**Module 1:**

**DOCUMENTARY: MYSTERY OF THE NEANDERTHALS:**

***Gibraltar:***

Endured for 200,000 years, then they disappeared

What they left behind, an intriguing mystery

Gibraltar, rock at the edge of Europe has sheltered mankind for years

Caves full of information, help to rebuild information

They lived in these caves for over 10s of thousands of years

Gibraltar, the last place of where they lived

1848- Gibraltar was part of the British empire, army building a fortress

Army lieutenant named Flint, amateur archaeologist, skull found, flat shape, heavy brow shape

Half a century before they discovered where the skull came from

Gibraltar studies and others suggest that Neanderthals, worlds first music, art, make fire

100,000 after them modern humans appear, evolution slowly makes it mark

***The Body and Build:***

Neanderthals have a flat, protruding skull, large brow bone, large nose, cheek bones swept back to the largest human brain ever

Born of the ice age

Their skulls show marks of animals gnawing on them, their teeth indicate frequent starvation

Fewer than 30 full skulls have ever been found

Erik Trinkaus specializes in clues found in the bones

They were tough, wide bodies, broad shoulders, stalky arms, and legs, twice as strong as us

Retain heat and labor relentlessly

Largest nose ever found, allowed the release of excess heat, needed to live in the ice age

***Modern Humans and Neanderthals:***

In Africa early version of modern humans BUT at same time Neanderthals are spread out in Europe and western Asia

Around 40,000 years ago, these thinner, weaker humans, move in Europe,

2 kinds of humans came together, only one group survived but why??

27 tons of sediment has been gone through to look for tiny details

Neanderthals spreads of charcoal, fire was a temporary affair, created fires for only one night

***Hunting and Diet:***

Bone marrow eaten raw,

John Shea and Chris Bergman, believe tool making, making tools to use for hunting

Their tools were simple, efficient, tools that do the job quickly

Tools made the difference between survival and starvation

Neanderthals took down large animals, DID not throw spears, they got up close to their prey

Every skeleton found that lived past 30, has at least 1 serious injury, from a large animal

Believed they worked in groups, ambushed their prey

Tried to re-enact the hunting of the prey, group hunting takes patients, practice and stealth

They could have hunted from ambush and cooperation

***Shanidar Caves:***

Northern Iraq, Shanidar caves first excavated in early 50s Doctor Trinkaus and others still working there

Found a skull (Shanidar 1) that lived probably 50,000 years ago for 40 years, very beaten up

Walking pattern shows he had a bad limp (Shanidar 1), lived at least 20 years after his injuries

They cared for the sick and wounded

Burial was found 3 adults, 1 child 100,000 years ago, bones found carefully placed in ground with residue of flowers

Buried and mourned their dead

***Determining what they look like:***

Took a photo of a modern human, and changed her skull, this technology suggests a face for these bones

Gabraltar have been there for a month, shows a change between Neanderthals and modern humans

Cave painting shows modern humans also lived in these caves

Modern humans had small edge over Neanderthals, more brain

**DIMENSIONS OF RELIGION:**

***Seven Dimensions Common to Religions:*** Practical or Ritual, Doctrinal or Philosophical, Mythical or Narrative, Experimental or Emotional, Ethical or Legal, Organizational or Social, Material or Artistic

***Practical or Ritual:*** activities such as worship, meditation, pilgrimage, sacrifice, sacramental rites and healing activities

***Doctrinal or Philosophical:***doctrine of impermanence is central to Buddhism, some traditions are keener on doctrinal rectitude; Catholicism more than Quakerism, Buddhism more than traditional African religion, Theravada more than Zen. Different diverse traditions put differing weight on dimensions

***Mythical or Narrative:*** each religion has its stories. History is the narrative which takes the place of myth elsewhere. History taught in schools enhances pride in ‘our’ ancestors and ‘our’ national heros

***Experimental or Emotional:*** variations in the importance attached to visionary and meditative experiences. Associated emotional reactions to the world and to ritual are everywhere more or less dynamic, have been studied extensively

***Ethical or Legal:*** religious tradition affirms some ethical or legal imperatives. Torah – Orthodox Judaism, Shari – Islam, Buddhism – 4 great virtues (brahmaviharas), Confucianism – attitudes of a gentleman

***Organizational or Social:*** any tradition will manifest itself in society either as separate organization or as coterminous with society. Tradition will tale on aspects of that context

***Material or Artistic Dimension:*** a religion or worldview will express itself typically in material creations. Concrete expressions are important in varying ways

***Hybrid Terminology:***

Two terms, eg. Doctrinal-philosophical, permits categorization of teachings but provides a flexible environment between creedal and conceptual approaches to teaching.

For this class, narrative-mythical allows us to consider differences between narratives with historical stability or security with mythological elements

***Equalitarian Approach:***

Imperative to explore religions with equality of method. The dimensions of religion require us to study religions with the same dimensional lens. Reasons why it is “narrative-mythical” for example

***The relationship between the experiential and mythical dimensions:***

Elites have experiences, these become authoritative and central to mythology. When a story cannot be validated it becomes a mythical element in our study. Example is Moses, and Siddhartha Gautama becoming awakened while he sat at the Bodhi tree