

- What is an example of a “World Religion”?
- What makes something a “World Religion”?
- What makes a “World Religion” different from another way of organizing people into groups (for example, a country)?

SEPT 6

Land Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge that the University is situated on Treaty 4 Territory with a presence in Treaty 6 - the ancestral lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota and Nakota peoples and the homeland of the Métis. This is an important part of our history, and an important part of our future. It is important to recognize that we, as settlers and as people who are not part of First Nations or Indigenous groups, are here on their land, and have historically, and are at present benefiting from colonialism. Recognizing this is the first step, not the last step, in efforts of decolonization.

Today's key terms

- Definition/Classification/Category
- “World Religions”
- “Comparative Religion”

Prepare for next week

- Lincoln on Myth (short but potentially difficult)
- Nye on Ritual (longer, hopefully less difficult)
- Red Willows and Potlatch (both 1 page)
- “Aboriginal Traditions” Pages 8-17

Field Research Assignment

- Visit a religious service of a religion that is not your own
 - You will visit in a group but write the report individually
-
- Signed Contract due Oct 5: 2%
 - Outline of Ritual Theory due Oct 18: 10%
 - Field Notes and Group Photo due Nov 13: 3%
 - Final Report due Dec 6: 25%

Field Research Assignment

- Contracts and Field Notes and Group photo must be submitted individually through URCourses
 - *Late submissions will receive a 0 unless you have a doctor's note*
- Outline of Ritual Theory and Final Report must be submitted individually to URCourses AND Turn It In
 - *Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day*
- Contracts will be posted on URCourses
- Detailed assignment instructions will be provided for the Outline of Ritual Theory and Final Report

Quizzes

- 5 quizzes, I will count your top 4
- Except in the case of emergencies, there will be no makeup quizzes
- Quizzes will have 10 multiple choice questions and one short answer
 - *The short answer question is worth the same as the total of the MC questions*
- Quiz questions will be straightforward and based on readings and lecture

Quizzes

Dates

- September 23
- October 21
- November 1
- November 27
- December 6

- What is an example of a “World Religion”?
- What makes something a “World Religion”?
- What makes a “World Religion” different from another way of organizing people into groups (for example, a country)?

Our Plan

- “World Religions”
- Mythic origins
- Ritual practices
- Histories
- Modern manifestations

What makes something religious?: Definitions and Classification

- Definitions and Classifications
- Who defines?
- Why do we define?
- How do we define?

What is a Sandwich?











What is a definition?

- Definitions are created by people
- Interpretive, in some ways subjective
- Subject to change
- Don't always fit all data
- Can be powerful
 - *There are stakes in defining things*

Religion as a Category

- “World Religions” relatively recent
- Used to define difference
- Says what something is by saying what it is not
- Categories do things for people
 - *They are useful*