

Exploring Religion

In recent years, there has been growing awareness across a range of academic disciplines of the value of exploring issues of religion and the sacred in relation to cultures of everyday life. *Exploring Religion and the Sacred in a Media Age* offers interdisciplinary perspectives drawing from theology, religious studies, media studies, cultural studies, film studies, sociology and anthropology. Combining theoretical frameworks for the analysis of religion, media and popular culture, with focused

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international case studies of particular texts, practices, communities and audiences, the authors examine topics such as media rituals, marketing strategies, empirical investigations of audience testimony, and the influence of religion on music, reality television and the internet. Both academically rigorous and of interest to a wider readership, this book offers a wide range of fascinating explorations at the cutting edge of many contemporary debates in sociology, religion and media, including chapters on the way evangelical groups in America have made use of *The Da Vinci Code*

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and on the influences of religion on British club culture and electronic dance music. This book is an attempt to understand some of the most important issues that have emerged in the interface between religion and society in recent decades. What is the role that religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism play in the public sphere today? How have governments established in the name of religion fared in matters pertaining to governance? What are the forces responsible for the shift towards religion as the principal conduit for reform and protest in certain societies in Asia? Is

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the religious worldview and are religious values relevant to the resolution of the major crises confronting humanity today - from environmental degradation to the economic meltdown? What sort of transformation will have to take place within religion itself if it is to serve as a spiritual-moral compass in a world that is moving inexorably in the wrong direction? These are some of the questions that this book seeks to answer through both empirical analysis and theoretical reflections

Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penerbit
Universiti Sains Malaysia

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Exploring Religious Community Online is the first comprehensive study of the development and implications of online communities for religious groups. This book investigates religious community online by examining how Christian communities have adopted internet technologies, and looks at how these online practices pose new challenges to offline religious community and culture.

Though not all people are religious believers, religion has played important historic roles in developing political systems, parties, and policies—affecting believers and nonbelievers alike. This is

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particularly true in the United States, where scholars have devoted considerable attention to a variety of political phenomena at the intersection of religious belief and identity, including social movements, voting behavior, public opinion, and public policy. These outcomes are motivated by “identity boundary-making” among the religiously affiliated. The contributors to this volume examine two main factors that influence religious identity: the communication of religious ideas and the perceptions of people (including elites) in communicating said ideas. Exploring the Public Effects of

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Religious Communication on Politics examines an array of religious communication phenomena. These include the media's role in furthering religious narratives about minority groups, religious strategies that interest groups use to advance their appeal, the variable strength of Islamophobia in cross-national contexts, what qualifies as an "evangelical" identity, and clergy representation of religious and institutional teachings. The volume also provides ways for readers to think about developing new insights into the influence religious communication has on political outcomes.

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Explore the Beliefs, Traditions, and Cultures
of Ancient and Modern Religions

Exploring Religious Conversion

The Psychology of Human Development

Prophet, Priest, Sage And People

Stages of Faith

The Languages of Religion

Religion as We Know It: An Origin Story

Why is religion still around in the twenty-first century? Why do so many still believe? And how do various traditions still shape the way people experience everything from sexuality to politics, whether they are religious or not? In *Why Religion?* Elaine Pagels looks to her own life to help address these questions. These questions took on a new urgency for Pagels

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when dealing with unimaginable loss—the death of her young son, followed a year later by the shocking loss of her husband. Here she interweaves a personal story with the work that she loves, illuminating how, for better and worse, religious traditions have shaped how we understand ourselves; how we relate to one another; and, most importantly, how to get through the most difficult challenges we face. Drawing upon the perspectives of neurologists, anthropologists, and historians, as well as her own research, Pagels opens unexpected ways of understanding persistent religious aspects of our culture. A provocative and deeply moving account from one of the most compelling religious thinkers at work today, *Why Religion?* explores the spiritual dimension of human experience.

