

- Religion shapes the way we see the world
- Colonialism has had a tremendous impact around the world and it's still the same filter we use today, such as what's going on in Quebec with the religious artifacts
- Everyone has different assumptions about religion and the film is about lack of understanding what religion really is all about
- The last residential school was in 1996-1998 in Canada where people were forced to change
- One of the filters noted on the film and that most people have is Ethnocentrism which is an assumption that where you belong or whom you identify with you tend to interpret everything you see or understand because of the group you belong to, so it's a sort of filter that we see things from or judge others or their cultures from the standard of our own values and culture
- Religio: Latin background, taking care, doing it properly, such as sacrifice, you are mindful, careful about rituals, or you are under obligation to pray or you identify as a Muslim and you pray because you may be obligated to do so or to simply just practice rights
- Religion: not one clear definition but it depends on what discipline you are talking about – sociology, psychology, economics etc... and religious studies is a field not a discipline and its some sort of belief system and there might be as many religions in the world as there are people
- Most people usually refer to religion because it is some sort of institution and what that means is that they do not follow all the practices of their fate or prey and then they do not follow the religio
- When people say they are spiritual they mean there is some sort of other external power such as their soul will go somewhere and they believe in an afterlife but they do not believe in an institutionalized way of religion such as practicing praying etc...
- Faith: belief in – two kinds: Faith of the head is what allows people from different religions to have dialogue, people discussing even from the same religion, intelligent and interesting dialogue
- Faith of the heart: is something you cannot explain, it moves beyond the intellect such as belief or emotion and in different societies believe in different parts of the body such as heart, stomach etc.
- Atheism is still considered as faith
- Faith works on two levels. Faith of the heart would apply because you heart makes you feel right!

### Lec #2 Sept 13

- Emic: me, it's how the participant (inside) see's and does the action or the point of view of the individual
- Etic: it's what the subject see's the object doing or what the researcher says who may be a reporter, scholar or observer
- Fundamental/ism/ist: this word is often used during 911. Some fundamental things are core things or basic things such as air, food, water, shelter etc. Fundamental things of religions are statements such as basic core beliefs and if you adhere to fundamental ideas then you are considered a fundamentalist. Lastly, a fundamentalist is someone who believes the basic things of a religion and this is not a bad thing, but lately the media is using this word to refer to extremists or terrorists by calling them fundamentalists, but in fact this word has nothing to do with any of those statements!
- William Poston – philosophical explanation of religion
  - Profane: part of the everyday world and unsacred, but it's not necessarily a bad thing
  - Sacred acts: things such as praying
  - Moral code: a set of codes such as god Athena says what you must do....
  - Sense of oath, sense of guilt, atteration which is to fall with passion to your feet. These are all feelings or emotions of people and we are connected to god through these various feelings
  - Prayer: a way of communicating with the divine
  - Ontological: basic questions, like why people suffer, why does god exist, why is there war, why is the world unequal etc....

- Festivals and holydays: All religions divide these two words into 2 different categories. Festivals are considered happy days, and we are allowed to have fun and give gifts, indulge in sweets etc.... Holydays on the other hand are meant to not eat good foods but to eat bad foods. Both terms are different but in Canada they are referred to as holidays which are not correct....
- Abrahamic and People of the Book: Both are encompassing terms and they are both traced to related texts and are moral guidelines. People of the book refers to followers of monotheistic Abrahamic religions that are older than Islam
- Cosmology: world view despised by religion, how you believe the world is structured
- Axiology: The values such as wearing a hair net or cover your head, mainly two kinds of values: ethics and aesthetics. Ethics investigates the concepts of "right" and "good" in individual and social conduct. Aesthetics studies the concepts of "beauty" and "harmony."

