday: pp. 2-6 (to “Theories”)

1/7 Thursday: pp. 6-11 (to “Types”)

1/11 Monday: pp. 11-12

1/12 Tuesday: pp. 14-18 (to “Common Features”)

1/13 Wednesday: pp. 18-27

Quiz: Tuesday, January 19th

Be familiar with the following origin theories: Animistic, Emotional connection, Nature-worship, original monotheism, magic, projection of human needs

Be familiar with the following people and their importance to origin theories: Edward Burnett Tylor, Max Muller, Wilhelm Schmidt, James George Frazer, Ludwig Feuerbach, Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud

Be familiar with the following types of religions: Basic, Originating in India, China and Japan, and the Middle East

Be familiar with the common features of Basic Religions: animism, magic, divination, taboo, totems, sacrifice, myth, rituals, rites of passage, ancestor veneration

Be prepared to answer and support the Guiding Questions