

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD ---- Session 2

DENOMINATION OR FAITH	GOD OR GODS	CHRIST	BEHAVIOR SPECIFICATION	RESTRICTIONS	BAPTISM OR BLESSING	INITIATION CONFIRMATION OR BAPTISM	MARRIAGE	DEATH OR AFTERLIFE	JUDGEMENT AND SALVATION	BOOKS USED
Atheism http://www.atheists.org	The <i>absence</i> of belief in Deities	The <i>absence</i> of belief in Deities	Conviction & strength to meet life & to live life in a way to benefit all mankind	None	Some atheists are becoming "de-baptized"	None	Believe in marriage as a serious commitment to another individual	No life after death. Prize life on earth and strive always to improve it	None	None
Charismatic movement http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charismatic_Christianity	A personal God, the source of all revelation, eternal, omnipresent and almighty	Son of God	To share the gospel with all mankind. To endeavor to bring all faith into one united belief	May vary by denomination	May vary by denomination Parental commitment to raising in a Christian life	Baptism by Water in most ALL believe in a second Baptism of the Holy Spirit that bestows "gifts"	Instituted by God Other perimeters may vary by denomination	May vary slightly by denomination but most all believe final salvation is based on "works"	There will be a unity of all faith before Christ returns	The Bible is the infallible word of God. Versions used may vary by denomination
Confucianism http://confucianism.freehstingguru.com/	Spirits of mountains, rivers, land, grain, the sun, moon, & stars are all subordinated to the supreme Heaven-god	Not applicable	To make oneself as good as possible; this was the main purpose of life	None directly related to Confucianism	None directly related to Confucianism	Capping: son was honored on reaching his twentieth year. Only currently practiced in most traditional circles	The purpose of marriage is the cultivation of virtue. Marriage should be founded on love	Heaven as a positive and personal force in the universe	For us to become one with cosmos virtues must be cultivated & shared w/ others.	The Books of: -Changes -Annals -Ceremonies -Mencius The Analects The Great Learning Doctrine of the Mean
Congregationalists United Church of Christ	The Holy Trinity Three in One	Son of God. His atonement is the only way to be saved	Strive to be Holy in all things. Desire for unity of ALL Christian faiths.	No gambling or pornography Some teach no tobacco.	Baptism by water at any age Immersion or sprinkling varies by Congregation. Baptism <i>does not</i> save. It is only an outward sign of your commitment to Christ.		Same-sex unions accepted	Soul continues in a spiritual state of existence after death. The all will be raised and judged to their lives.	Believers must continue to LIVE God's word or fall from Grace.	The Bible is inspired by God; taken seriously, but <i>not literally</i> . UCC Book of Worship
Falun Gong http://www.clearwisdom.net	Deities are working to help us achieve enlightenment	Not Part of the Faith Master Li is at the same level as Jesus & Buddha	Truth, compassion and Tolerance in all things	No attachments to anything in this world	None	None	Marriage designed by deities for us. No same sex marriage or premarital Relations.	Souls are reborn over & over til they are rid of Karma	Enlightenment is the salvation of all sentient beings	Zhuan Falun Falun Gong

