

winter 2020 COURSES



RLST 100 | Introduction to Religious Studies

001 WMF 1:30-2:20
002 TR 2:30-3:45
L01 WMF 10:30-11:20
L02 TR 10:00-11:15
C01 WMF 11:30-12:20

RLST 201 | Ghosts, Monsters, and Demons

TR 1:00-2:15

RLST 209 | Japanese Religions WMF 9:30-10:20

RLST 215 | Religions of Greece and Rome

TR 11:30-12:45

RLST 228 | Christianity TR 2:30-15:45

RLST 245 | Bible: Old Testament/Tanakh

TR 10:00-11:15

RLST 268 | Cults or New Religious Movements

Online

RLST 290AK | Reading the Quran in English

TR 1:00-2:15

**RLST 290AP | WGST 280AK | Sex and Sexualities
in Religion** R 2:30-5:15

RLST 351 | The Life and Letters of Paul MW 1:00-2:15

RLST 390BY | The Prophet Muhammad (Advanced)

TR 10:00-11:15



“ABRAHAMIC” RELIGIONS



Monday

- Quiz!
- Quick review of Outline of Ritual Theory
- Tutorial on how to do Field Research
Assignment

Last Class

- Hinduism and Buddhism in North America
- 1893 World Parliament of Religions
- Swami Vivekananda
- D.T. Suzuki
- Are yoga and mindfulness religious?

Today

- Introduction to Abrahamic Religions
- Origins
- Geographical spread
- Demographics (ancient and modern)
- Relationships

Abraham?

- Who was Abraham?
- A figure introduced in the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible)
- Makes a covenant with God
- Abraham and his ancestors will be devout to God, God will supply them with the land

“To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”



The Conditions

- God promises to make Abraham the father of many nations and give him the land of Canaan
- To show that his offspring are keeping the covenant, they all must **circumcise the foreskin**
- This is the sign of the covenant
- “Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

Abraham, Father of Judaism

- Established covenant with God (defining feature of Judaism, ancient and modern)
- Established circumcision as a mark of that covenant

Time goes by...

Christianity: the second "Abrahamic" religion

- Christianity begins to emerge in the first centuries of the Common Era
- Christians also trace their lineage back to Abraham

Lineage of Jesus

Gospel of Matthew

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Gospel of Luke

Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work. He was the son (as was thought) of Joseph son of Heli, son of... son of Abraham son of... son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God

Abraham in Christianity

- He is an historical figure sometimes used as an example of positive behaviour, but generally he is less significant in Christianity than in Judaism or Islam
- Christianity is messianic, sees Jesus as the foretold messiah

More time goes by...

Abraham (Ibrahim) in Islam

- Figure of great reverence
- An important prophet along with Adam, Noah, Moses, and Jesus
- According to Muslim myth, Abraham and his first son, Ismael, built the shrine at Mecca and dedicated it to Allah

Abraham (Ibrahim) in Islam

- Has special role in Islam
- Since Abraham lived before the Law (Torah) or the Gospel of Jesus, he was not a Christian or a Jew
- The narration of his life is the narration of a life devoted to Allah

Abraham (Ibrahim) in Islam

“Ye people of the Book!

*Why dispute ye about Abraham,
when the Law (i.e. Torah) and the Gospel were not
revealed till after him?*

Have ye no understanding?

*Abraham was not a Jew nor yet a Christian;
but he was true in Faith, and bowed his will to Allah’s
(i.e. was a “Muslim”), and he joined not gods with
Allah.”*

Qur’an 3:65, 67

Eid al-Adha

- Eid al-Adha, the most important Islamic feast is also known as the feast of sacrifice
- It commemorates Abraham's submission to God's will, his willingness to sacrifice his own son, and his sacrifice of a ram instead of his son after God intervened

Time Lines

- Life of Abraham, c. 1700-1600BCE
- Arrival of Jews in Israel/Palestine, c. 1260 BCE
- Life of Jesus, c. 4BCE-30CE
- Life of Muhammad, 570CE-632CE