### Lec #3 Sept 17

- Substantive: what religion is, this religion believes in so and so, its history and what it is
- Functional: what does it do, what function does it serve
- Substance: A set of beliefs that give life to ideas
- Functional: teaches us how to interact with other things and how we are supposed to live, or guide humans
- Orthodoxy: belief, correct or right belief, if you believe that Jesus was hanged to relieve all your sins then you are considered Orthodoxy and believe the core ideas of the prescribed religion
- Orthopraxy: less familiar, a large part of identification of jews, and it is again the right or proper practice, for example give to the poor, prey numerous times a day and do the prescribed practices of their religion
- Literacy: 85-95% of Canada is literate, ability to write, read and understand
- Biased: values, ethnocentrism
- Gender biased he, him, his but most religions believe that god is man

### Lec #4 Sept 20

- Universalism: All x do y, all a believe b, all babacuerians believe in blah blah blah....
- Androcentrism: Interpreting everything from a human point of view how do humans respond?
- Elitism: Elite white women pretending to know everything and judging what women a hijab feel like
- Othering: Making another group of human beings appear less then ourselves, "not as good as", demeaning, degrading others, referring to them as objects instead of subject
- Everyone has a set of goggles, and we need to look beyond our self-knowledge in order to see and understand other ideas and peoples beliefs, since we all have this lens we judge from then we should look deeper to help us see things we don't or are not used to seeing.
- Experiential: based on experience, same as faith of the heart
- Propitiation: trying to make god feel good, by promising or make or offer the divine to do something positive for them to feel better.
- Binary: your world does not have "shades of grey" but it's the interpretation that allows religions to survive because it is able to change, and expand and thus shades of grey become acceptable
- Hubris: assumption that the human being knows what god accepts or does but in fact they don't to think you are god and be as powerful as the divine

### Lec #5 Sept 24

- Numinous (ity): story with the Mexican lady that the teacher met in Mexico and her story about seeing virgin Marry and following the white dove.
- Signs: are important and they are clear in most cases such as a stop sign on the road. Neither signs nor symbols are universal but there are similarities. Signs have very specific meanings and they are usually easy to understand or distinguish
- Symbols: are not meant to be taken surface literary. When you take symbols out of their time and interpret it in today's life they may not be properly translated therefore their meaning may not be correct. A symbol is a religious shorthand. Symbols have many different meanings and

- Sacred: power but as explained by Elide
- Sacred space: is considered anything and it's up to people to view any space as sacred. Some religions assay anything is a sacred space but in some places like a church, mosque or religious building is considered a sacred space
- Sacred place: is usually a place where a human lost their lives where a "soul was cut short". Examples of this is the "ghost white bicycles" on the side of the road. In some religions it is believed that the soul was not ready to leave and it is where you can connect with the individual on a deeper level since that's the location where they lost their lives.
- Sacred time: most religions have certain ritual words and once you are praying you are now in a sacred time. A sacred time is anytime you are connecting with another soul or god

#### Lec #6 Sept 27

- Numinous: comes from the word spirit, and refers to the experience in contact with the divine and it gives the individual a sense of mystery, awe, dread, and it gives people an idea of them feeling nothing but a sneeze and it is entirely beyond a human beings ability to understand and this is so big that people cannot wrap their head around it and they will never be able to turn and be able to explain this phenomenon to another person
- Reality **divine numinous**: religion of the heart, this reality defines science and illusion.
- Secular profane: another reality, day to day, non-sacred realm, things that science can test and whatever is considered real. Divine numinous is *subjective* reality based on participant observation and secular profane is *objective* reality and it's *not secular*.
- Monotheism: Belief in the existence of one god. Monotheism is characteristic of JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, and ISLAM, all of which view God as the creator of the world, who oversees and intervenes in human events, and as a beneficent and holy being, the source of the highest good
- Polytheism: belief in more than one god, the numerous gods may be dominated by a supreme god or by a small group of powerful gods.
- Pantheism: the belief that identifies God with the universe. The belief that God is the only reality, transcending all, and that the universe and everything in it are mere manifestations of him
- Animism: is the religious worldview that natural physical entities—including animals, plants, and often even inanimate objects or phenomena—possess a spiritual essence

