



PAGANISM AND NEO-PAGANISM

What is Paganism and Neo-Paganism?

Modern Paganism, also known as Contemporary Paganism and Neopaganism, is a collective term for new religious movements influenced by or derived from the various historical pagan beliefs of pre-modern peoples.

Dr. Travis Winden on Wicca (Part 1, his Introduction & Backstory) <https://youtu.be/Hw1oqnDGcQE>

Dr. Travis presented how he got involved in the Wiccan religion, taking the opportunity to really tell about his personal history, and explaining his own spiritual quest and backstory.

Dr. Travis Winden on Wicca (Part 2) https://youtu.be/jNH_w1pP3ag

Dr. Travis showed a series of slides detailing and explaining not only the history of Wicca itself, which was actually created in the 1950s, but also many of the Pagan ancestral roots of its precursors. He went on to detail the beliefs, structures, and functions operating in modern Wiccan culture today. In this segment, he provided a list of recommended readings for those who want to explore this path further.

Dr. Travis Winden on Wicca (Part 3) <https://youtu.be/Il8ntJzwtZg>

Dr. Travis held a question and answer period and fielded questions from both students and faculty, with some lively discussion ensued, including some fascinating information about various scenarios within Wiccan culture and practice, and discussions about where Wiccans go to find community.

Molly Stanton on Paganism & Neo-Paganism Across Time & Cultures Part 1 - <https://youtu.be/bl7m613HWzg>

Molly Stanton begins her overview of various cultures' traditions, origins and beliefs, some quite surprising. She traces similarities, derivations, and commonalities across geographic borders of places as diverse as Ireland, India, and Norway, but also in terms of the cycle of the "Wheel of the year" and its seasons, and how these relate to the practices and customs of various traditions—some native, and some, like Wicca, which was actually synthesized much later in the 20th Century. With an accompanying slide presentation, she shows how many traditions grew out of multiple sources as well as some common threads. Eclectic in her own outlook, Molly is quick to point out that these mixed ancient and modern origins do not invalidate any path or set of practices, illustrating how the approach to spirit can be ever evolving.

Molly Stanton on Paganism & Neo-Paganism Part 2 - <https://youtu.be/aQ5PPSdPeWA>

Molly finishes her talk on the Wheel of the Year, and invites discussion from class and faculty.

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