

# *Introduction to World Religions: Second Edition*

## Instructor Resource Guide

### PART 1: UNDERSTANDING RELIGION

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**Video:** 19b Six More Classic Theories of Religion—Sigmund Freud

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBBZvLEpGqw>

- ❖ A 5 ½ minute lecture on Freud's views of religion.

**Article:** What is Religion?

<http://www.worldspirituality.org/what-is-religion.html>

- ❖ A short essay that is a good discussion starter for a definition of religion.

**Video:** What is Religion?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQm\\_mJKoO50](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQm_mJKoO50)

- ❖ A short (2 ½ minute) video of interviews of people of different faiths offering their personal definition of religion.

### PART 2: RELIGIONS OF ANTIQUITY

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**Website:** The Goddess of Willendorf

<http://willendorf.org/>

- ❖ A website explaining the Venus of Willendorf and putting it in the context of the study of the feminine divine.

**Website:** Aztec Religious Practices

<http://aztec-maya-inca.weebly.com/religious-practices1.html>

- ❖ This page include many good images related to Aztec, Maya, and Inca religions, including a representation of Ometecuhtli and Omeciuatl.

**Website:** Author Peter Ochiogrosso

<http://www.peterocchiogrosso.com/>

- ❖ Website of author Peter Ochiogrosso. Includes pages on most major religions, as well as blogs, newsletters, images, etc. Many blog entries deal with religion and current events. A good resource for Part 2 and all succeeding chapters.

## PART 3: INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS

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**Video:** Native American flute water ceremony from United Nations

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Q1NSlNmZFY>

- ❖ An 8 minute video of a reenactment of a Native American water ceremony, done for United Nations World Water Day

**Video:** The Zulu Creation Myth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6C4MoDIndug>

- ❖ A 2-minute animated video of the basic Zulu creation myth. This video will also link you to videos for a variety of creation myths produced by the same group.

**Website:** Indigenous Religions

<http://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/indigenous-religions>

- ❖ A website devoted to the preservation and survival of indigenous religions around the world.

## PART 4: HINDUISM

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**Website:** Nine Beliefs of Hinduism

<http://www.himalayanacademy.com/readlearn/basics/nine-beliefs>

- ❖ This website also has other good basic information about Hinduism. This will be particularly useful with Chapter 32, “Philosophy”.

**Video:** Bhagavad Gita

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_B4Z1PB97KY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_B4Z1PB97KY)

- ❖ If there is one Hindu text that can be compared to the Christian Bible, it is the Bhagavad Gita. The best-loved and most well-known episode of the Bhagavad Gita is the dialogue between Krishna and Arjuna, which takes place at the moment before the climactic battle between the two sets of cousins. In this dialogue, Krishna reveals the ultimate religious truth to Arjuna, and reveals his universal form as well. This will be useful when looking at Chapter 33, “Sacred Writings”.

**Textual supplement:** Avatars (Chapter 34, “Beliefs”):

- ❖ The Ten Avatars of Vishnu: Avatars are typically associated with Vishnu, who traditionally is said to have ten different manifestations, including Krishna and Rama. Avatars are not always human, but in every case, they descend for the specific purpose of combating a particular evil in any given age.

The ten avatars are as follows: first, the fish, Matsya, who saved the world from a great flood; second, the tortoise, Kurma, who allowed the gods and demons to churn up valuable objects from the ocean of milk from a pivot resting on his back; and third, the boar, Varaha, who also rescued the earth from a flood by raising it up on one of his trunks. Fourth is the man-lion, Narasimha, who came to deliver the world from a terrible demon who had obtained from the gods a special boon that prohibited him from being killed by a god, an animal, or a human. Fifth is the dwarf, Vamana, who confronted another demon who had conquered the entire universe. Sixth is the man called “Rama with the axe,” Parashurama, who was a hero that destroyed the entire Kshatriya class of warriors, who were exploiting others. The next two avatars, numbers seven and eight, are the most famous—Rama and Krishna. Finally, the last two avatars are ninth, the Buddha—in this way, Hinduism was able to incorporate the whole of Buddhism into itself; and tenth, Kalki, the form of Vishnu who is still to come, and whose arrival will signal the end of the present age.

