

Introduction

This lesson introduces students to the continual pattern of the Abrahamic Monotheistic Religions. All three claim a special relationship with the creator. This is the spiritual or beyond the written word experience of the Koran, Bible or Torah. Each separate religion developed its own version of the highly controversial, experiential manifestations of its fuller development of embracing the creator of the universe on a subjective personal level.

Objectives

1. To understand the motivation of the religious experience.
2. To understand how each manifests a different experience.
3. To understand the commonality of the practices.

Part 1: Brief overview of the three distinctive manifestations

1. Kabbalah-beyond the Torah is learned through the individual words and the spiritual meaning of the Hebrew Letters also the Zohar is relevant.
2. Sufism relies on the Risala to define quotations of the Koran, prophetic tradition, and reference exemplary behavior of ascetics and saints.
3. Mysticism- is studied and practiced in varied forms and range from ecstatic visions of the soul's mystical union with God to simple prayerful contemplation of Holy Scripture.

Part 2: Providing a glimpse of the experience

Divide the class into three separate groups

Assign viewings of Videos

1. Kabbalah-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHqLrW4TOfA>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agG34-UcAbk&feature=relmfu>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FEykDoaTHg&feature=relmfu>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuuWPDx-Z2c&feature=relmfu>

2. Sufism-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEdCXRGJuM8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnunfciSr7k&feature=fvwrel>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGfDcsrFOE8&feature=related>

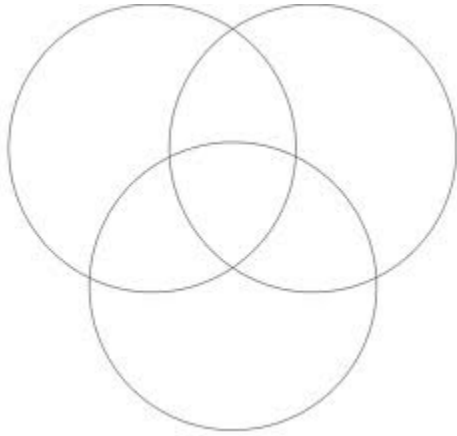
3. Mysticism-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01J6TqPD4lc&feature=related>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1czadp_mzw&feature=relmfu

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHDVgMGmzcw&feature=related>

Part 3: Making the connections:



A three tiered Venn diagram will allow polling and information to be viewed for continuity and reinforce the continued similarities of the monotheistic religions.

References:

Principles of Sufism, al-Qushayri, 1990. Mizan Press

The Oracles of Kabbalah, Richard Seldman, 2001. St. Martin's Press

The Big Book of Christian Mysticism: The Essential Guide to Contemplative Spirituality, Carl McColman, 2010. Hampton Roads Publishing Company, Inc.

Greg Hause

NEH Summer Institute Participant

9/9/2012 (date submitted to dropbox)