**Vocabulary**

*Introduction to Religious Studies*

Fall 2020

Aryans

The term was used by the Indo-Aryan people of the Vedic period in Ancient India as a religious label for themselves

bar/bat mitzvah

the ceremony by which a young person becomes a “son” (bar) or “daughter” (bat) of the covenant and commands (of Judaism).

burial rites

temporal rite & celebration (76); many symbolize the relationship of human beings to the natural world.

Eucharist

originally “giving thanks” (Greek); Holy Communion or the Lord’s Supper in Christianity.

initiation rite

rite of passage, focusing on passage of a person from childhood into adulthood

Liminality

the condition of being in an intermediate state.

liturgy

derived from a Greek work meaning “a public work”; in religion, refers to the form of public worship of a particular group.

Rites of Passage

describe those ceremonies associated with the transitional moments in a person’s life

ritual

a ceremonial act or repeated stylized gesture used for specific occasions.

seder

a ritual meal, part of the **Passover** celebration

anti-semitic

a story, usually fictitional, that makes an instructive point. Every character and incident in the story stands for or represents a reality outside the story itself.

beit din

is a rabbinical court of Judaism. In ancient times, it was the building block of the legal system in the Biblical Land of Israel.

blockalteste

A concentration camp inmate appointed to be the leader of a barrack

Dualism

dualism a way of thought, especially with respect to theodicy, that stresses the opposition of good and evil powers in the universe. See Zoroastrianism.

Kabbalah

the ancient Jewish tradition of mystical interpretation of the Bible, first transmitted orally and using esoteric methods (including ciphers). It reached the height of its influence in the later Middle Ages and remains significant in Hasidism.

karma

in Hinduism and Buddhism, the inexorable law of cause and effect.

Shoah

term used to refer to the Nazi destruction of European Jews; does not have religious connotations as the word “holocaust” does

theodicy

theodicy discussions of divine justice; the attempt to answer questions about the sacred arising from the experience of evil

Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrianism religious tradition originating in the seventh century B.C.E. in Persia; see dualism.