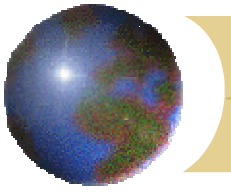


Religions of the World - an overview

What are the major religions of the world?

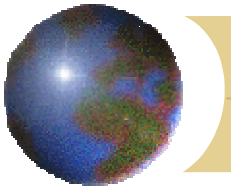
- ✿ Judaism
- ✿ Christianity
- ✿ Islam
- ✿ Baha'i Faith
- ✿ Zoroastrianism
- ✿ Hinduism
- ✿ Buddhism
- ✿ Sikhism
- ✿ Jainism
- ✿ Taoism / Daoism
- ✿ Confucianism
- ✿ Shinto



Categorizing Religions:

- Ethnic vs. Universal

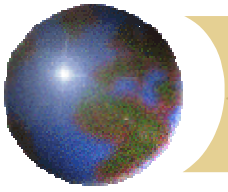
- ❖ **Ethnic:** the religion of a particular people or culture (e.g., Judaism, Shinto, Hinduism) → tend to be localized and do *not* actively seek converts)
- ❖ **Universal:** a religion which sees its message as true for all people (e.g., Christianity, Islam, Buddhism) → have spread throughout the world and tend to be very large in population, have actively sought converts from many cultures)



Categorizing Religions:

- Theistic vs. Non-theistic

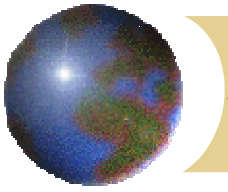
- ✿ **Theistic:** focus on a personal God (mono-) or gods (poly-) (god = supernatural "person," spirit being) (most common in western religions)
- ✿ **Non-theistic:** Ultimate Reality or ultimate goal of the religion does *not* involve a personal god (impersonal Ultimate Reality) (force or energy) (found mostly in the eastern religions)



Categorizing Religions:

- Major vs. Minor

- ❖ **Major religions:** Religions that are high in population, widespread throughout the world, the basis upon which other religions were built and/or otherwise highly influential
- ❖ **Minor Religions:** Religions that are limited in population, geographic locale and/or influence



Categorizing Religions:

- Western vs. Eastern

● **Western:** Religions that developed *west* of the Urals (e.g. in the Near East and Europe):

- **Judaism**
- **Christianity**
- **Islam**
- **Baha'i Faith**
- **Zoroastrianism**

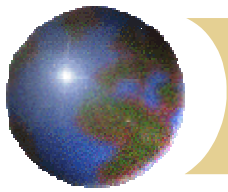
● **Eastern:** Religions that developed *east* of the Urals (e.g., in India, China and Japan)

India

- **Hinduism**
- **Buddhism**
- **Sikhism**
- **Jainism**

Far East

- **Daoism**
- **Confucianism**
- **Shinto**

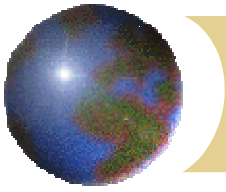


Western and Eastern Religions in Contrast:

Western/Christian

Eastern/Hindu

	Western/Christian	Eastern/Hindu
Time:	Linear/Singular	Cyclical/Repeating
Ultimate Reality:	Monotheistic (one personal god)	Poly- or non-theistic (many gods or impersonal)
Afterlife:	Disembodied (one life then Judgment , heaven or hell)	Embodied (many lives - Reincarnation)
The Human Condition: (problem)	Sin (separation from God due to bad deeds)	Ignorance & Karma (impurity of soul caused by good and bad deeds)
Solution: (liberation)	avoid, eliminate, or overcome sin (salvation)	elimination of ignorance & karma (moksha)



Western and Eastern Religions in Contrast:

	Western/Christian	Eastern/Hindu
Encounter With God:	God is heard (texts)	God is seen (images)
Mediated through:	Prophets (messengers of God, bring God to people)	Gurus (personal spiritual guides, bring people to truth)
Revelation/Enlightenment:	God revealed in the world through miraculous historical & relational Events (supernatural)	Gods revealed in nature ; abstract truths revealed to the mind through wisdom & philosophical ideas
Relationship Between Self & God:	Dualistic ("I and Thou")	Identity ("That art Thou")