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Religions of the Middle East

Oct 1, 2013

Getting Started

- Login to Moodle at Moodle.lanecc.edu or by following the Quicklink on the LCC home page

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Student Announcement

**Financial Aid
Students - Verify**

- ✓ Quick Links
-
- Welcome to Lane
-
- Academic Calendars
- Academic Programs
- Advising
- Around Town
- Assessment
- Athletics
- Bookstore
- Center for Meeting & Learning
- Classes and Programs
- Community Education
- Departments and Services
- Disability Resources
- Distance/Online Learning
- Enrollment and Registration
- Financial Aid
- Final Exam Schedule
- Health Clinic
- International Admissions
- Jobs at Lane
- Library
- Maps and Directions
- Moodle**
- Order Transcripts
- Placement Test Signup

Getting Started

- Login to Moodle at Moodle.lanecc.edu or by following the Quicklink on the LCC home page
- Login ASAP, but by THURSDAY 3PM to avoid being dropped on Friday
- Read the syllabus
- Pick up the text at the LCC Bookstore, *Religions of the Middle East*, 6th Edition

Course Delivery

- Live in the studio
- Live Cable-TV
- Live Streaming on the internet
- Video archives on YouTube (links mailed out a few hours after class)
- Reading and exam schedule in Moodle

Course Requirements

- Three multiple choice, true/false exams taken in a campus testing lab (30% each)
- Faith Interview/Religious Service Report (10%)
- Read the syllabus for important details!

Methodology

- Scholarly vs. devotional
- Secular vs. sectarian
- Historical
- Anthropological (including archeology)
- Sociological
- Comparative
- Understanding vs. Truth (though some Truth issues discussed)

Methodology

- Hermeneutical
 - Hermeneutics = the science of textual interpretation
 - Exegesis vs. isogesis
 - Exegesis = bring the meaning out of the text
 - Isogesis = read meaning into the text

Western vs. Eastern Religion

Western Religion

- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam

Eastern Religion

- Hinduism, Sikhism, Bah'ai
- Buddhism
- Taoism
- Confucianism, Shinto

Western vs. Eastern Religion

Western Religion

- God is personal (Father, King, Judge, He)
- Yahweh
- Christ, The Holy Spirit
- Allah

Eastern Religion

- God is impersonal (Force, Principle, It)
- The Brahman
- Dharma
- The Tao

Western vs. Eastern Religion

Western Religion

- Monotheism

Eastern Religion

- Pantheism (all-godism)
- Monism (one-ism)

Western vs. Eastern Religion

Western Religion

- Worship
- Prayer

Eastern Religion

- Harmony or union with the Divine
- Meditation

Western vs. Eastern Religion

Western Religion

- God is describable, knowable through revelation
- Focus on scripture, doctrinal beliefs

Eastern Religion

- God ineffable, knowable through experience
- Focus on meditation, spiritual experiences

Western vs. Eastern Religion

Western Religion

- Human problem = sin
- Solution = sacrifice, forgiveness, obedience

Eastern Religion

- Human problem = ignorance, attachment
- Solution = enlightenment, detachment

Western vs. Eastern Religion

Western Religion

- Persons are real, important
- Persons will be judged, forgiven or punished

Eastern Religion

- Persons are unreal, unimportant
- The ego is an illusion, false self
- The Truth Self is God

Western vs. Eastern Religion

Western Religion

- Death and Judgment
- Heaven or Hell

Eastern Religion

- Reincarnation
- Moksha, Union with God
- Nirvana

Western vs. Eastern Religion

Western Religion

- History is linear
- It ends in the Apocalypse, Day of Doom, Judgment Day

Eastern Religion

- History is cyclical
- No ending, endless repeating

The Bible

- Not one, book 66
- Written by different authors or centuries
- Old and New Testaments
- In Hebrew, a little Aramaic and Greek
- “The Bible has been translated and retranslated.”