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Discusses ecofeminism in the context of the social, political and ecological consequences of globalization. The book includes case studies, essays, theoretical works, and articles on ecofeminist movements from many of the world's regions including Taiwan, Mexico, Kenya, Chile, India, Brazil, Canada, England and the United States.

Online Resources Include: - Activity Sheets - PowerPoint Presentations - Links of Interest - Maps - Interactive Crossword Puzzles - Short Lesson Plans - Sample Chapters - Access to Teacher-Only Test Files & More! - Sign up for the Religious Education Newsletter by Sending an email to kwelde@nd.edu. You can view previous issues by going to www.avemariapress.com, clicking on the Religious Education icon, and clicking on the newsletter link on the left-hand side.

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This topical introduction to the study of religion for undergraduates implements a phenomenological approach.

Among the Gods

The Intertwining of Science and Religion

The Quest for Personal, Spiritual and Social Transformation

An Introductory Anthology

Exploring Culture, Context, and Religion

How God Works

Ecofeminism and Globalization

This book analyses the power that religion wields upon the minds of individuals and communities and explores the predominance of language in the actual practice of religion.

Through an investigation of the diverse forms of religious

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language available – oral traditions, sacred texts, evangelical prose, and national rhetoric used by –faith-insiders– such as missionaries, priests, or religious leaders who play the communicator’s role between the sacred and the secular – the chapters in the volume reveal the dependence of religion upon language, demonstrating how religion draws strength from a past that is embedded in narratives, infusing the –sacred– language with political power. The book combines broad theoretical and normative reflections in contexts of original, detailed and closely examined empirical case studies. Drawing upon resources across disciplines, the book will be of interest to scholars of religion and religious studies, linguistics, politics, cultural studies, history, sociology, and social

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anthropology.

Together, the essays that constitute Exploring the Religious Life offer an engaging introduction to Rodney Stark's provocative insights and a fearless challenge to academic perceptions about religion's place in history, society, and private life.

Exploring the Philosophy of Religion, 7th Edition, combines the best features of a text and a reader by offering clear analysis coupled with important primary-source readings. Professor David Stewart called upon his 30-plus years of teaching experience to introduce students to the important study of philosophical issues raised by religion. Beginning students often find primary sources alone too difficult so this

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text offers primary source materials by a variety of significant philosophers including a balanced blend of classical and contemporary authors but the materials are supported by clearly written introductions, which better prepare students to understand the readings.

This book aims to give students an introduction to the religious and social world of ancient Israel. It consists of two parts. The first explores the major religious offices mentioned in the Old Testament, including prophets, priests, sages and kings. As well as considering what these key people said and did, the author traces the process someone might have gone through to become recognised as a prophet, priest or sage, and where you would have had to go in ancient Israel if you wanted to locate

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someone who held one of these offices. In the second part the focus is on the religious beliefs and practices of the "common" people as this was the group that made up the vast majority of ancient Israel's population.

Rewired

Exploring the Public Effects of Religious Communication on Politics

An Exploration of Mental Wellness in Global Context

Exploring Emerging Intersections of Religion, Public Discourse, and Rhetorical Scholarship

Exploring the Politics of the Sacred

Tax Law, Religion, and Justice

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Professor David Stewart called upon his 30 years of teaching experience to introduce readers to the important study of faith and reason. Beginning students often find primary sources alone too difficult so this text offers primary source materials by a variety of significant philosophers—including a balanced blend of classical and contemporary authors—but the materials are supported by clearly written introductions, which better prepare readers to understand the subject matter.

Examines whether religion is natural to human experience, and whether this helps to ground a

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universal right to religious freedom.

This book is an insightful guide to the diverse ways that religious faith is practiced and spirituality is understood. Discussing contemporary issues such as post-modernism and the emergence of a "new paradigm," the new realities of geopolitics, globalization and global warming, this book explores the importance of religion in people's lives to provide direction in the society today. This book demonstrates the common quest among the world religions for a deeper and more profound spirituality. Describing the spiritual pathways of the various

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world religions, it assesses the ways that the beliefs, values and practices of these traditions can be life-giving, leading to personal and social responsibility and transformation, but also sometimes harmful and divisive, even used for dangerous purposes.