**Video:** Hindu cremation ceremony at Ganges

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bHvGcWzdrM&spfreload=10>

- ❖ This will enhance Chapter 35, “Worship and Festivals”.

**Timeline:** Hinduism in America

<http://www.pluralism.org/religion/hinduism/timeline/america>

- ❖ Hindu timeline in America. This will help students visualize the Hindu movement in America in conjunction with Chapter 37, “Hinduism in the Modern World”:

**Article:** Hinduism in America

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/hinduism-in-america/>

- ❖ This is a collection of articles on Hinduism in America from the *Huffington Post*. You will find several articles relating to different areas of Hinduism, and especially on Hinduism in today’s society.

**Video:** How to Have a Puja at Home

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pbxlh8oRNWU>

- ❖ An instructional video of how to have a puja at home. This will work well with Chapters 35 and 36.

## PART 5: BUDDHISM

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**Primary Source:** The Buddha's First Sermon at Sarnath

<http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/sn/sn56/sn56.011.than.html>

- ❖ This will be useful with Chapter 38.

**Video:** *The Life of Buddha* (BBC Documentary)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsEksMEE2Eg>

- ❖ In the story of “The Four Sights,” the Buddha is taken out by his charioteer four different times: the first time, he sees an old man and realizes that old age is inevitable for all beings; the second time, he sees someone who is diseased, and he learns that no one is safe from pain and suffering; the third time, he sees a corpse and realizes that all life ends in death; and the final time, he sees a religious ascetic who has turned his back on temporal pleasures to seek wisdom and release from the suffering of this world. It is this final sight that prompts the Buddha to leave home and family behind.

*The Life of the Buddha*, a BBC documentary, references this event in the life of the Buddha between 15:45 and 21:47. This will be most useful with Chapter 38.

**Video:** Four Noble Truths

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdTkqeevx7U>

- ❖ Day one of Dalai Lama's teaching delivered in New Delhi, India, on March 23-24, 2012. At 2:13:00 he begins talking about interreligious relationships and the Four Noble Truths at 2:17:50. This will be most useful with Chapter 38.

**Article:** Thich Nhat Hanh talks to Oprah

<http://www.oprah.com/spirit/Oprah-Talks-to-Thich-Nhat-Hanh>

- ❖ In a 2010 interview, Thich Nhat Hanh shared stories about becoming a monk, meeting Martin Luther King Jr., mindfulness, and compassion. This will be useful for Chapter 42.

**Article:** “Taliban Explains Buddha Demolition”: <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/03/19/world/19TALI.html>

**Article:** “Destruction of the Bamiyan Statues”:

<http://archaeology.about.com/od/heritagemanagement/a/buddha.htm>

- ❖ These are two articles on the 2001 destruction of giant Buddha statues in Afghanistan. They will spark good discussion about the clash of religion and politics. It will be most useful with Chapter 42.

**Website:** Buddhism in America

<http://www.diamondway-buddhism.org/>

- ❖ This is a website called Buddhism in America; there are many interesting things on this website that can connect students with Buddhism in America.

**Video:** Richard Gere on Buddhism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOEXkaow0ko&spfreload=10>

- ❖ If you want to tie celebrity into the discussion of Buddhism, Richard Gere is featured in a series of YouTube videos on the practice of Buddhism. This link is to the first video in the series.

## PART 6: JAINISM

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**Video:** An Introduction to Jainism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yi2IVBO485M&spfreload=10>

- ❖ This is a 4 minute video with an explanation of the basic beliefs and symbols of Jainism. It explains the use of the swastika in Jain symbolism, a sticky point for many students. It would be very effective with a discussion of Chapter 45.

**Article:** “Swastika”

<http://altreligion.about.com/od/symbols/a/Swastika.htm>

- ❖ A discussion of the historical use of the swastika in religion. This will help students understand the Jain use of the swastika, and would work nicely with Chapter 45.

