Subject : Social Psychology (MPF 1703)
Date : 29 November 2011
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Irrational Belief

- People believe a lots of seemingly crazy things even though there is no rational basis for these beliefs.

- People who hold irrational belief are:
  - more anxious
  - cope less well with terminal illness
  - more likely to be depressed over time
  - have lower levels of self-esteem
Religious Belief

- Science may not be able to know whether religious beliefs are true or not, but it can examine why people have those beliefs.

- Provides social support, sense of meaning, direction and fosters development of virtues.
- Help people cope.
- Appealing to a superordinate principle may help to reduce dissonance (may elicit fear & guilty).