

Field Research Analysis and Exam

- Field Research Analysis
- Due Dec 6, 11:59pm
- You will get your grade back before the exam!
- OR, due Dec 10, 11:59pm
- You will not get your grade back before the exam

Exam

- Wednesday Dec 18, 9am-12pm
- CL125
- Exam prep Friday Dec 6 in class

Field Research Analysis: Structure

- Paragraph 1: describe ritual
 - *Use your observations to describe a ritual*
 - *Does not require use of Nye (but if you do use Nye, cite)*
- Paragraph 2: analyze ritual
 - *Must use and cite Nye*
- Paragraph 3: describe a *different* ritual
- Paragraph 4: analyze the ritual described in paragraph 3
- Paragraph 5: reflect on your learning

Paragraph 5: reflect on your learning

- Reflection
- DO NOT tell me something you learned about the religion that you visited
- Past: What did you used to think about religion (or the study of religion) before this assignment?
- Present: After doing this assignment what do you now think about religion (or the study of religion)? Why/how did the assignment affect your view(s)?
- Meaning: Why does what you learned *matter* to you? How have you been affected by having done this assignment? Think of this as the “So what?” question.



ISLAM

History



Review Qur'an

- Sacred text of Islam
- Believed to be the word of God revealed to the Prophet Muhammad
- Originally orally recited, written down soon after Muhammad's death
- Language: Arabic
- Not ordered chronologically
- Not a narrative

Review: Life of Muhammad

- Born and orphaned
- Received revelations from God
- Told them to his family and close friends
- Gained followers

Muhammad

- Muhammad gained many followers, but Islam was still small and vulnerable
- Fortunately, Muhammad was asked to be a mediator between warring tribes, and he agreed on the condition that his Muslim followers be welcomed with him

Hijra

- 622 CE Muhammad and his followers secretly migrate from Mecca to Yathrib
- This marks year 0 in the Islamic calendar
- (Currently 1441 in Islamic calendar)
- Yathrib was later renamed Medina, and there Muhammad set up a community of Muslims: **umma**



- Mecca perceived Medina as a threat
- Fought three battles but lost, Muhammad took Mecca in 630 CE
- Purged Ka'ba of multiple religious artifacts
- By 632 most of Arabia under Muslim rule
- Muhammad took pilgrimage to Mecca
- Later in the year he died

Muhammad's successor

- Question of Muhammad's successor major cause for historical and contemporary division in Islam
- One group believed he did not name a successor and that a leader would be selected by prominent members of the community
- Another group believed that he named his closest male heir Ali as his successor

Sunni Islam

- Believe that the leader of Muslim umma was to be selected by consultation among prominent members of the community
- These leaders were called “caliphs”
- Muhammad was final prophet, so caliphs took on roles of political and military leadership

Sunni Islam

- Today, apr. 90% of Muslims are Sunni

Shi'a Islam

- Believe that Muhammad appointed his closest living relative, Ali, as his successor before he died
- In this line of succession the leaders are "imams"
- Their roles continued to be religious

Shi'a Islam: Today

- Apr. 10% of Muslims are Shi'a
- Iraq, Iran, Bahrain, and Azerbaijan majority Shi'a countries

Back to History!

- After Muhammad, 4 great leaders expanded Islam across Arabia and into the Middle East and North Africa
- Abu Baker (632-634 CE)
- Umar (634-644 CE)
- Uthman (644-656 CE)
- Ali (656-661 CE)

- Ali was assassinated by the nephew of Uthman (the successor prior to Ali)
- This began Umayyad Caliphate
- Set up capital in Damascus (modern Syria)
- Abbasid Caliphate toppled Umayyad, set up capital in Baghdad
- Mongols toppled Abbasids

Last three Muslim Empires

- Ottoman Empire (Turkey, Greece, south east Europe, Middle East)
- Safavid Empire (Iran)
- Mughal Empire (India and Pakistan)

Golden Age of Islam: Abbasid Dynasty (750-1258CE)

- Baghdad a centre of science and art
- Produced new translations of Greek philosophical texts
- Contributed own scientific innovations
- Trade with Spain and Sicily brought ideas to Europe, helped Europe out of dark ages