#### Lec #7 Oct 1

- Sacred power: power is a basic religious thing, but in this case it's numinous, great, very big and larger than life.
- Animous: each living thing has a spirit and a soul but depending what it is, whether it's human, cat, cow etc. in this case their spirit size depends on what they are
- Taboo: it is not good in certain times of the year to bother snakes in any shape or form. For example, it is not good to talk about snakes, not eat, not wake them up, and if you shake up this it's considered taboo. If you break the taboo you will manifest some kind of disease because you were not supposed to do this.
- Spirits: A spirit is a force that influences the will of people. A being inhabiting or embodying a particular place, object, or natural phenomenon and he part of a human associated with the mind, will, and feelings
- Ancestors: is based on the **belief** that the dead have a **continued existence** and/or possess the ability to influence the fortune of the living
- Totem: it can be an animal such as a badger, or mythical animals that may have existed before but may no longer be living
- God/desses: a lot of them depending on the society, more often gods have thunder or lightening images because they represent a great deal of power. Demons are not always bad or evil
- Monotheist Duty: is a belief in the existence of a single god
- Trinitarianism: God exists as three persons: **God the Father**, **God the Son**(incarnate as **Jesus Christ**), and God the **Holy Spirit**
- Binary or dualism: Zoroastrianism a very small religion out of Iran, a revelation was given meaning it has 2 equally divine gods, one is all of the goodness and the other is all the misfortunes of the world. People that follow this religion are only born into it, and others cannot convert into it unless they are born in a family that follows it

- Agnostic: is a belief that there is something out there but it's so big we cannot understand it and maybe there is something beyond human
- Atheism: lack of any kind of divine and it's assumed that there is nothing beyond us, no sense of sin, or of being reincarnated.

### Lec #8 Oct 5

- Who is sacred: God and Bodhisattva choose to remain closer to the world of suffering and they are considered sacred. They help others to reach enlightenment and act in a way like saints, so they can hear us pray and can provide a gateway to reach god. Many religions have a sacred creating force that is beyond human understanding. Everything sacred represents the divine
- God/Allah/Brahman/Buddha: the cosmology recognizes these figures as gods, god is the ultimate supreme
- Intermediaries: Greece had gods/goddesses as supreme figures, but the female goddesses were higher up. When there are no divine supremes all things are considered sacred and everything alive has its own little spirit, so this is a cosmology that we are least knowledgeable about
- Holy/wise people: Judaism has a lot of wise men or figures and they represent the sacred, most of the times they are manifestations of the divine
- Priests/ess: training or a gift or have been chosen by the divine. Years of training from childhood and these people lived all their lives under the same religion. Nuns are also considered sacred and all the above go to specific institutions and receive training and they are official intermediaries between humans and sacred
- Prophets: human beings who have received knowledge and are indirect contacts to the divine, there is no objective way to know or verify that they are in fact who they say they are. Lastly, how do we know, so we are told to do all the best we can, and feel free to believe in any religion we want to. We have no way to prove or evaluate this, to believe or not to believe is our choice at the end of the day.

### Lec #9 Oct 7

- Bodhisattva: sacred person in Buddhism and a descriptor of a saint like figure
- Olorun-Yuruba Orisha: a world where god exists but as a divine figure, but people cannot talk to god because he is too busy, far away and distant so you cannot pray to him, he is white and very large
- Church: all these come from sociology but applied to religion. Church in this setting does not mean Christianity at all; it's simply a community or a large religious system. All these terms are typologies.
- Sect is a sub sect of a large religious institution, like different forms like a church would have a sub sect of Greek orthodox, Christian etc.
- Cult: is a small religious movement usually focused around a charismatic leader. Not necessarily bad, and usually they have a secret and know important things that they don't want to share with others
- How do we experience religion? One way is experiential and another is emotional. Sometimes the experience is the changing movement of what becomes Islam. One of the ways to do it is to practice or pray and this provides the individual the experiential way and the contact with the numinous. Mystical experiences are part of experiential because you feel a sort of emotion and know you have been contacted by the numinous and it's supposed to give you a sense of mystery.
- Chassidic: a very orthodox sect, clothing of Poland and Ukraine, a very mystical experience of contact with numinous in order to re-live that contact with the divine
- Gnostic: based on Gnosis, the knowledge of transcendence arrived at by way of interior, intuitive means. Although Gnosticism thus rests on personal religious experience, it is a mistake to assume all such experience results in Gnostic recognitions.
- Doctrinal and Philosophical: takes the core ideas of religion and puts in a systematic way to be able to understand religion of the head. Also this mentions that there is some external and comforting part that religion gives to people to feel better, but this says that there is a reason for things to happen. This makes it possible for people to answer the big questions that people can't answer
- Ethical and legal stuff in religions: rules and laws that people of this belief must do and abide by, and this allows us a way of knowing what is acceptable and what is not.
- Kosher/Treyfe, Halal/Haram: Kosher and Halal means what is clean and what is correct with the religious teaching. Treyfe and Haram is "don't do that" or "taboos" are against the sacred teaching

