

F601, Survey of Non-Traditional Beliefs
Agenda:

1. **Session I, September 20**
 - Introduction**
 - Sources**
 - Mystical Traditions**
 - What Is a Mystic**
 - Classical Elements**
2. Session II, September 27
 - Karma
 - Resolution of Karma
3. Session III, October 4
 - Reincarnation
 - Akashic Records
4. Session IV, October 11
 - Free Will Choice
 - Understanding Karma, Reincarnation and Free Will Choice
 - Changing Your Energy
5. Session V, October 18
 - Astrology
 - Ley Lines
 - Healing Systems
6. Session VI, October 25
 - Chakras
 - Kundalini
 - Energy Layers in Body
 - Mystery Schools
 - Lesser Mysteries/Greater Mysteries

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NOTES:

Said I would give examples about how class information can be used

well, Mercury is retrograde and will be for the first class
will be a full explanation of all this when we talk about astrology in Session V
went retrograde on August 30, goes direct on Sept 22 at 1:31am

why is this an issue

Mercury is all things associated with communication and mental acuity
retrograde means that looks like it is going backwards

happens three times a year and lasts for about three weeks each time
can be all kinds of problems:

set up a meeting, need to reconfirm

ask friends for dinner, reconfirm before you buy the food

watch travel arrangements, confirm, allow extra time

handle computer carefully

watch words as out of mouth

expect senior moments

watch out for confusions

and in the class we're talking about really unusual things

so ask your help

be sure that things are clear and easily understood

first class is during the retrograde

if anything at all does not make sense, please ask

Resources

used data from Internet after careful review, have numerous links

all tested and still work

some added

if you have trouble using that kind of data, please let me know

are ways to help

Lots of concern about how to present this material

story that various concepts held by various groups or religious sects

a lot of this material was “hidden” from public view, read that as “kept sacred”

example: the Jain held the chakra material

some info was around but presented in complicated language

had to work to understand it

examples:

Rudolf Steiner, very complex sentence structure

ADK Luk, used synonyms but didn't explain that the same as other word

per ADK Luk decision to allow release in the early 30's

started begin to hear about concepts during 50's and 60's

no proof but all of a sudden people started talking about some of these concepts

for class means lots of sources from mystical sects/traditions

now:

there is “original” or “core data” but have been a lot of changes

many people or groups have adjusted info or added nuances

sometimes changed the names to show the enhancements

sometimes kept the old names but used the enhancements

some of it I found very unusual, but that is MY reaction, my choice

decided that it would be best to give a basic understanding

not all the recent add ons

not all the recent adjustments

as if: share basic algebra and let you get into advanced number theory if wish

by giving you a solid base of core concepts

you will have a solid basic understanding

then you can explore intelligently from that base

see the changes

some will fit for you, some will not fit for you, personal choice

come to your own conclusions about what is right for you

Vocabulary

often different religions use same words but have a different meaning

also definitions have changed over time

for those religions that accept reincarnation, the definition of the applicable vocabulary has changed over time

wanted to make the definition more palatable for those who do not accept reincarnation

example: the meaning of “nirvana” (goal of reincarnation in Buddhism):

Webster’s College Dictionary, 2010

1. A state of ultimate wisdom and blessedness
2. A state of release from the cycle of reincarnation and absorption into the universal reality

Macmillan Dictionary

1. nirvana or Nirvana a state of complete spiritual happiness that Buddhists and Hindus try to achieve in which human existence no longer seems important
2. INFORMAL a feeling of complete happiness and peace

Merriam Webster

: the state of perfect happiness and peace in Buddhism where there is release from all forms of suffering

: a state or place of great happiness and peace

Full Definition of NIRVANA

- 1: the final beatitude that transcends suffering, karma, and samsara [aka reincarnation] and is sought especially in Buddhism through the extinction of desire and individual consciousness
- 2 a: a place or state of oblivion to care, pain, or external reality; also: bliss, heaven
b: a goal hoped for but apparently unattainable: dream

clearly, if you are in conversation with someone

be sure you are both talking about the same thing

be sure you both mean the same thing for the words you are using

Historical Mystery Traditions

Isis and Osiris (Egypt)