Promoting constructive engagements between the world's religions, this book will connect social justice and ethical engagements with core religious practices and spiritualities. This is an ideal introductory text for students of world religions, spirituality and interfaith relations, broadening their understanding of these lived faiths.

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In recent years, there has been growing awareness across a range of academic disciplines of the value of exploring issues of religion and the sacred in relation to cultures of everyday life. Exploring Religion and the Sacred in a Media Age offers inter-di

People, Practice and Possibility

Exploring the Cognitive Science of Religion

A Charlie Brown Religion

Exploring Religion and Diversity in Canada

Exploring New Religions

Exploring the Spiritual Life and Work of Charles M.

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Schulz

Exploring Faith and Reason

Exploring a variety of ways to think about and discuss religion and its far-reaching impact, this insightful collection of 30 readings takes an interdisciplinary theoretical approach that challenges students to examine their own assumptions and think critically across disciplines.

New Directions in Rhetoric and Religion reflects the complex and fluid natures of religion, rhetoric, and public life in our globalized, digital,

and politically polarized world by bringing together a diverse group of rhetorical scholars to provide a comprehensive and forward-looking collection on rhetoric and religion. This volume addresses these topics in three separate sections: 1. Rhetorics of religion at work in public activism, 2. Rhetorics of religion in contemporary public discourse, and 3. Ways that rhetoric scholars study religion. Scholars of rhetoric, religion, and social sciences will find this book particularly interesting. Charles M. Schulz's Peanuts comic strip

franchise, the most successful of all time, forever changed the industry. For more than half a century, the endearing, witty insights brought to life by Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, and Lucy have caused newspaper readers and television viewers across the globe to laugh, sigh, gasp, and ponder. A Charlie Brown Religion explores one of the most provocative topics Schulz broached in his heartwarming work--religion. Based on new archival research and original interviews with Schulz's family, friends, and colleagues, author Stephen J. Lind

offers a new spiritual biography of the life and work of the great comic strip artist. In his lifetime, aficionados and detractors both labeled Schulz as a fundamentalist Christian or as an atheist. Yet his deeply personal views on faith have eluded journalists and biographers for decades. Previously unpublished writings from Schulz will move fans as they begin to see the nuances of the humorist's own complex, intense journey toward understanding God and faith. "There are three things that I've learned never to discuss with people," Linus says, "Religion,

politics, and the Great Pumpkin." Yet with the support of religious communities, Schulz bravely defied convention and dared to express spiritual thought in the "funny pages," a secular, mainstream entertainment medium. This insightful, thorough study of the 17,897 Peanuts newspaper strips, seventy-five animated titles, and global merchandising empire will delight and intrigue as Schulz considers what it means to believe, what it means to doubt, and what it means to share faith with the world.

EXPLORING RELIGION AND ETHICS is written

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by leading educators and experienced practising teachers to meet the requirements of the Religion and Ethics SAS in Queensland. It offers a vast array of learning opportunities that draw on a three-tiered model of personal, relational and spiritual dimensions, and encourages students to explore how these dimensions relate to their own religious beliefs. It features: Clear concise and student-friendly language that caters for different learning abilities and styles Learning and assessment activities that engage and extend students A wide range of valuable

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time-saving teacher support resources for additional classwork, homework and assessment are available on Cambridge GO.

