# Religions Chart: Unit

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| **Religion Name** | **Islam - Sunni/Shi’a** | **Sufi** |
| **Origins:**  **Founder, Key Figures, Historical Development, Cosmogony, Myths** |  | Founder:   * Muhammad (570 - 632 CE) (Molloy, pg 409)   + Viewed as the last in a long line of prophets tasked with transmitting God’s word to humanity (Molloy, pg 412)   Key Figures:   * Rabia (c. 717-801 CE) (Molloy, pg 437)   + Early Sufi saint that left writings that spoke of God as her lover * al-Ghazali (1058 - 1111 CE) (Molloy, pg 440)   + Renowned scholar and professor that, after finding his life unfulfilling, spent ten years travelling before returning home and forming a Sufi brotherhood * Jala-ud-Din Rumi (1207 - 1273 CE) (Molloy, pg 440-41)   + founder of Maulawiya sect of Sufism (Molloy, pg 440)   + poet and author of *Mesnevi* (Molloy, pg 440)   Historical Development:   * Expansion of Islam under Umayyad dynasty leads to contact with Christian Monks and hermits living throughout Egypt, Israel and Syria (Molloy, pg 436)   + Simplicity of monks impresses and begins to influence nearby Muslims (Molloy, pg 436) * Early Sufism is undefined and tends to form around particularly charismatic leaders and stresses the inclusion of emotion into religion (Molloy, pg 436) * al-Ghazali returns from ten years of wandering and forms first Sufi brotherhood in Baghdad, Iraq (Molloy, pg 440) * Subsequent brotherhoods begin to spawn in more cities and begin to be formally led by a specific master (Molloy, pg 440)     Cosmogony:   * Allah created the universe as a way to experience himself and everything in existence carries his presence (Molloy, pg 448)   Myths:   * By stripping away the self, all that remains is God. Because of that, God manifests himself through everyone and everything (Molloy, pg 437) |
| **Basic Beliefs:**  **God, Afterlife, Humanity, Evil, scripture/sacred writings, authority, other unique beliefs or points of view.** |  | God:   * Allah (God) (Molloy, pg 409)   + Unlike traditional Islam, Allah is infinite and all realities are just reflections of him. All activity is, by extension, the activity of God. As Allah is in all things, all things are just a way for Allah to experience himself (Molloy, pg 448)   Humanity:   * The purpose of life is to experience God directly (Molloy, pg 436)   Scripture/Sacred Writings:   * ←-- See Qur’an   Unique Beliefs/PoVs:   * Mystic branch of Islam (Molloy, pg 436) * Values deliberate simplicity (Molloy, pg 436) * The highest experience one can have is a direct experience with God (Molloy, pg 436) * Muhammad was a true mystic whose life of simplicity and submission to God allowed him to meet with God in the flesh and speak with him as one speaks to a friend, which constitutes the pinnacle of religious experiences (Molloy, pg 436) |
| **Practices:**  **Annual Festivals, Regular Meetings, Rites of Passage, Ethical Codes, Expectations of Individual Piety** |  | Rites of Passage:   * In Sufi brotherhoods, the students are overseen by a faqir/darwish (poor) master who attempts to pass on his knowledge (Molloy, pg 440)   Ethical Codes:   * A good Muslim must includes their emotions in their devotion to Allah (Molloy, pg 436)   Expectations of Individual Piety:   * Proper followers must help the poor and those in distress (Molloy, pg 442) * Five Pillars (Molloy, pg 415)   + Shahadah (creed) - There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger (Molloy, pg 415     - Whoever says this statement with belief is considered a Muslim (Molloy, pg 415)   + Salat (prayer) - Devout Muslims must pray five times a day, facing Mecca, typically guided by a muezzin standing at the top of a minaret (Molloy, pg 416-17)   + Zakat (charity) - ~2.5% tithe required to be paid to the poor each year and general spirit of generosity a true Muslim should hold year round (Molloy, pg 418)   + Sawm (Ramadan fasting) - act of abstaining from eating food during Ramadan in order to develop a better sense of sympathy and discipline   + Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca) - expectation that all Muslims must visit Mecca at some point during their life (Molloy, pg 419) * May not consume pork or alcohol (Molloy, pg 423) * May not gamble or charge interest on loans (Molloy, pg 423) |
| **Sacred Spaces: Geographical Locations, Special Places, Typical worship location** |  | Geographical Locations:   * Baghdad, Iraq (Molloy, pg 440)   + Birthplace and home of al-Ghazali (Molloy, pg 440)   Typical Worship Location:   * Traditionally a hidden location due to superstitious beliefs (Molloy, pg 442) |

Works Cited

Molloy, M. (2012). *Experiencing the World’s Religions: Tradition, Challenge, and Change*. 6th Ed. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.