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Han http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Han	Many different gods and goddesses Some ancestor worship	Some have incorporated Jesus into their other beliefs	The primary concern is how to lead a good life on earth	Must venerate and care for ancestors	None	None	Many arranged marriages. Women obey men No same-sex unions	the dead could influence the quality of life for those still in this world	Can transform into a being with special powers to aid & assist others	Confucianist, Buddhist and Daoist texts
Jainism http://www.jainism.org/	No Creator. Universe is Eternal. Each person can become a god	Not included in teachings	Many prayers and activities. Fasting required for long periods. Do no harm to any -- even an insect or plant	Right Faith Right Knowledge Right Conduct	Ten days of cleansing & rituals Naming ceremony on 11, 13 or 29 th day	None	Nine rituals on wedding day. No same-sex unions	Cremation of body. Soul awaits rebirth	Souls are continually reborn until all bad karma is removed to become a god	Tattvartha Sutra, Kalpa Sutra Samana Suttam
Juche http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juche	Founder Kim Il Sung is venerated and worshiped	Not included in teachings.	Each person should work for the common good of the Country	Absolute loyalty to Leader and Country	None	None	No information available	Heaven is not the afterlife but a situation of complete order	No information available	Complete Collection of Kim Il Sung's Works
Monophysitism http://www.copticchurch.net/	The Trinity is God the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit. one in essence and is undivided.	Jesus has only ONE nature. God and Man infused into one new entity	Fasting and attendance at all the important "Feast" Must spend time in private worship	No women or homosexual clergy	Washing the baby by immersion on the 8 th day of after birth to wash "original sin"	Chrismation when the baptized are anointed with oil and receive the Holy Ghost	A unity in God as Christ & His church. Both must be Orthodox. No same-sex unions	No specific information available. Prayer on the 3 rd day at deceased home	Good deeds practiced thru faith are necessary and essential for salvation	The Holy bible is considered as an encounter with God
Moravian	The Holy Trinity God is the creator; Father of Jesus Christ	Jesus is All He is the <i>only</i> authority	Unity with all other Christian faiths. Live and behave just like Christ's Example for us	All things in moderation Homo-sexuality under study.	Infant baptism. Sponsor involved in spiritual education	2 yr class at ages 12-13. Laying on of hands for confirmation	Marriage is a union with God. Counseling required No same sex unions	Buried in "God's Acre" by age & sex. All graves identical for unity and equality	Most believe that eventually ALL will be saved	Book of Worship Book of Order The Bible is the sole standard of doctrine

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Paganism http://www.pagan.com/	Many are willing to accept the presence of the Divine in all things; or other gods & goddesses	Some believe he was a great spiritual teacher, but not a god	If what they do or what they say would harm anyone, they should not do or say it	None	The anointing and blessings of the parents During the pregnancy	The parents of the child will often ask for divine guidance and protection for their child	Not a legally binding ceremony; either member of the couple may choose to end it at any time	The pagan afterlife is a place for reunions, rest, reconnection with the divine	Heaven is a final resting place; Hell is a place of rest, from where souls may choose to re-birth	None
Nova Roma www.novaroma.org/	A well defined state pantheon of gods.	Not part of doctrine	Revival of the Roman Virtues and practice them in their daily lives	Special requirements for dress and worship ceremonies	Information unavailable	Information unavailable	An actual wedding ceremony was not needed to legalize a marriage	A Journey over Western Seas to the Blessed Isles; eternal spring blooms in the Garden of Venus	The good will live a good life; or the bad will be punished until the debt to society is paid.	The Nova Roma Constitution & Ancient Roman records
Scientology http://www.scientologyandbook.org/	God or Supreme Being left up to personal interpretation	Not part of the official doctrine, altho some do agree He existed	The spirit can be saved and that the spirit alone may save or heal the body.	Must pay for advancement to different levels. Some doctrines are considered secret	NA -- however they do believe in a totally "silent birth" environment	NA - they do have to sign a waiver to keep confidential doctrine a secret from non-members	No special Service or beliefs	Soul goes to a "holding" station, where the conscious memories are erased for "next life"	The path to salvation includes achieving states of greater enlightenment	Dianetics The History of Man and other personal lectures and writings of L. Ron Hubbard
Shamanism http://www.sacred-texts.com/sha/sis/sis05.htm	The Great or Celestial Shaman is the highest source of shamanic initiation	Not part of doctrine	The shaman lives for the needs of his people. All acts revolve around their needs	Many cultures don't allow the shaman to work. Their needs are provided for by the tribe or group they serve.	Not part of doctrine,	Shamans are called or chosen. It is not a personal option	Hermaphrodites are revered or some dress in the opposite sex's clothing.	Shaman will escort the spirit to the "next world" to make sure they arrive safely	Everything you do is returned to you.	None. All knowledge "inherited" or learned from Spiritual guides.
Shinto http://www.japan-guide.com	Everything has a "Kami" (spirit) The Sun Goddess Amaterasu is chief deity	Not part of doctrine	Shinto emphasizes right practice, sensibility, and attitude	Treat everything and everyone with respect.	Baby is taken to a shrine at one month to be blessed by a priest	Boys age 5; girls age 3 & 7 go to be blessed by priest for protection and healthy growth	Modern Shinto marriage is similar to Christian marriage in many ways	Death is considered impure, all funerals are done by Buddhists away from Shinto shrines	Be pure to approach godliness; indeed it is to become one with the state of the divine	Kojiki: Records of Ancient Matters Nihon Shoki: Chronicles of Japan

