

The Religion Toolkit: A Complete Guide to Religious Studies


By John Morreall, Tamara Sonn




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This complete overview of religious studies provides students with the essential knowledge and tools they need to explore and understand the nature of religion.

- Covers the early development of religion, with overviews of major and minor religions from Islam to Scientology
- Considers recent developments including secularization; the relationship between religion and science; and scientific studies on religion, health, and mystical experience
- Uses humor throughout, allowing students to remain open-minded to the subject
- Explains what it means to study religion academically, and considers the impact of the study of religion on religion itself
- Contains numerous student-friendly features including photos, maps, time lines, side bars, historical profiles, and population distribution figures
- Provides classroom users with a lively website, www.wiley.com/go/religiontoolkit, including questions, quizzes, extra material, and helpful primary and secondary sources

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Editorial Review

Review

"*The Religion Toolkit: A Complete Guide to Religious Studies* is a unique one-stop resource. Although religion continues to be a powerful source of personal faith and a significant factor in domestic and international politics, astonishingly studies show that most people are religiously illiterate. Morreall and Sonn's tool kit will prove essential for all (students, media, policymakers and the general public) who want to understand religions and their impact today."

—**John L. Esposito**, Georgetown University

"A decade after 9/11, the world still seems to be torn between competing religious and political ideas. John Morreall and Tamara Sonn provide us a road-map based on objective analysis and scholarly research that offers us a method of understanding the nature of our world. Most important, they give us hope. Anyone interested in making sense of our times should be reading this book."

—**Ambassador Akbar Ahmed**, American University

"An invaluable guide for students of religion! The overview of Religious Studies theory is one of the clearest I have read."

—**Ravi M. Gupta**, College of William and Mary

"This is a highly intelligent, accessible and thoughtful contribution to religious studies by two of the most respected and accomplished scholars of religion working in the field today."

—**Mumtaz Ahmad**, International Islamic University, Islamabad

From the Back Cover

This unique introductory textbook is a complete overview of Religious Studies, providing students with the essential knowledge and tools they need to explore and understand the nature of religion.

In a lively and engaging way, the authors draw together the main elements of Religious Studies, allowing the reader to develop an integrated understanding of religion. The book provides:

- an overview of the roles of religion in society; an account of the historic development of Religious Studies, and an introduction to some of the major theories and methods - the tools - used in the study of religion;
- an exploration of the diversity of world religions through overviews of some of the early religions; the family of Western monotheisms (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam); Indian traditions (Hinduism and Buddhism); Chinese traditions (Confucian, Taoist, and Buddhist); and less familiar religions such as Zoroastrianism, Shinto, and Native American religion;
- the impact of Religious Studies and the natural sciences on religion, exploring issues such as developments in scriptural studies, feminist and liberation theology, evolutionism vs. creationism, and ongoing debates about the future of religion in modern society.

The attractive design, lively text, numerous illustrations, sidebars, text boxes, questions, and activities all make *The Religion Toolkit* an exciting and thought-provoking book to use.

About the Author

John Morreall is Professor of Religious Studies at the College of William and Mary. He has published widely in the philosophy of religion, and on the comic dimensions of world religions. His book *Comedy, Tragedy, and Religion* (1999) won the Choice Outstanding Academic Book 2000. He is also the author of *Comic Relief: A Comprehensive Philosophy of Humor* (2009), published by Wiley-Blackwell.

Tamara Sonn is the Wm. R. Kenan Distinguished Professor of Humanities in the Department of Religious Studies at the College of William and Mary. Her books include *Comparing Religions through Law: Judaism and Islam* (with J. Neusner, 1999) and *Islam: A Brief History, 2nd edition* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010). She was senior editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of Islam* (2003), and associate editor of *The Islamic World Past and Present* (2004). She is currently an editor of *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*, and of *Encyclopedia of the Islamic World* (2009). In addition, Sonn is editor-in-chief of *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Islamic Studies*, and co-editor-in-chief of Wiley-Blackwell's *Religion Compass*.

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Todd Pfeifer:

The book *The Religion Toolkit: A Complete Guide to Religious Studies* has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was written by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research prior to write this book. This book very easy to read you can find the point easily after reading this article book.

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