World Religion Lectures

- August 21 – *Introduction: A Universal Human Experience*
- August 28 – *Hinduism*
- September 4 – *Judaism*
- September 18 – *Religions of China & Japan (Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto)*
- September 25 – *Christianity*
- **October 2 – *Islam***
- October 9 – *Animism, New Age, Atheism, Secularism*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Pop. (000s)</th>
<th>% of World</th>
<th>Founded (c.)</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>12.65%</td>
<td>4000-2500 BC</td>
<td>Indus Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
<td>2000 BC</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>488,000</td>
<td>5.29%</td>
<td>560-490 BC</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Trad.¹</td>
<td>394,000</td>
<td>5.54%</td>
<td>500 BC</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shinto</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
<td>500 BC</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jainism</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
<td>500 BC</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>29.52%</td>
<td>30 AD</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>1,600,000</td>
<td>21.09%</td>
<td>622 AD</td>
<td>Arabia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikhism</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>0.32%</td>
<td>1499 AD</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bah'aim</td>
<td>7,300</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
<td>1863 AD</td>
<td>Persia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other²</td>
<td>690,000</td>
<td>9.70%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-relig.³</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>15.46%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Includes Confucianism, Taoism, Shamanism
² Includes all other smaller religious affiliations identified
³ Includes secular, non-religious, agnostic and atheist
Families of Religions

1. **Abrahamic** monotheisms of Judaism, Christianity & Islam.

2. **Dharmic** religions that began in India, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism & Sikhism.

3. **Taoic** religions of the Far East, especially China and Japan, including Taoism, Confucianism and Shinto *(along with versions of Buddhism)*.

   *And sometimes also …*

4. **Iranian** religions that predate Islam, including Zoroastrianism, Madaeism and the Kurdish Yazdanism faiths *(Yazidi, Alevi, etc.)*.
Father Abraham — the world’s first monotheist, and source of all three great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
Prophet Muhammad
570-632 AD
Key Dates in Islam

- 570 AD – Muhammad born in Mecca.
- 610 AD – Muhammad receives first revelation of Qur’an, in a cave.
- 622 AD – Islam officially born during the *Hijira* to Medina.
- 630 AD – Muhammed and followers return and defeat opposition in Mecca.
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- **632-661 AD** – the Rashidun Caliphate

  *Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman* and *Ali*
Extent of Islam under the Rashidun Caliphs (632-661) the “Four Rightly Guided Caliphs”

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• 632-661 AD – the Rashidun Caliphate
• 661-750 AD – the Ummayad Caliphate
• 750-1517 AD – the Abbasid Caliphate
• 909-1171 AD – the Fatimid Caliphate
• 1174-1250 AD – the Ayyubid Dynasty
Extent of Islam under the Umayyad Caliphate (661-750)
Extent of Islam under the Abbasid Caliphate (750-1517) (map represents greatest extent, c. 850)
Extent of Islam under the Fatimid Caliphate (909-1171)
Extent of Islam under the Ayyubid Dynasty (1174-1250), begun when Saladin overthrew the Fatimid Caliphate.
Extent of Islam under the Seljuk Turks (1037-1194)
(map represents greatest extent, c. 1092)
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• 1453-1924 AD – the Ottoman Empire
The Ottoman Empire Under Suleiman I the Magnificent, 1580

200 Miles
Extent of Islam under the Ottoman Empire (1453-1914)
Fiver

Shia Islam

Abdul Muttalib
Abu Talib
Ali
Hasan
Hussein
Zayn al Abedin
Muhammad al Baqir
Jafar al Sadiq
Ismail
Muhammad
Abdullah
Ahmed
Rabi Abdullah
al Mahdi Billah
al Qaim
al Mansur
al Muizz
al Aziz
al Hakim

Other Bohras:
Jafari Bohra
Suleimani Bohra
Alavi Bohra
Hezbollah Bohra
Adha-i Malak Bohra
Progressive Dawoodi Bohra