- Axiom: a saying that everyone knows or agrees with general statements about the world, and it's very broad usually about the universe
- Meems: ways of quickly making a statement or teaching something fast, like seen on face book where posts are made in a snapshot method so things are taught in a fast paced world
- Myth or mythology: a myth is usually a lie and untrue when used in general language whereas in academic language it is not the case. Mythology is a *sacred origin text* sometimes more than one, of a religion or culture such as Abrahamic. Text does not mean printed or written down, it is a narrative and can be oral or written. Many societies do not have an orthography which is a written language a way of reading sounds so other future generations can understand what the letters or symbols mean. Texts such as the Quran were first oral and then transferred to written texts, and things always change and progress and nothing remains the same. Since things always change so is religion and the re-interpretation and re-understanding of religious text.
- Logos: Greek word, literal translation is clear, such as chalk, eraser, chair, desk, no multiple levels of interpretation just a clear word that refers to something.
- Muthos: Words have many meaning and interpretation. Creative writing is written like language of poetry or religious texts, and is not literal meaning. It is from Muthos that we get a hierarchy of how things are made such as god, humans, plants, animals etc... sets up the structure of the world and relationships
- Mythology sets up ritual actions such as the New Testament where Jesus hands bread and wine, and that become symbolically the mass of society and this is mythos language since it is not literal. Ritual actions state what you can or cannot eat such as the text of Torah or Quran where it says what is right or wrong but does not explain why. It's just a guide for people to follow
- Axiology: actions, myth and cosmology are very important.
- Legends: understood as not sacred stories, a formula in which way they are told and mainly teachings of local things like an explanation but it is non-sacred things. They are mostly culturally rooted so the stories might differ
- Utanpishitim comes from the Babylon and it is not a legend but it's meant to explain small things.
- Marchen/Folktales: Always absolutely not true but have a teaching imbedded into them and a predictable story like "once upon a time stories" mean to teach something about the everyday.

### Lec #11 Oct 25

- Parable: a story line that has a point and it's a sort of teaching – an example is the story that says little girls should not go outside at night because it is unsafe. These stories are meant to teach about what's right or wrong, they are wisdom teaching and usually short stories.
- Theology: does not apply in all languages, faith seeking belief and understanding its *emic* cause it is a personal point of view
- Exegesis: looks at use of language as it was used when it was written and in order to understand you would have to look at the times social and economic situation to fully understand what was happening in 1400's for example
- History: you have to look at the history of a religion to fully understand a religion properly
- If you are doing *Theology* it needs to be systematic, *tracing back thoughts and ideas* to fully understand a particular aspect of religion
- Apologetics: trying to answer critiques that outsiders have about a story or anything, so you try to explain it in a clear and simple way so that others can understand. Apologetics say that *this is how we understand this* whatever the idea is in a religion
- Critical thought: Be fair not judge things from the surface, and question things appropriately, why put so much work into one question and not another
- Morals: are directly derived from religious teachings and how humans should interact with the non-human world, codes about life, drawn from religious teachings
- Ethics: are sometimes *situationally applied* like thou shall not steal, but when it is absolutely necessary to survive then it might be ethically ok to do so. Mostly about what the majority thinks about a certain topic like the white houses in Kanata