***The Science Behind the Benefits of Religion
A Personal Story***

***Religion and Ethics for Senior Secondary
Students***

We are One in the Network

The Roots of Religion

***Exploring Religious Community Online
A Reader***

The cognitive science of religion is a new

discipline that looks at the roots of religious belief in the cognitive architecture of the human mind. The Roots of Religion deals with the philosophical and theological implications of the cognitive science of religion which grounds religious belief in human cognitive structures: religious belief is 'natural', in a way that even scientific thought is not. Does this new discipline support religious belief, undermine it, or is it, despite many claims, perhaps eventually neutral? This subject is of immense importance, particularly given the

rise of the 'new atheism'. Philosophers and theologians from North America, UK and Australia, explore the alleged conflict between truth claims and examine the roots of religion in human nature. Is it less 'natural' to be an atheist than to believe in God, or gods? On the other hand, if we can explain theism psychologically, have we explained it away. Can it still claim any truth? This book debates these and related issues. Involved for over thirty years in the politics of Iraq, Ali A. Allawi was a long-time

opposition leader against the Baathist regime. In the post-Saddam years, he has held important government positions and participated in crucial national decisions and events. In this book, the former Minister of Defence and Finance draws on his unique personal experience, extensive relationships with members of the main political groups and parties in Iraq, and deep understanding of the history and society of his country to answer the baffling questions that persist about its current crises. What really led the

United States to invade Iraq, and why have events failed to unfold as planned? The Occupation of Iraq examines what the U.S. did and didn't know at the time of the invasion, the reasons for the confused and contradictory policies that were enacted, and the emergence of the Iraqi political class during the difficult transition process. The book tracks the growth of the insurgency and illuminates the complex relationships among Sunnis, Shia, and Kurds. Bringing the discussion forward to the reconfiguration of

political forces in 2006, Allawi provides in these pages the clearest view to date of the modern history of Iraq and the invasion that changed its course in unpredicted ways. Dr. James Fowler has asked these questions, and others like them, of nearly six hundred people. He has talked with men, women, and children of all ages, from four to eighty-eight, including Jews, Catholics, Protestants, agnostics, and atheists. In many cases, the interviews became in-depth conversations that provided rare, intimate glimpses into the

various ways our lives have meaning and purpose, windows into what this books calls faith. Faith, as approached here, is not necessarily religious, nor is it to be equated with belief. Rather, faith is a person's way of leaning into and making sense of life. More verb than noun, faith is the dynamic system of images, values, and commitments that guide one's life. It is thus universal: everyone who chooses to go on living operated by some basic faith. Building on the contributions of such key thinkers as Piaget,

Erikson, and Kohlberg, Fowler draws on a wide range of scholarship, literature, and firsthand research to present expertly and engagingly the six stages that emerge in working out the meaning of our lives--from the intuitive, imitative faith of childhood through conventional and then more independent faith to the universalizing, self-transcending faith of full maturity. Stages of Faith helps us to understand our own pilgrimage of faith, the passages of our own quest for meaning and value.

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In this remarkably accessible, concise, and engaging introduction to the philosophy of religion, Steven M. Cahn brings together a rich and balanced collection of sixty-six classic and contemporary readings. This unique anthology features a clear, well-organized structure and careful editing of many articles in order to sharpen their focus and make them understandable to students with little or no background in philosophy. The book also reflects the importance of women's contributions to the field; 40% of

the contemporary readings are by women. In addition, topics often minimized in other collections are covered in more depth here, including forgiveness and love; ritual, prayer, and worship; gender; speaking of God; and the afterlife.

Exploring Philosophy of Religion

Using Language in Religion

The Reconciliation of Christianity and

Biological Evolution

An Exploration of Theological Reflections on

Taxation

Exploring Religion in Ancient Egypt

Homo Religiosus?

