

Learning Guide Unit 3

Reading Assignment

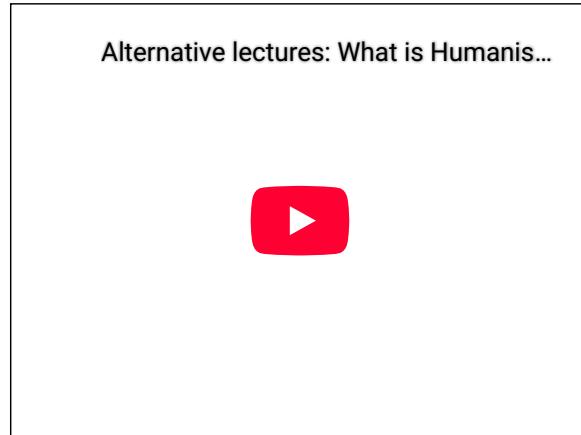
Polytheism: Perhaps the oldest and most familiar form of religion. It is the belief system with multiple Gods with each God having a specific purpose or "job." The ancient world was basically fully polytheistic from the Bronze Age, Iron Age, and through the Axial Age. This lasted until the formation of the Abrahamic Religions – which are strictly monotheist.

- Fairbanks, A. (1898). Literary Influence in the Development of Greek Religion. *The Biblical World*, 11(5), 294-305. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3137300>
 - In Fairbanks (1898) read pages 294 to the end of the first paragraph on page 297.
 - Note how for the Greeks, the Gods also had strong Human characteristics.
- Read the entire Polytheism and Monotheism Lecture at Gifford Lectures: [The Attributes of God: The Gifford Lectures Delivered in the University of St. Andrews in the Year 1924-1925](#)
 - Read section 3 (Polytheism and Monotheism) from page 64 to page 101.

Humanism

- Watch Professor of Sociology Frank Furedi's 18-minute lecture on Humanism.:

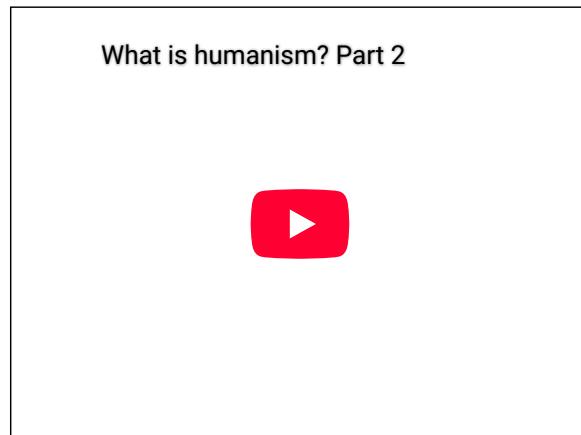
Furedi, F. (2013). Alternative lectures: What is Humanism (Part 1). [Video File]. Available at



- Who does Dr. Furedi say is the author of our destiny?

- Watch his 19-minute follow-up as well.

Furedi, F. (2013). What is humanism? Part 2. [Video File]. Available at



- A collection of short definitions of Humanism can be found at <https://americanhumanist.org/what-is-humanism/definition-of-humanism/> : read through these and prepare to share your thoughts.