Lesson Three Introduction

- All religions must be tolerated... for... every man must get to heaven his own way. ~Frederick the Great
- This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness. ~Dalai Lama
- People don't come to church for preachments, of course, but to daydream about God. ~Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
- No man treats a motor car as foolishly as he treats another human being. When the car will not go, he does not attribute its annoying behavior to sin, he does not say, "You are a wicked motorcar, and I shall not give you any more petrol until you go." He attempts to find out what is wrong and set it right. ~Bertrand Russell, Has Religion Made Useful Contributions to Civilization?
- Religion is a monumental chapter in the history of human egotism. ~William James
- Religion is the sign of the oppressed creature, the sentiment of a heartless world, and the soul of soul-less conditions. It is the opium of the people. ~Karl Marx, "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right," 1884
- It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods or no God. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg. ~Thomas Jefferson
- My religiosity consists in a humble admiration of the infinitely superior spirit that reveals itself in the little that we, with our weak and transitory understanding, can comprehend of reality. Morality is of the highest importance - but for us, not for God. ~Albert Einstein
- There is a story, which is fairly well known, about when the missionaries came to Africa. They had the Bible and we, the natives, had the land. They said "Let us pray," and we dutifully shut our eyes. When we opened them, why, they now had the land and we had the Bible. ~Desmond M. Tutu, "Religious Human Rights and the Bible"
- I have never resisted the lord in my life, and I never will. But I'm not so hungry for dialogue with him that I have to make up his part as well as my own. ~Orson Scott Card
- Indeed, terror knows no faith. ~Ibrahim Hooper

This range of quote, from those who are Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, atheist, agnostic, and deist, gives a broad view of religion and the many interpretations people have about the concept of belief, or absence of belief, in higher powers. Religion affects culture, and in turn, culture affects history. In HIST 1111, students undertook a historical study of several world religions, including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. This lesson in HIST 1112 seeks to stretch that study from the 17th century into the 21st century by examining how the religions from the earlier class have changed and evolved in the last 400 years.
Additionally, this lesson looks at the cultural life of the period, with a particular focus on Romanticism.

My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings,

Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and Despair!

Nothing beside remains. Round the decay

Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare

The lone and level sands stretch far away.

~Ozymandias, by Percy Bysshe Shelley

The *Norton Anthology of English Literature* describes the Romantic era as "turbulent." The poetic excerpt above gives an example of the sort of "tempestuous" flavor of the era. We can also think of it as a time when artists, writers, and composers rebelled against the "classics" and the attention to pure reason that came from the Enlightenment. The era also was reactionary against the rise of industrialism. In a literary sense, the Romantic period lasted from roughly 1775 to 1830; in music and visual art, the period spans a greater scope, about 1800 to 1900, give or take a few years. Historians find it difficult to pin Romanticism down to specific dates because the influence of Romanticism occurred at different times in different places. Still, the era has unifying themes: independence and individuality, an interest in all things mysterious, heroism, and an emphasis on everyday life.