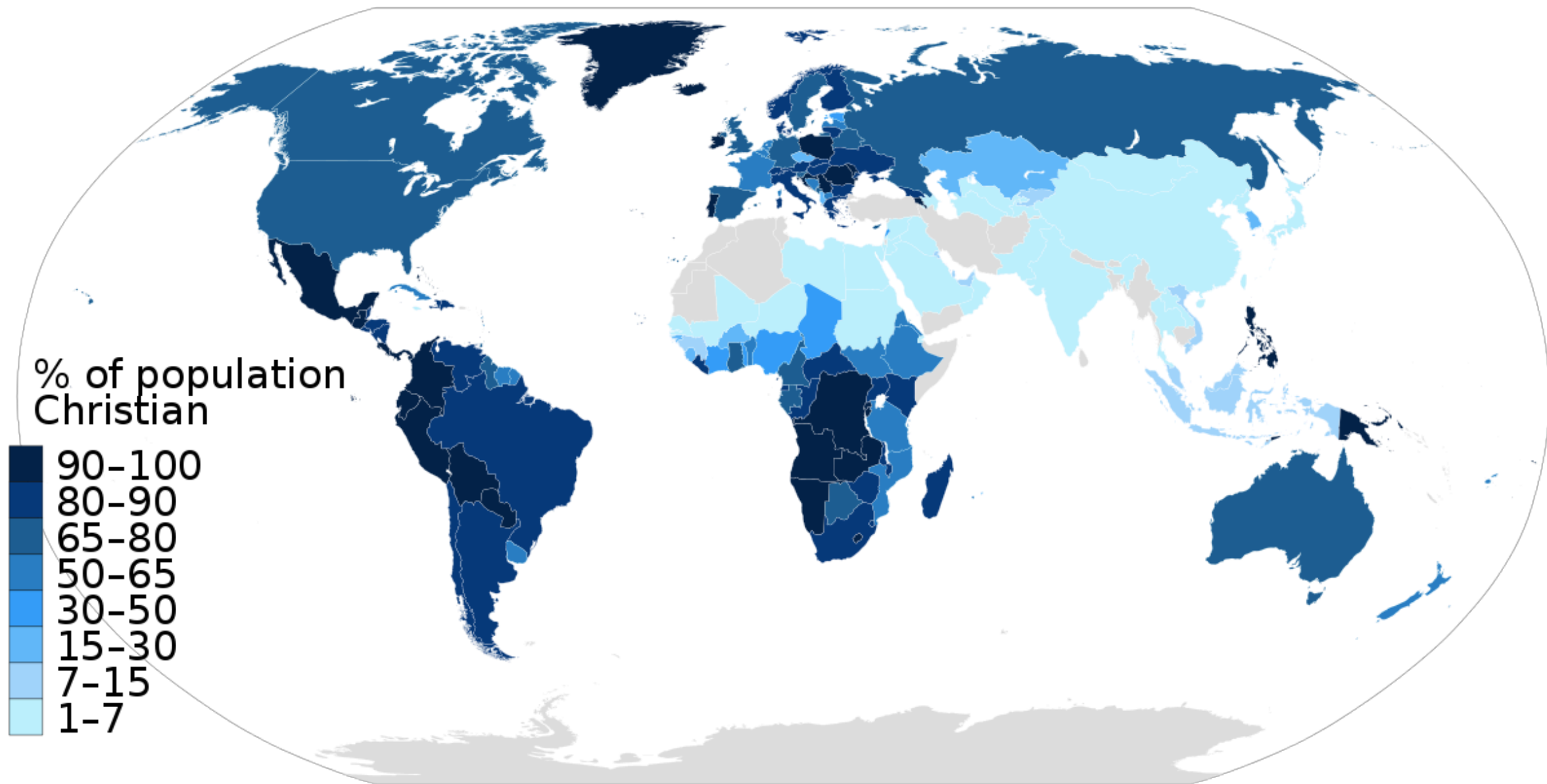
Spaces

- At most powerful, the Jewish Kingdoms of Israel and Judah occupied much of what is now Israel/Palestine

