

Philosophy of Religion

Concepts Covered

Week #1 Lecture: Indigenous Religions

Plato's Republic BOOK VII The Allegory of the Cave

Black Elk Speaks Chapters 1-3

The Offering Of The Pipe

The Great Vision

Week 2: Hinduism

The Creation of the World

The Rig Veda

The God Indra

The Caste System

Brahman consciousness

The Upanishads

Bhagavad-Gita

Philosophy

William James - Varieties of Religious Experience

Abraham Maslow

Discussion: The mystical experience

Week 3: Jainism & Buddhism

The life of Mahavira

The principles of Jainism

The philosophy of Ahimsa

Gandhi - Satyagraha

The life of the Buddha

Principles of Buddhism

Anatta - No Self

The Five Skandhas

Philosophy

René Descarte - I think, therefore I am.

Diogenes of Sinope - Cynicism

David Hume - Of Personal Identity

Martin Luther King - Letter from Birmingham Jail

Lecture 4: Buddhism part II

Buddhist Principles

Sunyata - Emptiness

Dependent Origination

The Law of Karma

Detached compassion

The Middle way

The Four Noble Truths and The Eightfold Path

Types of knowledge -

Discursive -(Vijana)

Intuitive - (Prajna)

Philosophy

Paulo Freire "Pedagogie of the Oppressed

Emmanuel Kant: The Notion of Respect

Aristotle, The Golden Mean

Week 5: Confucianism - Taoism

Confucianism

The life of Confucius

Confucian Moral and Political Philosophy

Virtue Theory - The Analects

Filial piety

Taoism

Lao Tse

The Tao de Ching

The Relative Nature of the World

Accepting Change

Yin-yang

Wu Wei

The I Ching

Philosophy

Mencius and Tsu

Hobbes and Rousseau

Stoicism

Epictetus

Marcus Aurelius

Week 6: Judaism

The Documentary Hypothesis of the Old Testament

A God of History

A brief history of Ancient Judaism

Hermeneutics

The Use of Allegory in Religious Language

Philosophy

Philo of Alexandria - On Creation

Moses Maimonides - A Guide for the Perplexed

Benedictus Spinoza

Sören Kierkegaard The Sacrifice of Isaac The Death of

Existential Philosophy

Thomas Hobbes - Science vs. Faith

Week 7: Judaism & Christianity

The Influence of Zoroastrianism (the religion of Persia) &

Hellenism (Greek Culture including the Greek religions)

The period of the second temple

Contending Factions Within Judaism

Christianity

Methodology: Historical-Criticism

The Two-Source Hypothesis & dating the Gospels

Theology as Anthropology and Psychology

The doctrine of Original Sin

Philosophy

Augustine of Hippo - the doctrine of Original Sin

Ludwig Feuerbach - God as a projection of mankind

Descartes proof of existence of God

Spinoza - A God of nature

Week 8: Christianity part 2

The Life of Jesus, the “Master Story”

Birth - ministry - death - resurrection

Early Christianity

Orthodoxy and Heresy

Gnostic Christianity

the Gospel of Mary

Schisms Within the Movement

The Doctrine of the Trinity
The Just War Doctrine

Philosophy

Augustine of Hippo - City of God - Just War Doctrine

Thomas Aquinas

Elaine Pagels

John Dominique Crossan

Week 9: Islam

Violence in Western Tradition and the Bible

Monotheism and Exclusivity

Islamic Scriptures

Abraham and Ishmael build the Kaaba

Central Beliefs

Angels and Demons

The Prophets

The Scriptures

Qur'an

Hadith

The Final Judgment

Philosophy

Avicenna

The Floating Man Argument

Al Ghazali

The Incoherence of the Philosophers

Week 10: Islam

Fundamentalism - Liberalism

The Sunni - Shia divide

Jihad

Sharia Law

Philosophy

Averroes - The Incoherence of the Incoherence

Ibn Khaldun - Social and Political Philosophy

Week 11: Perennial Philosophy

The Traditionalist School

Esoteric and Exoteric Religion

René Guénon - The Crisis of the Modern World

Frithjof Shouon (1907-1998) Spirituality