**Video:** James Powell: An Overview of Jainism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uKyxkgbna4>

- ❖ A scholarly look at Jainism (24 minutes). It would be a good introduction to the study of Jainism.

**Video:** Tour of a Jain temple

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5VoTU6YIaY>

- ❖ A video originally submitted as a project for a World Religions class. It tours a Jain temple in Florida. This fits nicely with Chapter 47 on worship.

**Blog:** Great Jain People

<http://greatjainpeople.blogspot.com/>

- ❖ A site about famous Jain people. This would work well with Chapter 48.

**Website/Images:** Fundamental Concepts of Jainism

<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/fundamental-concepts-of-jainism.html>

- ❖ This site not only has some explanations of Jainism, but some graphics and explanations of their meanings.

## PART 7: CHINESE RELIGIONS

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**Blog:** Hian Eng Taoist's Blog

<https://hianeng.wordpress.com/>

- ❖ This is the blog of a Taoist priest. There are many posts about different practices in Taosim, including ceremonies and ancestor worship. The blog posts usually include pictures. This resource would be a good place to investigate several different aspects of Taoism from the perspective of a practitioner.

**Blog:** Nirvana Malaysia

<http://nirvanamalaysia.blogspot.com/2013/09/ancestral-tablet-pedestal-installation.html>

- ❖ This site contains a series of pictures relating to ancestral tablets. It is a good visualization of the concept of ancestor worship in Chapter 49.

**Video:** Mulan

<http://movies.disney.com/mulan>

The Disney movie “Mulan” is interesting when viewed through the lens of the study of world religions. Check with your institution about policies regarding the showing of all or part of copyrighted movies.

## PART 8: KOREAN AND JAPANESE TRADITIONS

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**Video:** Korean Shaman (Mudang 무당) - Objects of Worship: Material Culture in Korean Shamanism (musok )

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOeOGE-b-LU>

- ❖ A video showing shamans (mudang) in Seoul, South Korea, participating in rituals that connects well with Chapter 51.

**Textual supplement:** Christianity in Korea (Chapter 51, “Sinkyo and the New Religious Movements”):

- ❖ When discussing Chapter 51, it may be helpful to discuss Christianity in Korea:

When thinking about Christianity in Korea, it is important to be aware of a unique type of Christian reflection that has come out of the Korean context, called “minjung theology.”

Minjung means "people," but in this particular way of thinking, it means something more specific: people who have been oppressed, alienated and marginalized. Minjung theology then, is a specific way of talking about God, humanity and the church that seeks to emphasize freedom, grace and integrity for the Korean people.

This indigenous form of Christian thought has been heavily influenced by shamanism. Chung Hyun Kyung is one of the most important Korean Christian thinkers in the late 20th century.

**Video:** How to Worship at a Japanese Shinto Shrine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZZVpOb3sbY>

- ❖ A walk through a shrine with narration on how to worship that fits well with Chapter 52.

## PART 9: JUDAISM

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**Website:** Yad Vashem

<http://www.yadvashem.org>

- ❖ This is the website for the Holocaust Museum in Israel. The stories and images are quite powerful. It will help students connect with Chapter 58. Ask: Why are there people that deny that the Holocaust happened?

**Video:** If You Cried, You Died

- ❖ *If you Cried, You Died* is a video originally done in 1993 and updated in 2001. It is a documentary of two Auschwitz survivors who return to the camp as adults. Although it is not currently available online, check your local library or sites like Amazon.com.

**Video:** Orthodox Jewish wedding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBgqO26qZlo>

- ❖ A home video of an Orthodox Jewish wedding in which the rabbi explains much of what is going on and why. This connects well with Chapter 56.

Your greatest resource for this chapter is a local rabbi. Call a nearby synagogue and invite the rabbi to come to your class or to skype. Encourage the class to be prepared to ask specific questions about practice, traditions, and beliefs. Be sure to find out ahead of time which branch of Judaism your rabbi represents.