### Lec #12 Oct 29

- Ritualized actions: a simple action, and does not have to do with religion, it can be as simple as feeding a cat or like the teachers sister with the 9 cats. She feeds the cats from *left to right* and then pets them in order, so this is just a way of doing things which is related to a preferred outcome like the hockey player tap the goalies pads before the game to wish success, so this is a

- All these rituals have to do with supplication, when we pray or talk to god and tell him to help a sick child in need, and basically you are requesting god to take action and bring about the result you want
- Therapeutic/Anti: Change in state of human health, and most of those things have to do with humans. To heal the sick through supplicating or bring sickness to the healthy. When you are praying for Anti-Therapeutic results you pray to another figure other than god like the devil, cause you should only pray to god for a positive outcome and not a negative one
- Ideological: very much about the main facade of ritual in general and social control it's a set of ideas of all religions that explain when can you kill people, who can you kill, under which circumstances etc...
- Social construction: concept of sociology, a concept or notion that is used by a society and all concepts can be traced back to axiology. Race, ethnicity, religion, nationality and things that we view as identities are all social constructs
- Salvific: not part of religious view such as what's good or bad, but they are trying to purify an improper act, changing the identity of an individual that is spiritually lost, corrupt or state because they did a sin or something improper and it is used to correct them and it's a *spiritual cleansing*
- Revitalization: Rituals focused on religion or community as a whole. Usually this is used to bring back a member to a community. The whole community is considered when they want to revitalize someone and the focus is to bring back people to their original state
- Sacrifice: spilling of blood like a lamb when people sacrifice the animal and the way it is slaughtered. In some cases it is your own blood, and it's probably *the most universal piece of religious practice around the world*

#### Lec #13 Nov. 5

- Umma: is the Islamic term for community. Islam is the religion of peace and brotherhood and sisterhood, and as the teacher mentioned when Islamic believers kill on the name of Allah they are not considered true Muslims
- Communitas: from Latin, a temporary community, usually used to refer to a religious community formed during a pilgrimage and people from all backgrounds come together formed through the process in which something is formed. Like the Boston run community, members from all over the world came to do something that is in common amongst all the participants. This re-enforces the identity of community because people can relate to each other and the whole adventure that brings individuals together creates the communitas. It is not always temporary and social resistance is another way of communitas. In this case it's called liberation theology and its primarily coming out of Christianity and looks at the gospel and this is the word of god and the concept of going back to the original idea and bringing it back and applying it in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Heresy and Treason: Both linked by *actions that are against something*. Heresy is judged by religious institution since they write the rules and it's basically the beliefs and actions that run against the teaching of the religion.
- Gnostics heresy: God is too big and too distant to pay attention to all the things happening so the religion is overlooking the bad things to make sure rules are followed
- Treason: people going against the belief of the state which is considered bad, like releasing information about the state, it's against the rules which is viewed and charged under treason

#### Lec #14 Nov. 15

- Plurality: very difficult because it's hard to understand something because religion plays an important role, and like the pigeon theory of birds multiplying (too many of them) eventually becomes problematic. Therefore when something new appears it may be pleasant in the beginning but when things go against the majority's way then it becomes a problem. Basically it means too many of something usually another race or ethnicity moving into another region....
- Social construction: it is sociologically constructed such as race, class, economic background and they are used to differentiate between each other, and this leads to *exclusivity*
- Exclusivity: is used as a way to exclude people through othering, and it is to distinguish differences between two religions for example "you are not us type of thinking"
- Inclusivity: looking at what is common among religions instead of looking at their differences, for example how some may have similar values and morals and it works well if you start looking at things as similar

We are missing healing through shared experience, and technology based sources the new way of communication. Text messages or a written text only gives 5 – 7% of the entire meaning of a conversation, so we are only getting a very small amount of what is being communicated. When people use media to communicate any sort of message I is not even close to having another person tell you something in person since it gives you the entire message. Religion for example still allows people to come together and share special experiences