Exploring the Philosophy of Religion

Exploring God-talk maps the contours of religious language. It surveys the variety of ways in which religious believers both speak to God and speak about God, and tries to respond to the serious criticisms that have been raised of different aspects of our 'God-talk'. Beginning with an overview of the variety of ways in which language is used in faith and religion, the book moves on to consider the functions of language in religious experience and

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the religious life, particularly in prayer and worship. Two chapters are devoted to a consideration of the important area of 'descriptive' God-talk, both figurative and literal. Problems relating to the meaningfulness of religious language and the interpretation of the Scripture are also addressed, and the pastoral and ethical significance of God-talk explored. Illustrations are drawn throughout from both everyday speech and the Christian tradition. This book asks why tax policy is both attracted to and repelled by the idea of justice. Accepting the invitation of economist Henry Simons to

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acknowledge that tax justice is a theological concept, the work explores theological doctrines of taxation to answer the presenting question. The overall message of the book is that taxation is an instrument of justice, but only when taxes take into account multiple goods in society: the requirements of the government, the property rights of society ' s members, and the material needs of the poor. It is argued that this answer to the presenting question is a theological and ethical answer in that it derives from the insistence of Christian thinkers that tax policy take into account material human need

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(necessitas). Without the necessitas component of the tax balance, tax systems end up honoring only one of the three components of the tax equation and cease to reflect a coherent idea of justice. The book will be of interest to academics and researchers working in the areas of tax law, economics, theology, and history.

An easy-to-use and comprehensive guide that explores the intriguing dogma and rituals, cultural convictions, and often-checkered backgrounds and histories of the world's religions.

Have you ever wondered if it is possible to be a

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conservative evangelical Christian and also believe in biological evolution-believe that the Earth is 4.5 billion years old and that human beings share a common ancestor with not only chimpanzees, but also with mice and even earthworms? In Exploring Faith and Reason, you will find that it is not only possible, it is an essential element of how many Christians come to more fully appreciate the complexity and the great glory of God's creation. Of course many people-Christians and non-Christians alike-think that Christianity and evolution are opposing concepts. They perceive several specific

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points of conflict between them. Bruce Glass addresses each of these concerns by citing Scripture and the world's most respected theologians and by the application of reason. Revealed is a deeper and richer understanding of Biblical Scripture and its history. But most importantly, readers will gain a greater appreciation of the power and the capabilities of a living God that transcends space and time, as this insight is united with the findings of science. Kirkus Reviews described Exploring Faith and Reason this way: "Smart, well-informed... lucid, engaging... Glass delivers a superb exposition of

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Darwinian theory and a meticulous, sharply reasoned discussion of the evidence that supports it. His logic is impeccable when he insists that evolutionary theory does not rule out the existence of God." Tremper Longman III, Ph.D., Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies at Westmont College said, "As a non-scientist, I found that Exploring Faith and Reason presents an accessible, fascinating, and compelling presentation of evolution. As a biblical scholar, I appreciate Glass' grasp of theological issues and the biblical text. His conclusion that evolution and Christianity are

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compatible is a crucial message for the church today." Peter Enns, Ph.D., Professor of Christian Studies at Eastern University said, "Glass has provided a thorough look at the evidence and the processes of evolution, along side a compelling case for its compatibility with Christianity. His theological analysis is very sound as he addresses several of the commonly perceived points of tension between the Christian faith and evolution. For a thorough understanding of these issues, this book is among the very best resources available." Reverend Jordan Ogden, Lead Pastor at Antioch Community

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Church in Dallas, said: "Mr. Glass tackles a historically controversial topic with finesse. Wherever one may be on the issue of evolution, Glass' superb scholarship and unbiased commentary on issues of faith does not disappoint." Reverend Dr. Kristin Huffman, Associate Pastor at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Houston, said: "Bruce Glass has provided a thought provoking look at the most significant theological issues arising from the advent of evolutionary science. Whatever their conclusions, readers will find Mr. Glass' treatment a welcome reminder of the richness and depth of

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God's Word, as well as a fresh perspective on God's glorious creation." ForeWord Clarion Reviews described it as, "Well written, thoroughly researched, and honestly fair... The book's thorough and eminently readable scientific explanations provide general science readers with a lucid understanding of this complex subject." Reverend Michael Dowd, author of Thank God for Evolution, endorsed by six Nobel Prize-winning scientists and by religious leaders across the spectrum, said that, "In Exploring Faith and Reason. Bruce Glass has emerged as a fresh voice for the reconciliation of

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head and heart. Couched in the language and theology of conservative evangelical Christianity, Mr. Glass' book provides a welcomed bridge between an evidential worldview and traditional Christian conviction. Believers and non-believers alike will find much of value in these pages."

