



Recommended Reading - World Religions Sacred Texts

Introductions to World Religions

Bowker, John. World Religions: The Great Faiths Explored & Explained. New York: DK Publishing, 2006.

Matlins, Stuart M. and Arthur J. Magida. How to be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook. Woodstock: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2010.

Smith, Huston. The Illustrated World's Religions: A Guide to Our Wisdom Traditions. New York: HarperOne, 1994.

Smith, Huston. The World's Religions. New York: HarperOne, 1991.

World Religion Websites

www.afrikaworld.net

www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions

www.patheos.com

www.religioustolerance.org

www.religiouslyremapped.info

- Religiously Remapped: Mapping Religious Trends in Africa
- Eugene Adogla for Stanford Undergraduate Research Programs

www.religiousintelligence.co.uk

- Religious Intelligence: Delivering Intelligence News in an Ever-changing World

www.religionfacts.com

- Charts and articles on a wide variety of world religions both ancient and modern, as well as "ways of life," philosophies, mind-body teachings, and even some anti-religion systems like ancient Epicureanism and modern atheism

www.sacred-texts.com

- Welcome to the largest freely available archive of online books about religion, mythology, folklore and the esoteric on the Internet. The site is dedicated to religious tolerance and scholarship, and has the largest readership of any similar site on the web.

Books

African

Magesa, Laurenti. African Religion: The Moral Traditions of Abundant Life. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1997.

Buddhist

Armstrong, Karen. Buddha. New York: Penguin Books, 2004.

Buddha Dharma Education Association. <http://www.buddhanet.net/>

Keown, Damien. Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Sangharakshita. The Eternal Legacy: An Introduction to the Canonical Literature of Buddhism. Birmingham: Windhorse Publications, 2006.

Jewish

Neusner, Jacob. The Mishnah: A New Translation. New haven: Yale University Press, 1988.

Solomon, Norman. The Talmud: A Selection. New York: Penguin Classics, 2009.

Solomon, Norman. Judaism: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Hindu

Knott, Kim. Hinduism: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Yoga

Varenne, Jean. Yoga and the Hindu Tradition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1976.

Muslim

Armstrong, Karen. Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Time. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2006.

Armstrong, Karen. Islam: A Short History. New York: Modern Library, 2002.

Hirtenstein, Stephen and Martin Notcutt, translators. Divine Sayings: 101 Hadith Qudsi. Oxford: ANQA Publishing, 2008.

Cleary, Thomas, translator. The Wisdom of the Prophet: Sayings of Muhammad – selections from the Hadith. Boston: Shambhala, 2001.

Ruthven, Malise. Islam: A very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Sufism

Chittick, William C. Sufism: Beginner's Guide. Oxford: OneWorld, 2005.

Chittick, William C. The Sufi Path of Knowledge. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1989.

Chittick, William C. The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1983.

Sikhism

Nesbitt, Eleanor. Sikhism: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Wicca

Farrar, Janet and Stewart. The Witches' Way: Principles, Rituals and Beliefs of Modern Witchcraft. Custer: Phoenix Publishing, 1984.

Videos Worth Watching

Hartley Film Foundation. Jews & Christians: A Journey of Faith

Hartley Film Foundation. World Religions: Vol 1 – Many Paths

Hartley Film Foundation & Frontline. Muslims

KQED Production. Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet

National Geographic. Inside Mecca

PBS Home Video. From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians

Sacred Texts – many translations to choose from

Van Voorst, Robert E. Anthology of World Scriptures. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2006.

<http://www.bl.uk/learning/cult/sacredbooks/sacredintro.html>

Buddhist

Tripitaka (Pali Canon) – “3 baskets”

Sutras (Lotus, Heart, Land of Bliss)

Tibetan Book of the Dead

Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints

The Book of Mormon

Pearl of Great Price

Doctrine and Covenants

Hindu

Bhagavad-Gita (The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust)

Vedas = Book of Knowledge

Itihasas = History

Tantras = Rules of Discipline

Darshanas = Systematic Theology of the Vedas

Upanishads = Q&A Between Sages and Their Students

Muslim

Koran

Hadith

Sira

Jewish

Hebrew Bible

Midrash

Talmud, Mishnah, Gemara

Zohar (Kabbalah)

Wicca and Neo-Pagan

The Gardnerian Book of Shadows