Dawoodi Bohra
Nizari
Druze
Sevener
Tweiver
Zaydi
Kaysani

Muhammad ibn al Hanafiyyah
Zayd

Musa al Kadhim
Ali al Ridha
Muhammad al Taqi
Ali al Hadi
Hasan al Askari
Muhammad al Mahdi
Basic Beliefs of Islam

- **Islam** means “submission,” to Allah and His will. A **Muslim** submits to Allah.
- Muslim life is more about **orthopraxy** (right action) rather than **orthodoxy** (right belief) – based on the writings of the **Qur’an; sunnah** (life example of Muhammad); and **hadith** (sayings of Muhammad and his companions).
- The revelation to Muhammad was in Arabic, considered the holy language.
The Qur’an, the Hadith, the Sunnah

- **The Qur’an** ("recitation" in Arabic) is the sacred text of Islam and highest authority in both religious and legal matters.

- Muslims believe the Qur'an to be a flawless record of the Angel Gabriel's revelations to Muhammad from 610 until his death in 632 AD. It is also believed to be a perfect copy of a heavenly Qur'an that has existed eternally, and represents the very words of Allah. It is divided into 114 *surahs* (chapters) of varying length, generally arranged from longest to shortest.
The Qur’an, the Hadith, the Sunnah

- The Hadith ("narrative“ or "report“ in Arabic) is a record of the words and deeds of the Prophet, his family, and his companions.

- Although not regarded as the spoken Word of God like the Qur'an, Hadith is an important source of doctrine, law and practice, revered in Islam as a major source of religious law and moral guidance. It has been studied in Muslim religious colleges since the Middle Ages.

- Each Hadith has two parts: the tradition itself, or matn (for instance, the words of the Prophet) and the isnad (“chain of authorities” – the human transmitters through which the tradition came).
The Qur’an, the Hadith, the Sunnah

- **The Sunnah** ("clear, well trodden path" in Arabic) is the ideal way of life for Muslims, based on the teachings and practices of Muhammad (the prime exemplar) and interpretations of the Qur’an.

- **Sunnah** includes Muhammad’s specific words, habits, practices and approvals, addressing ways of life dealing with friends, family and government.
The Six Articles of Faith of Islam

1. Belief in one God;
2. Belief in the angels of God;
3. Belief in the prophets & messengers of God, especially Muhammad;
4. Belief in the books of God, especially the Qur'an;
5. Belief in the Day of Judgment (and the afterlife); and
6. Belief in the supremacy of God's will and divine decree.
1. Profession of Faith – The *Shahada*:

“There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.”
The Five Pillars of Islam

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2. Prayer – Salat, 5 times daily facing Mecca; on Fridays in a mosque.
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The Rise of Political Islam

- **Islamism**, or **Political Islam** – a set of ideologies holding that "Islam should guide social and political as well as personal life;" or "the active assertion and promotion of beliefs, prescriptions, laws or policies that are held to be Islamic in character."

- **The Salafi Movement** – a movement within Islam named for the *salaf* ("ancestors," "predecessors"), the earliest Muslims who are supposed to provide the perfect example of Islamic practice. A popular *hadith* quotes Muhammad saying *'The people of my own generation are the best, then those who come after them, and then those of the next generation,'* suggesting Muslims follow the example of those first three generations.
The Rise of Political Islam

- **Wahhabism** – an extremist Islamic "reform movement" to restore "pure monotheistic worship," named after an eighteenth century preacher and scholar, *Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab* (1703–1792). Wahhabism began in the remote region of the Arabian Nejd, purging practices such as the popular cult of saints, shrine and tomb visitation, and impurities and innovations in Islam.

- **ISIL** or **ISIS** or **IS** – an extremist, jihadist Sunni “state” in Iraq and Syria, originating in 1999 as part of al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). In 2006, it joined other Sunni insurgent groups, gaining support due to perceived discrimination against Iraqi Sunnis, under the leadership of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who declared himself world-wide *caliph* on 29 June 2014. In April 2013, the group’s name changed to the *Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant*. 
Website for lecture videos:

www.litchapala.org
(Lakeside Institute of Theology)

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