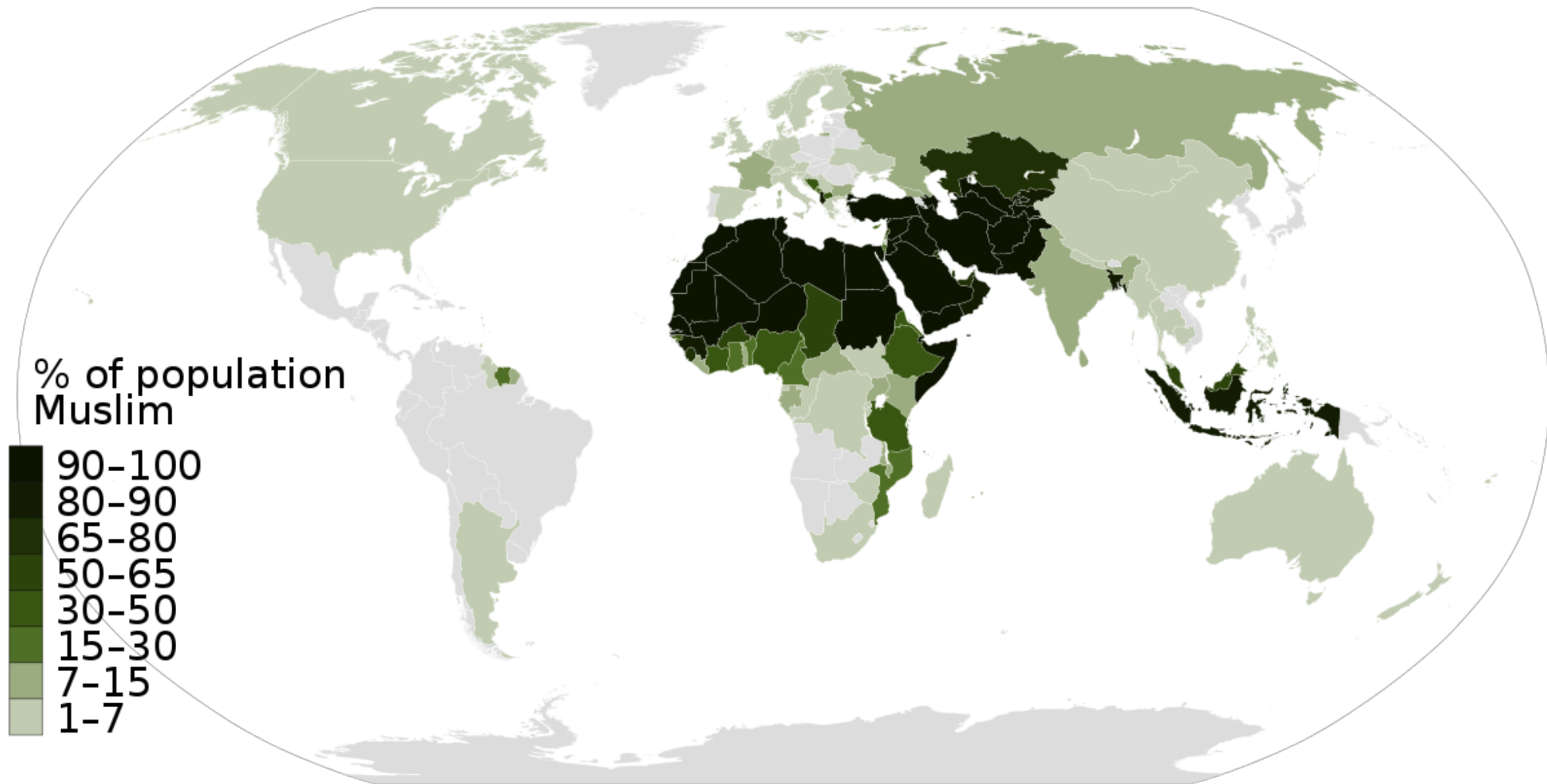


Modern state of Israel/Palestine









Where is Judaism?

- Apr. 13 million Jewish people in the world
- Apr. 6 million live in Israel/Palestine
- Apr. 5 million live in the USA
- Canada's Jewish population apr. 400,000 (3rd highest in the world)

Where is Christianity

- Country with most Christians?
- The USA!
- C. 230 million, 71% of the population
- Brazil, 180 million, 90% of population
- Mexico, 107 million, 92% of population

Where is Islam?

- Most populous Muslim country?
- Indonesia!
- Apr. 230 million
- Pakistan, 200 million
- India 195, million



Chief Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Pope John Paul II, and Sheikh Tatzir Tamimi during an interreligious meeting at the Pontifical Institute, Notre Dame, Jerusalem, March 23, 2000

History of good relations and conflict

- Christian anti-Judaism
- Modern anti-Semitism
- Muslims as heretics
- Modern Islamophobia

History of good relations and conflict

- Foundation of State of Israel, 1948
- Modern Jewish anti-Muslim position
- Modern Islamic anti-Judaism
- Largely focused on the land of Israel/Palestine

What we will focus on

- Monotheism
- Hebrew Bible, foundational stories and figures
- Christian New Testament, foundational stories and figures
- Parting of ways: Christianity splits from Judaism
- Qur'an, foundational stories and figures
- Expansion of Islam through Middle East, North Africa, southern Europe

What we will focus on

- Christianity, Judaism, and Islam in the Middle Ages
- Rise of anti-Semitism
- Rise of Islamophobia
- Jerusalem in modernity

Short Answer Quiz Questions

- What are four major differences between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism? Answer in complete sentences.
- Is yoga a religious practice? Yes? No? Why? Explain your position with three pieces of evidence.
- Name three differences between an arhat and a bodhisattva? Explain each difference in full sentences.