

Magic, Science and Religion — Selected Theorists —

The following is a list of theorists along with at least one of their key ideas that is relevant to the study of MSR. Some, but not all of the following will be covered in class at some point.

Select one of the following theorists to research in depth on your own. You will be looking for the full body of their work, and the themes or pattern of ideas that run through all of their work. You will be expected to read as much of their original writings as is available. You are welcome but not required to read biographical information and reviews or critiques of their contributions as well. Please focus on your theorist's own writing and contributions, not the assessments of their followers, critics or detractors.

You will be applying your theorist's approach to the questions provided on the Cover Sheet for this assignment. **Be sure to go beyond the one idea, book or article listed below (to the right of the theorists' names) or the ideas introduced in class.**

The Cover Sheet and Research Questions for this writing assignment will be posted separately

Rabbi Akiva	The PARDES Model
Gregory Bateson	An Ecology of the Mind, Cybernetics, Mind and Nature
Bruno Bettelheim	The Uses of Enchantment (and many other works)
Erica Bourguignon	Spirit Possession and Social Change
Fernand Braudel	Ecology and economic cycles of history
Jacob Bronowski	Science and Human Values
Charles Darwin	Evolutionary Theory/Natural Selection (and more)
Richard Dawkins	Evolutionary Biology, Religion and Society
Daniel Dennett	Evolution of Consciousness and Religion (and more)
Emile Durkheim	Elementary Forms of Religious Life (and more)
Paul Ekman	Reading emotions — from deception to compassion
Jacques Ellul	The Technological Society (and more)
Frederich Engels	Origins of the Family, Private Property, State
Frantz Fanon	Colonialism, Race, Religion and the African Revolution
George Foster	Theory of the Image of Limited Good/Evil Eye
Sigmund Freud	On the Origins of Religion (and much more)
Felicitas Goodman	Religion as an Adaptive Strategy / Spirit Possession
Al Gore	Democracy and Ecological Degradation
Michael Harner	Indigenous and Core Shamanism
Marvin Harris	Cultural Materialism and Religion (and more)
Eric Hoffer	The True Believer / Mass Movements (and more)
Abd-er-Rahman Ibn Khaldûn	Theory of Oscillating Elites (and much more)
Sudhir Kakar	Mystics, Shamans and Doctors / Hinduism & healing
Petr Kropotkin	Mutual Aid and Altruism in Evolution / Anarchy
Thomas Kuhn	The Structure of Scientific Revolutions / Paradigm Shift
George Leonard	Mastery and the Anti-Mastery Mentality (and more)
Peter Levine	An Ethological Approach to Trauma, Somatic Healing

Galina Lindquist	Shamanism, Healing and Political Order
I.M. Lewis	Shamanism, Possession, Psychiatry, Gender & Power
Bronislaw Malinowski	Magic, Science & Religion / Ethnography (much more)
Herbert Marcuse	One Dimensional Man (and more)
Marcel Mauss	Theory of Reciprocity and Exchange (and more)
Ralph Metzner	The Structure of Altered States (and more)
Ashley Montague	The Nature / Nurture Debate
Lewis Henry Morgan	Unilineal Social Evolutionary Theory (and more)
Michael Murphy	The Future of the Body / Integral Transformative Practice
Henri Poincaré	The Value of Science (and more)
Michael Pollan	Ecology, Agriculture and Food
Gabrielle Roth	Shamanism, Music and Dance
Carl Sagan	Astronomy, Science, Religion and the Environment
Michael Shermer	Skepticism and Science / Rationality
C.P. Snow	Two Cultures Theory (and more)
Melford Spiro	Burmese Supernaturalism / The Kibbutz Movement
Yonina Talmon	Millenarian Movements / The Kibbutz Movement
Lenore Terr	Childhood Trauma/Symbolic Reenactment (and more)
Sir Edward Tylor	Animism, Totemism, Dynamism, Ancestors (and more)
Arnold van Gennep	Rites of Passage
Thorstein Veblen	Theory of the Leisure Class
E.O. Wilson	Sociobiology / Etymology / Species Extinction
Michael Winkelman	Shamanism / Entheogens / Alternative Healing
Karl Wittfogel	Oriental Despotism / Origins of Religion and the State
John Zerzan	Anarchy / History and consequences of technology