Exploring Religion and the Sacred in a Media Age

Atheism and Agnosticism: Exploring the Issues

The Joy of Religion

Exploring Religion

Exploring the Roots of Religion and Religious

Freedom in Human Experience

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The Everything World's Religions Book New Directions in Rhetoric and Religion

Expands students' understanding of their own religious history and practice by examining other religions of the world. Each religion is introduced with a brief history, and explored through each religion's scripture or major writings, beliefs and practices, and sacred spaces and times.

An objective, well-researched history of contemporary new religions and cults. New religious movements - popularly known as cults - arouse strong public opinion and most books on the subject are polemical, giving hostile reaction rather than informed exploration. Exploring New Religions provides an account of a wide variety of new religions, focusing on their origins, beliefs and practices, which

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are set out in a dispassionate way, leaving readers to form their own value judgements. George Chryssides provides important analysis of the killer cults-the Jonestown People's Temple, Waco, the Solar Temple and Heaven's Gate-examining the factors that made their followers willing to die for their cause. Older groups like the Jehovah's Witnesses and Latter-day Saints (Mormons) are discussed, and Chryssides traces the development of a variety of strands of spirituality, ranging from New Thought, Spiritualism and Theosophy. Subsequent chapters include the Baha'i, the Family (formerly Children of God), the Hare Krishna movement (ISKCON), the Jesus Army, the Rastafarians, the Church of Scientology, Transcendental Meditation (TM) and the Unification Church ('the Moonies'). Lower profile groups are also discussed including: EST (Erhard Seminar Training), the New Kadampa

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Tradition, Brahma Kumaris, Sai Baba, Subud and the Western Buddhist Order. A study of the New Age phenomenon, and an account of societal responses to new religions at religious, societal and political levels is also included.

A brief, beautiful invitation to the study of religion from a Pulitzer Prize winner. How did our forebears begin to think about religion as a distinct domain, separate from other activities that were once inseparable from it? Starting at the birth of Christianity—a religion inextricably bound to Western thought—Jack Miles reveals how the West’s “common sense” understanding of religion emerged and then changed as insular Europe discovered the rest of the world. In a moving postscript, he shows how this very story continues today in the hearts of individual religious or irreligious men and women. Exploring Religion in Ancient Egypt offers a stimulating overview of

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the study of ancient Egyptian religion by examining research drawn from beyond the customary boundaries of Egyptology and shedding new light on entrenched assumptions. Discusses the evolution of religion in ancient Egypt – a belief system that endured for 3,000 years Dispels several modern preconceptions about ancient Egyptian religious practices Reveals how people in ancient Egypt struggled to secure well-being in the present life and the afterlife Exploring Religion in Our Time (Penerbit USM)

Exploring Reality

Spiritual, Religious, and Faith-based Practices in Chronicity

Exploring God-talk

An Archaeological Exploration of Ancient Greek Religion

Exploring the Religious Life

Why Religion?

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Drawing on a wealth of new evidence, pioneering research psychologist David DeSteno shows why religious practices and rituals are so beneficial to those who follow them—and to anyone, regardless of their faith (or lack thereof).