**PDF:** Seder plate

[http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/9780800699703\\_seder\\_plate.pdf](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/9780800699703_seder_plate.pdf)

- ❖ This PDF will give an explanation of each item of the central plate at the Seder meal during Passover. It will help the students make the connection between this holiday celebration and the Exodus.

**Video:** Women of the Wall

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnGSXTTsR8A>

- ❖ Women of the Wall is a group advocating the rights of women to read Torah at the Western Wall. This video is of the first celebration of reading at the wall and the first bat mitzvah at the wall (although bat mitzvahs are held almost daily). Ask: How is the changing role of women in society affecting the role of women in Judaism? (There are several other videos on YouTube from this group, and they have their own website for more information.)

## PART 10: CHRISTIANITY

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**Reading:** Bible passages

- ❖ Any teaching of Christianity needs to include some readings from the New Testament. Listed below are some suggestions. Online resources for Biblical texts include [www.bible.oremus.org](http://www.bible.oremus.org) and [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) Readings are listed by book chapter:verse(s)
  - Matthew 5:1-12
  - Mark 1:14-15
  - Luke 10:25-37
  - John 21:24-25
  - Romans 1:1-17

**Video:** Luther

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmcKlPyRxSM>

- ❖ An excellent movie about the Reformation is “Luther” starring Joseph Fiennes (2003). It is just over two hours long but well worth the class time to view it. Please check with your institution about permission needed to show movies. This is available on DVD at many public libraries.

**Video:** The Historical Jesus

- ❖ There are many good YouTube videos on the historical Jesus, from just a few minutes to multiple parts that take several hours. The BBC and Frontline both have multi-part documentaries that are worth reviewing even if you choose not to use the whole videos. Strong contemporary biblical scholars to look for include Bart Ehrman, John Dominic Crossan, Amy-Jill Levine, Dallas Willard, Karen Armstrong, and



Marcus Borg. The instructor needs to be prepared for the inevitable comments that a student may feel her/his faith is being challenged / misrepresented / insulted. Because of the variety of Christian beliefs, this discussion is very likely regardless of what resources you choose to use.

Image:

<http://www.britannica.com/place/Church-of-the-Nativity/images-videos/Greek-Orthodox-priests-with-worshippers-during-Palm-Sunday-mass-inside/107123>



Greek Orthodox priests celebrate Palm Sunday mass at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. (Encyclopedia Britannica online)

Image:

<https://throughjillseyes.wordpress.com/category/chartres-cathedral/>



Labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral, France. Labyrinths developed in the Middle Ages to allow Christians to make a spiritual pilgrimage journey without having to journey to the Holy Land.

**Video:** Adam Hamilton Speech at Inauguration

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_FxxuX7JOLU&spfreload=10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_FxxuX7JOLU&spfreload=10)

- ❖ This is a video of Rev. Adam Hamilton of Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas, the largest United Methodist Church in the US, as he delivers the sermon at the January 2013 inauguration worship service for President Barak Obama at the National Cathedral. In addition to being a good example of Christian preaching, the message and setting for the message lends itself well to a discussion of politics and religion, and whether we are a “Christian” nation.

**Video:** Jewish Jesus: Amy-Jill Levine Extended Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PDyISl7TGc&spfreload=10>

- ❖ This is an interview with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt Divinity School. What makes this interview interesting is that Dr. Levine is a practicing Jew who teaches New Testament and Early Christianity classes to those training for Christian ministry. Her unique perspective is a great discussion starter for any type of Jewish-Christian dialogue.

## PART 11: ISLAM

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**Video:** Sacred Journeys

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCEBwSk0ePM&spfreload=10>

- ❖ BBC Documentary 2014 *Sacred Journeys* with Bruce Feiler series. Feiler travels with some Americans to experience the Hajj, one of the Five Pillars of Islam. This would make a good supplement to Chapter 72, although it is about 55 minutes long. Note: Bruce Feiler is a noted author and scholar who has made several videos on location related to different traditions. Search for his name on YouTube or see his webpage at <http://brucefeiler.com/> for more information on his series.