### Lec #15 Nov. 19

- Theodicy: we recognize that there is chaos such as climate change that we cannot control and it's any answer to why evil happens, and it means any kind of explanation of god or evil and it's a way of explaining and rationalizing why things happen. Theodicy is not a scientific explanation but rather looking at spiritual answers that will allow people to fall asleep at night. This is a way of explaining the larger picture of why things happen
- Evil involves intent and it's a symbolic scape goat and most religions have some ways of explaining this, for example karma is a way of explaining certain events but these events are mostly blamed on witches and other things to explain why they happen
- Escatology: the study of end times – the end of the world, many from the Greek word skata, which means "crap" and it represents the "end".
- Theravada: Buddhist sect, even concept of soul is an illusion when you get past an attachment that is important to you, then you have to let go of absolutely everything in order to achieve enlightenment.
- Indigenous societies focus on reparation such as in youth court to give back to community in order to set the proper balance and repair the damage done to the victim
- Dualistic theodicy where there is god and evil in the world and we blame Satan as the root cause of bad things happening or suffering occurring to people

### Lec #16 Nov. 22

- Ethics: decisions based n culture, and own personal view. Morality is the realm of religion, cultural norms we derive from religion. Killing is an action of both morality and ethics since both suggest that this action is bad
- Ethical decision are more based on individual cases such as situationally based = what is the situation
- Religion has 5 steps and key relationships
  - It identifies moral roles – morally euthanasia is good or bad
  - It legitimizes thing, gives reasons and explains why
  - Motivates, gives reasons people to follow the moral norms – such as if you do this god will punish you or if you don't god won't consider you as righteous
  - It allows people to renew their beliefs and remind you why you must not do bad things, reminds you explicitly
  - Will criticize the moral values of things such as eating the pork chop which is not allowed this is the moral statement of god but can say unless you can save a life then it is ok to do that
- Confusionism: a religion from Buddhism, and this religion states that everything you do should be perfect, talks about moral norms
  - Bivalence, acting kindly to others
  - Doing best things for others
  - Acting appropriately or with propriety
  - Love, respect for the whole family
  - Doing what is fitting, making decision that are best for everyone

This is *why* we live the way *we live*, this is the best way to live, and if you act against the norms then you are shamed. The way you act is the most important! Confusionism assumes that people are generally good but since we did something bad we are responsible for human suffering

- Natural law: is both teleological and deontological and there is a sense that those who are very good die young because they were virtuous and in Indigenous communities the majority of the religion is Christian, and to them this is the bottom way of living and it's used as an ethical law, such as the balance of all things. They suggest that everything is interconnected in the world.
- Deontological: "duty, obligation" is the normative ethical position that judges the morality of an action based on the action's adherence to a rule or rules. It is sometimes described as "duty" or "obligation" or "rule" - based ethics, because rules "bind you to your duty"

## Salvation

Lec #17 Nov. 29

- Everything we have learned has some flexibility. Salvation is a way of dealing with despair in an individual, societal and worldly way. Also there is *completion* in major religions since they say that an end will come and as a human being we have done things that will bring us back to the beginning.
- Trans nation: related to reincarnation but it says that if you were a human being in your previous life you may not become a human again, instead you might become something else. Indian's say that you usually come back as a cattle (cow). Basically *you don't come back in the same form* and if someone was always in a hurry as a person he might come back as a humming bird so you can learn the lessons that you didn't learn while you were a human
- Two other types of salvation: Limited – if you do these things you will be saved, but if you do the opposite of the teachings and only do things that benefit you, then you may not be saved as you know that the things you were doing were bad
- Immanence: the way many religions perceive the divine and they say that the divine is in the middle of the world and you can feel it and touch it and everything that is alive has a spirit. This is more common in indigenous places
- Transcendent: The locus (house) of god is external of this world and since god lives in heaven, we have the sense that he is watching us all the time