CMPSC 121:

VIDEO: Functions and Abstraction -- 31 min

VIDEO: Parameter Passing, Scope, and Mutable Data -- 32 min

TEXTBOOK SECTIONS: Chapter 3 -- 30 minutes

TEXTBOOK CHAPTER: Chapter 6.1 - 6.4 -- 20 minutes

VIDEO: Computational Thinking: Abstraction and Pattern Generalization -- 10 min

VIDEO: Systems Thinking 5: Efficiency -- 6 min

RLST 1:

Discussion 11:

**There is a distinction between an important personage *associated* with a religion and a *founder* of that religion. In one religion the roles may be filled by the same person; in another, by more than one individual.**

Your question: Who do you think is the *founder* of Christianity: Jesus, Paul or Constantine? And especially, discuss why you chose whom you did.

Discussion 12:

**Protestant Christianity began as a protest against the Roman Catholic Church. Centuries later, new Protestant denominations continue to form.**

Your question: What do you believe are the important reasons why new religions form? And do these new formations include new religious *beliefs*? Or do they reflect differences in religious *practices*?

Be sure to give not just opinion but supported, thoughtful understandings using specific examples and course materials. When using course materials, indicate from where in each lesson the material comes.

Discussion 13:

**The Abrahamic religions are considered “book” religions. The Tanach (Tanakh) was developed and changed over at least a 2,000-year period.  The texts of the Tanach as well as the Christian Bible were compiled, edited, and revised, including determining which books to include and exclude from the Tanach or Bible as a whole. There are also many and differing translations of these books as well as of the Quran, which some Muslims believe ought only be read, learned and studied in Arabic.**

Your question: What, then, does it mean to use any of these as a *sacred* text? How are we to understand those who do, and those who do not, see these texts as sacred? And, what does it mean for a book to be sacred?  That is, how are sacred books treated differently from others?

Expert Case Activity 7: The Speech Writer’s Challenge

The Situation

You did such a great job conveying the many benefits of majoring in world religions to potential students, that your college put you to work doing the same for other less popular majors such as philosophy, art history, and drama. Your work was so brilliant that philosophy majors began to outnumber supply chain management majors. The college’s administration awarded you a certificate of merit and $50 gift card redeemable at a major retail store. Just when you thought life could not get much better, a local politician on the rise became aware of your work and hired you to join her speechwriting staff. The next year she was elected to congress, where she is now, and you are in the inner circle of influential staff.

(The setting here is the United States, but the same basic point would apply to the government of many other countries.) Your congressperson is on a committee that deals with international diplomacy and foreign affairs, and she is a rising start in a populist movement commonly known as the Coffee Party. However, until recently, her perspective was limited to the region of the United States in which she grew up. To burnish her credentials as a leader of worldwide caliber, she has decided to give a series of visionary speeches at several venues around the world. The most difficult speech will take place in a region in which the overwhelming majority of the population practice an Abrahamic religion. The tricky part is that some are Jews, some are Christians (several denominations), and some are Sunni Muslims. Moreover, your congressperson is familiar only with the local Methodist church she attended in her home neighborhood. She needs help to prepare for this big speech.

Your Task

Your task is to:

1. write the part of the speech that explains the beliefs that all of the Abrahamic religions have in common. Be sure that the similarities you choose are true only of the Abrahamic religions. For example, you would not talk about “prayer” as a common characteristic because prayer is part of other religions too, not only the Abrahamic religions;
2. in the course of doing #1 above, identify 5 characteristics that are true only for Abrahamic religions and explain them briefly; and
3. write so that your wording is speech-like. In other words, write as if you were talking to the mixed religious audience described above and choose your words so that you help promote good relations and peaceful coexistence by stressing what everyone has in common.

The idea is that your congressperson should be able to paste your paragraphs into her speech as is or with only minor tweaking. And because the speaker does not wish to bore her audience, be sure your text is between 300-400 words.

Finally, be sure to indicate citations as to where in the course materials you found the information you are using.

Discussion 14:

**Religion and science have a long and varied relationship. Sometimes they seem compatible; sometimes not.**

Your question: Is conflict between religion and science inevitable? Why or why not? What social factors tend to increase such conflict, and what factors tend to decrease it?