Osiris was killed by his brother Seth and dismembered

Seth hid the pieces in various places

Iris, wife of Osiris, found all the pieces and put them back together again

Pythagoras

Plato and Socrates (Greece)

Eleusis (Greece)

Demeter, goddess of agriculture, spouse of Hades

Persephone, daughter with Zeus

abducted by Hades

4 months in Hades, 8 months on Earth, hence the seasons

Ephesus (Greece)

devoted to Isis-Artemis (Diana)

Dionysus (Greece and later Roman)

Romans later turned lesser mysteries turned into Bacchanalia (a drinking fest)

greater mysteries still strong

Mithras (Persian god)

Druids (especially in northern Gaul)

Dark Ages

Cathars

Knights Templar

Freemasons

Chart of the Mystical Traditions/Sects

RELIGION	MYSTICAL TRADITION	EXAMPLES OF MYSTICS
Historic Figures		Pythagoras (580 BCE – 500 BCE) Plotinus (205 CE – 270 CE)
Judaism	Kabbalah	Moses Cordovero (1522 – 1570) Isaac Luria (1534 – 1572) Baal Shem Tov (1698 – 1760)
Hinduism		Kabir (d. 1518) Ramakrishana (1836 – 1886) Vivekananda (1863 – 1902)
Buddhism		Lord Buddha (Siddhārtha Gautama)
Buddhism	Zen	Dogen (1200 – 1253)
Islam	Sufi	Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmi (1207 – 1273) Hazrat Inayat Khan (1882 – 1927)
Christianity		Apostle John St. Francis of Assisi (1181/2– 1226) Hildegard von Bingen (1098 – 1179) Meister Eckhardt (1260 – 1327/8) Richard Rolle (1290-1349) St. John of the Cross (1542 – 1591) St. Teresa of Avila (1515 – 1582) Evelyn Underhill (1875 – 1941) Thomas Merton (1915 – 1968)
Confucianism (China)	Tao	

Note that there is no Christian mystical tradition but are many Christian mystics
second century CE

- a lot of unrest in church, factions not always agree
 - churches Asia Minor
 - Roman church
 - Gnostic activity

Irenaeus (c. 120 – c. 202) was mediator
became Bishop of Lyon

he felt that the Gnostics were threat to Roman church

Gnostics taught:

- there was a duality of good vs evil, light vs dark, etc.
 - not idea of the single God of the Roman church
- Jesus taught lesser mysteries to public, greater mysteries to disciples
- members used own pathway to get to salvation

per Elaine Pagels

- (Harvard professor
 - study Gnosticism
 - worked with translation of the Nag Hammadi documents,
found in 1940s in Egypt)

she felt that the Gnosticism was *political* threat to Roman church

Irenaeus attacked the Gnostic beliefs as heresies, he said

- only one God

- what Jesus taught is written in the New Testament
 - only one set of teachings

- population needs church to provide absolution of sins

many of the Gnostic ideas were like the experiences of the mystics
but Irenaeus put a stop to all Gnostic beliefs or anything like them
hence no mysticism

- teachings of Jesus are only what is said in Bible

what is a mystic, precise definition of mystic

Rabbi Amy Scheinerman:

Kabbalah (meaning “that which has been received”) is the intellectual and methodological approach to accessing the timeless truth of reality in the here and now. In other words, it is the process of acquiring and practicing esoteric knowledge and techniques for glimpsing the reality beyond our material world - ultimately, for “glimpsing” the Ultimate Reality, God.

Google: (same as the Oxford English Dictionary)

a person who seeks by contemplation and self-surrender to obtain unity with or absorption into the Deity or the absolute,

[Note continuation]:

or who believes in the spiritual apprehension of truths that are beyond the intellect.