**Article:** What is the Difference between Sunni and Shiite—And Does It Matter?

<http://www.historynewsnetwork.org/article/934>

- ❖ A good discussion of the two Islamic sects, including connections with political events. This would be a good connection with chapter 76.

**Video:** A Rare Glimpse Inside the Dome of the Rock

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=77&v=vs27BkLkYq0>

- ❖ An inside tour of the Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem. Although the background music is a little hokey, the video and narrative are both quite informative. Videos from inside the mosque are quite rare. This would go well with Chapter 76 or any discussion of the connection/tension between Islam and Judaism.

**Article:** Feminism, fashion and religion: Why Muslim women choose to wear the veil.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11120588/Muslim-women-reveal-why-they-wear-the-veil-burqa-school-debate.html>

- ❖ A good discussion from a women's point of view on the choice to wear the traditional veil. The discussion started when a sixteen-year-old was told she could not wear the veil to school. A good discussion starter for Chapters 75 and 76.

**Website:** Sharia Watch

<http://www.shariawatch.org.uk/articles/sharia-family-law-and-women#.VeUTEXtoA7A>

- ❖ A site dedicated to challenging sharia law and its negative effect on women and children especially. It also includes information that explains the origin of some of the sharia law and explanation of those laws.

**Image:** Ka'aba

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaaba>

- ❖ A picture of the Ka'aba stone during the hajj.

## PART 12: SIKHISM

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**Video:** Sikhism in America

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGqYF9eSIyc&spfreload=10>

- ❖ A short (3 minute) story by CNN explaining the basics of Sikhism. This was produced after the massacre at the Sikh temple in Wisconsin in 2012. (There are also a number of good news videos on CNN with more information about that shooting)

**Video:** Sikh Captain America

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ho8eH35mn5w&spfreload=10>

- ❖ A report on a Sikh man who dresses as Captain America on the streets of New York. The reactions of those who are questioned by the interviewer are quite interesting. A good supplement to Chapter 82.

**Video:** Mansimran: A Sikh teenager deals with bullying

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEVONIW\\_JMA&spfreload=10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEVONIW_JMA&spfreload=10)

- ❖ A Sikh teenager deals with bullying. A great insight into the daily life of a Sikh teenager in America.

**Website:** Sikhs.org

<http://www.sikhs.org/khalsa.htm>

- ❖ A very good explanation of Khalsa. The overall website is Sikh-based, so much more information can be gleaned from other sections of the site.

**Video:** Punjabi Sikh wedding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmX4o3sXLKQ>

- ❖ A video of a couple's Sikh wedding. There is no narration (only background music) but it is a good video of the experience. This would fit well in Chapter 81 and the discussion of marriage.

## PART 13: RELIGIONS IN TODAY'S WORLD

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**Website:** General sources for modern topics in religion

The best place to get discussion starters for this part is from reliable religion reporting. Some good sites are:

- ❖ <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/religion/>
- ❖ [http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/subjects/r/religion\\_and\\_belief/index.html](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/subjects/r/religion_and_belief/index.html)
- ❖ <http://www.religionnews.com/>

**Website:** Bahai.org

<http://www.bahai.org/>

This site calls itself the official presence of Baha'i on the web. This would be a good resource with Chapter 85.

**Website:** Stanford University Dictionary of Philosophy

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/existentialism/>

- ❖ This is the Stanford University Dictionary of Philosophy entry on existentialism. A very complete and detailed discussion of the topic. This website can also be used to find articles on post-modernism for discussing Chapter 83.

**Images:** Mass wedding in the Unification Church

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2280013/Mass-wedding-South-Korea-Astonishing-3-500-couples-200-countries-tie-knot.html>

- ❖ Photos of a mass wedding of 3500 couples of the Unification Church

**Article:** Mormons React to "The Book of Mormon" Musical Coming to Salt Lake City

<http://upr.org/post/mormons-react-book-mormon-musical-coming-salt-lake-city>