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Soka Gakkai http://www.sgi.org/	Omnipresent and "essential life" flows throughout the totality of the universe	Not "officially" included in Buddhist doctrine	<i>Be a person of wisdom & passion, seeking truth & creating value</i>	We must advance beyond the mere struggle to stay alive	None	High priest, bestows a Gohonzon on new believers upon their initiation	There is no standard Buddhist marriage ceremony	A person discards his physical body at death he gets onto his spirit body	Upon death, good persons go to heavens at once and very bad persons fall into hells immediately	Lotus Sutra The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin I and II
Spiritism http://www.usSpiritistcouncil.com	God is the supreme intelligence and primary cause of all things	Jesus was on Earth as a special envoy from God.	Charity is the supreme law. <i>Love each other as brothers and sisters</i>	Be ever more demanding of ourselves in the battle towards perfection	None	None	Divorce is possible because the union by God is Spiritual, not legal	Death is simply the destruction of the shell of the Spirit; only the body dies	We are destined for perfection. Good Spirits are getting better & bad Spirits are doing it over.	The Bible, The Gospel According to Spiritism The Spirits Book The Book on Mediums
Taoism http://www.taopage.org/	Tao is all things, before and after. Tao cannot be explained, or seen only lived.	Not a specific part of doctrine	re-establish the original balanced wholeness of human nature and society	Some dietary restrictions; Strive to live in Harmony with all things	None	None	No info on Ceremony, but much on sexual interaction, relating to "life energy"	life and death are merely two aspects of the same reality	practitioners attain super powers and eventually gain residence in wondrous otherworldly paradises.	Tao te Ching Chuang-Tzu Treasury of Tao
Traditional Religions of Africa http://www.afgen.com/religion.html	The Supreme Being is the creator and sustainer of all that is.	Not a specific part of doctrine	The moral obligation to collaborate with the ordered harmony in creation	No stealing, lying or adultery. Respect elders in all things	Offers sheep as an offering to "give to those who were before" keeping the child's soul	Rites of passage help the individual to attain to the goals of his or her destiny	Marriage has a foremost place in the social economy	The departed have gained in deeper knowledge & interact w/ the living	No one can attain ancestral status without having led a morally good life	<i>None.</i> All traditions, proverbs and myths are passed on Orally.
Vodoun http://www.vodou.org/	The Supreme Being who created everything. Lesser spirits are mediators between us & God	No spirit may join a ceremony unless <i>Legba</i> opens the "door."	The moral obligation to collaborate with the ordered harmony in creation"	No stealing, lying or adultery. Respect elders in all things	Divine Healer reveals the Child's divinity or ancestor who protects and guides thru life	Rites of passage help the individual to attain to the goals of his or her destiny	The combining of two lives, two families, and sometimes even two communities	Person's immortal spirit goes back to the world of spirits at death	To attain "heaven", one must be spiritually elevated.. The realm of the forsaken is were others go	<i>None.</i> All traditions, proverbs and myths are passed on Orally.

**This chart barely touches the surface of each Faith Practice. It is not inclusive of all aspects and should not be taken as such **