Sufi: direct personal experience of God

mine: a oneness experience with the Godhead/Creator

also: process of having the mystical experience changes how you choose to live your life

go from *believing* there is a Central Deity to *knowing* there is some power out there

not a conversion experience like Paul’s on the road to Damascus

not a dream

not a series of dreams that give unusual impact

not a near death experience (NDE)

not like a mystical image of fog above a lake in a forest

not equivalent to a wizard

how to get to a mystical experience

traditionally three pathways:

service

study

mediation and contemplation

I would add how you live and the choices you make

not something to take on lightly

Jewish story of 4 rabbis to enter the divine orchard or paradise:

one died immediately

one went mad immediately

one cut the plants (did he perhaps try to destroy the orchard?)

one emerged in peace

generally a multi-year project

lots of work and study ahead

lots of fixing yourself and changing some habits

restrictions on learning the Kabbalah:

be at least 40 years of age (changed to 20 years by Cordovero)

high moral standards

prior rabbinic learning

married

mental and emotional stability

no control over when the experience will happen

it just does, when you are ready and the time is right

Classical elements

air, earth, water, fire

proposed by pre-Socratic philosophers

Plato

428/427 BCE until 348/347 BCE, in Athens

added regular convex polyhedron solids to each

Aristotle

384 BCE until 322 BCE, Euboea (north east of Athens)

dropped the shapes and added hot & cold/wet& dry

used by Medieval alchemists

gets into their very early scientific work

gets into the alchemists' desire to turn lead into gold

also used the humors in healing

Element	Humor	Shape (Plato) Hot/Cold/Wet/ Dry (Aristotle)	Element considered most important by (dates approximate)
Earth	Melancholic: depressed, irascible, sad, unhappy	Cube 6 squares cold and dry	Xenophanes (540–537 BCE)
Water	Phlegmatic: slow, stolid, cool, impassive	Icosahedron 20 triangles cold and wet	Thales (624 – 546 BC)
Fire	Choleric: zeal, enthusiasm, daring	Tetrahedron 4 triangles hot and dry	Heraclitus, around 500 BCE
Air	Sanguine: sturdy, confident, optimistic, cheerful, happy	Octahedron 8 triangles hot and wet	Anaximenes (flourished c. 545 BCE)
Aether		Dodecahedron 12 pentagons	first mentioned by Plato in <i>Timeas</i>

also used in astrology, each sign of the zodiac is associated with air, water, fire or earth

aether

history

4 elements resulted from trying to understand the universe/how it worked

i.e., basically very early science

aether

also used for name of the medium in which the stars resided
the “air” breathed by the gods on Mt. Olympus
not the same as the air we breathe

Medieval alchemists called it “quintessence”

study to try to prove aether:

Michelson-Morley experiment of 1887
showed that aether was not present

prana

may hear the word

found one reference that says same as aether and White Light
not accurate, totally different

prana is life force or aliveness in the body

leaves with soul at death

Chopra Center: (part of article on chakras, detail later, Session VI, 10/25/16)

“To visualize a chakra in the body, imagine a swirling wheel of energy where matter and consciousness meet. This invisible energy, called Prana, is vital life force, which keeps us vibrant, healthy, and alive.”

in Indian philosophy (Upanishads)

one of body’s vital airs or energies (Encyclopedia Britannica)

in Ayurvedic medicine

life force, vitality; life sustaining energy centered in human brain
life force governing inspiration and conscious intellect

similar to qu (chi) in Chinese medicine

similar to ki in Japanese

White Light

a lot of trouble finding any good information with resources

friend in Baltimore

when her kids were first starting to drive

she would just wrap the car in white cotton batting!!

what little I found was the following:

always positive, never dark

if you think of it, it is there for you

used for protection and healing

definitely not aether

definitely not prana

then realized that I created a thought form that was a white lotus

sat on a counter in the lower level

each morning I expanded that to White Light and protect the house

Resources:

General:

<http://www.themystica.com/mystica/default.html>

Awarded from: Britannica.com; Criteria: Editors selected site as one of the best on the Internet for quality, accuracy of content, presentation and usability. See home page in the bottom left for the search feature

<http://www.crystalinks.com/>

<http://www.ancient-wisdom.com/>

<http://www.encyclopediaomadica.org/>

Carol E. Parrish-Harra, Ph.D., *New Dictionary of Spiritual Thought*, Sparrow Hawk Press, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, 2002

an excellent dictionary with entries on just about anything in spiritual and esoteric concepts and thought from a number of religions, clear and easy to understand

Kybalion, Three Initiates

actual authorship uncertain, primary candidate is William Walker Atkinson

not a book to sit down and read through, better to read a chapter and then think about it for awhile

however, it is a book that one can go back to again and again

ADK Luk books (Alice Schutz)

To purchase:

<http://www.alohapeace.com/lawoflife.aspx>

not necessarily an easy read

lots of very detailed information on the Masters of the White Brotherhood (mystical beings who are often mentioned in various discussions)

Mystical Traditions:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysticism> -

[Jewish mysticism](http://holybooks.lichtenbergpress.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/The-Origin-of-Western-Mysticism.pdf)<http://holybooks.lichtenbergpress.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/The-Origin-of-Western-Mysticism.pdf>

about Plotinus

long but interesting, good definition and understanding

<https://westernmystics.wordpress.com/>

read thoroughly, some things hidden in this I think
not clear what they mean by the term “mystic”

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/mysticism/>

erudite, check, good resource so may be helpful

search on how to obtain a mystical experience

<http://www.sawka.com/spiritwatch/cehsc/ipure.htm>

Bruce B Janz, Ph.D. Professor, University of Central Florida

<http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~janzb/mysticism/>

resources for Bruce Janz’s class on Western Mysticism, University of Central Florida
lots of info, links and cross references
under section on Academic Study of Western Mysticism, first subsection:
click on Mysticism, PPT presentation

Evelyn Underhill

<http://www.evelynunderhill.org/>

Underhill, Evelyn, *Mysticism*, 12th EDITION, New York, Meridian Books, 1955

Janz: “an old classic but later works fulfill this project better”

Underhill, Evelyn, *Practical Mysticism*, New York, E.P. Dutton, 1915

Janz: “good introduction, kind of a primer on mystical life”

Rabbi Amy Scheinerman

<http://scheinerman.net/judaism/Ideas/index.html>

click on Kabbalah in the list on her web site

Recommended reading:

Daniel C. Matt, *The Essential Kabbalah: The Heart of Jewish Mysticism*

Lawrence Kushner, *The Way Into Jewish Mystical Tradition*

Zev ben Shimon Halevi, *The Work of the Kabbalist*

Moshe Idel, *Kabbalah: New Perspectives*

per Rabbi Scheinerman, not recommended are:

The Kabbalah Centre

Michael or Yehuda Berg

Classical Elements:

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/xenophanes/>

<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Thales-of-Miletus>

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/heraclitus/>

<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Anaximenes-of-Miletus>

<http://www.friesian.com/elements.htm>

compares the elements as used in various faiths and languages

An Unusual Item

Proceedings of the Freisian School, Fourth Series <http://www.friesian.com/>

some interesting concepts but rather unusual

just the kind of thing that may challenge your ideas

but also the kind of material that may just have a nugget of interest for you

Aether – Michelson-Morley Experiment (1887):

<http://galileoandstein.physics.virginia.edu/lectures/michelson.html>

see section: Detecting the Aether Wind

<http://scienceworld.wolfram.com/physics/Michelson-MorleyExperiment.html>

Prana:

<http://www.chopra.com/ccl/what-is-a-chakra>

quoted above in section on Prana