Scientists are beginning to discover what believers have known for a long time: the rewards that a religious life can provide. For millennia, people have turned to priests, rabbis, imams, shamans, and others to help them deal with issues of grief and loss, birth and death, morality and meaning. In this absorbing work, DeSteno reveals how numerous religious practices from around the world improve emotional and physical well-being. With empathy and rigor, DeSteno chronicles religious rites and traditions from cradle to grave. He explains how the Japanese rituals surrounding childbirth

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help strengthen parental bonds with children. He describes how the Apache Sunrise Ceremony makes teenage girls better able to face the rigors of womanhood. He shows how Buddhist meditation reduces hostility and increases compassion. He demonstrates how the Jewish practice of sitting shiva comforts the bereaved. And much more. DeSteno details how belief itself enhances physical and mental health. But you don't need to be religious to benefit from the trove of wisdom that religion has to offer. Many items in religion's "toolbox" can help the body and mind whether or not one believes. How God Works offers advice on how to incorporate many of these practices to help all of us live more meaningful, successful, and satisfying lives. Rewired begins with the claim that contemporary views of

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Christian spirituality, particularly in the American evangelical tradition, concentrate too exclusively on the interior and individual nature of spiritual experience. Paul Markham argues that a reexamination of the doctrine of religious conversion is needed within American evangelicalism and finds resources for such a model in the Wesleyan theological tradition and from philosophical and scientific insights into a "nonreductive physicalist" view of human nature. In considering "data" from theology and science, this book represents an integrated work in science and religion.

This book is intended for advanced undergraduate and graduate students interested in learning about the many ways in which religious diversity is manifest in day-to-day

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life Canada. Each chapter addresses the challenges and opportunities associated with religious diversity in a different realm of social life from families to churches, from education to health care, and from Muslims to atheists. The contributors present key concepts, relevant statistical data and real-life stories from qualitative data. The content of the book is supplemented by links to online learning resources including videos, websites and photo essays.

The cognitive science of religion is a new discipline that looks at the roots of religious belief in the cognitive architecture of the human mind. The Roots of Religion deals with the philosophical and theological implications of the cognitive science of religion which grounds religious belief in human cognitive structures: religious belief is 'natural', in

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a way that even scientific thought is not. Does this new discipline support religious belief, undermine it, or is it, despite many claims, perhaps eventually neutral? This subject is of immense importance, particularly given the rise of the 'new atheism'. Philosophers and theologians from North America, UK and Australia, explore the alleged conflict between truth claims and examine the roots of religion in human nature. Is it less 'natural' to be an atheist than to believe in God, or gods? On the other hand, if we can explain theism psychologically, have we explained it away. Can it still claim any truth? This book debates these and related issues.

Exploring the Religion of Ancient Israel

Exploring the Spirituality of the World Religions

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Exploring Religion and Ethics

Exploring the Religions of Our World

Exploring the Nature of Pleasure in Spiritual Life

Exploring Religion Cengage Learning

This is the age of atheism and agnosticism. The number of people living without religious belief and practice is quickly and dramatically rising. Some experts call nonreligion, after Christianity and Islam, the third largest "religion" in the world today. Understanding the origins, history, variations, and impact of atheism and agnosticism is crucial to getting a grasp of the meaning of the present and gaining a glimpse of the future. Exploring some of the most extraordinary people, events, and ideas of all time, this book provides a fair, comprehensive, and engaging survey of all aspects of

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contemporary atheism and agnosticism. An overview essay discusses the background and social and political contexts of unbelief, while a timeline highlights key events. Some 50 alphabetically arranged reference entries follow, with each providing fundamental, objective information about particular topics along with cross-references and suggestions for further reading. The volume closes with an annotated bibliography of the most important resources on atheism and agnosticism. Using a psychological and historical approach, the book describes the ways that religions deepen and prolong feelings of wellbeing.

First published in 1989, *Among the Gods* uses archaeological evidence to explore ancient Greek religion. The book analyses cult-statues and inscriptions to provide a detailed

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discussion of gods and goddesses, the priesthood, and healing sanctuaries. In doing so, it highlights the external, formal nature of religious practice in ancient Greece, such as pilgrimages, offerings, and hallowed sites. Archaeological records are used to examine both the theory and practice of ancient Greek religion, and to provide context to a variety of Greek myths and Greek literature. Among the Gods will appeal to those with an interest in religious history, archaeological history, and Classical history.