

The Philosophy of Pain

WHAT WE LEARNED

Pain is an incredibly complex entity, and must be addressed through many different avenues and perspectives

BACKGROUND

Though there are many differences in cultures, traditions, philosophy, and religion, pain is present in some capacity for every human on earth.

The study of pain traces back millennia, but only recently has interdisciplinary and multimodal pain control become common in the healthcare fields.

There is extensive existing research on the physiology and pathway of pain, but less on the psychosocial aspects of pain as understood in an individual context.

OBJECTIVES

This paper seeks to offer a broader perspective on how healthcare professionals can understand pain and how individuals can conceptualize pain.

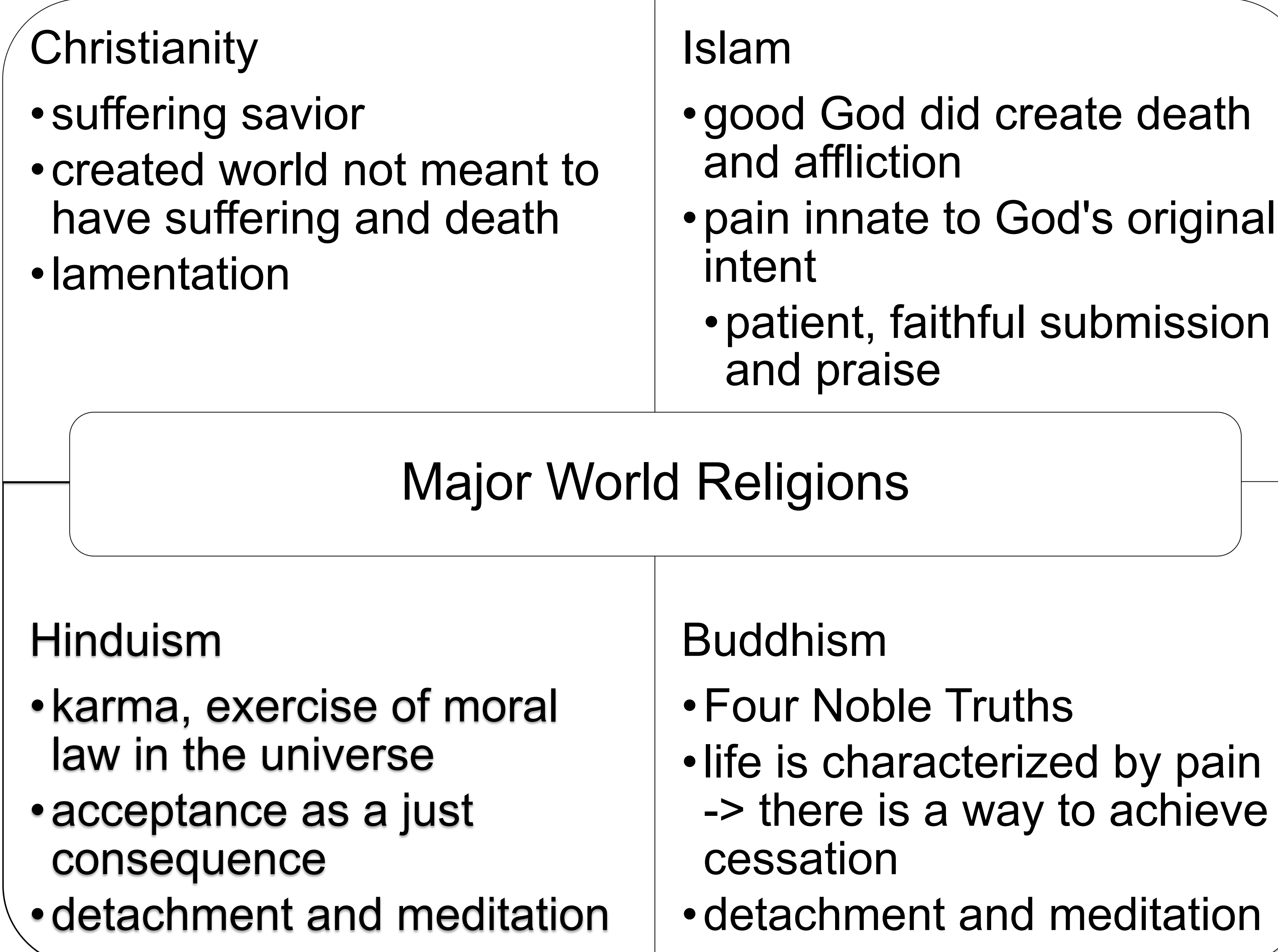
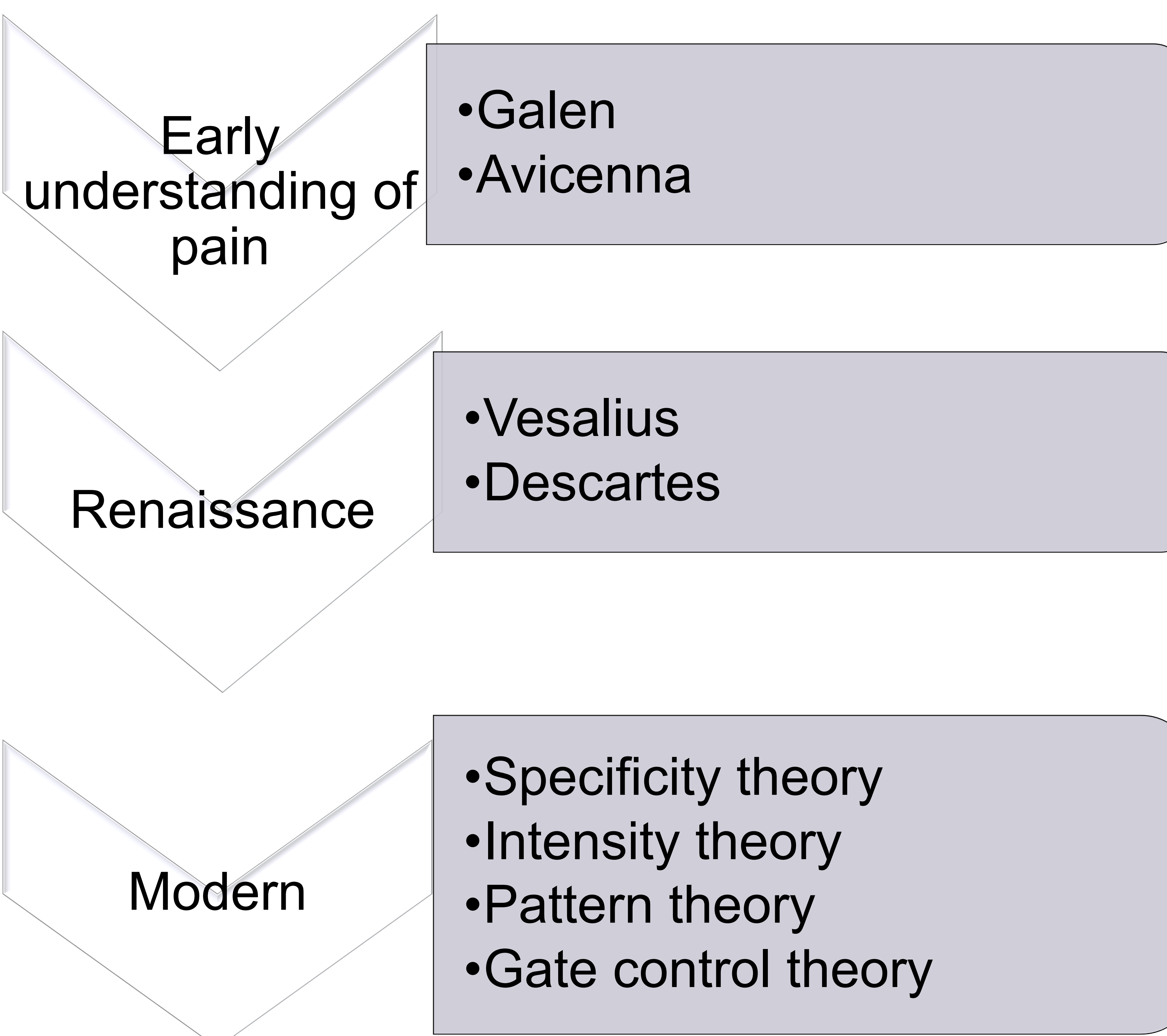
METHODS

This paper examines the history of pain from primary sources and considers different perspectives on by diving into different religious and cultural understandings of pain.

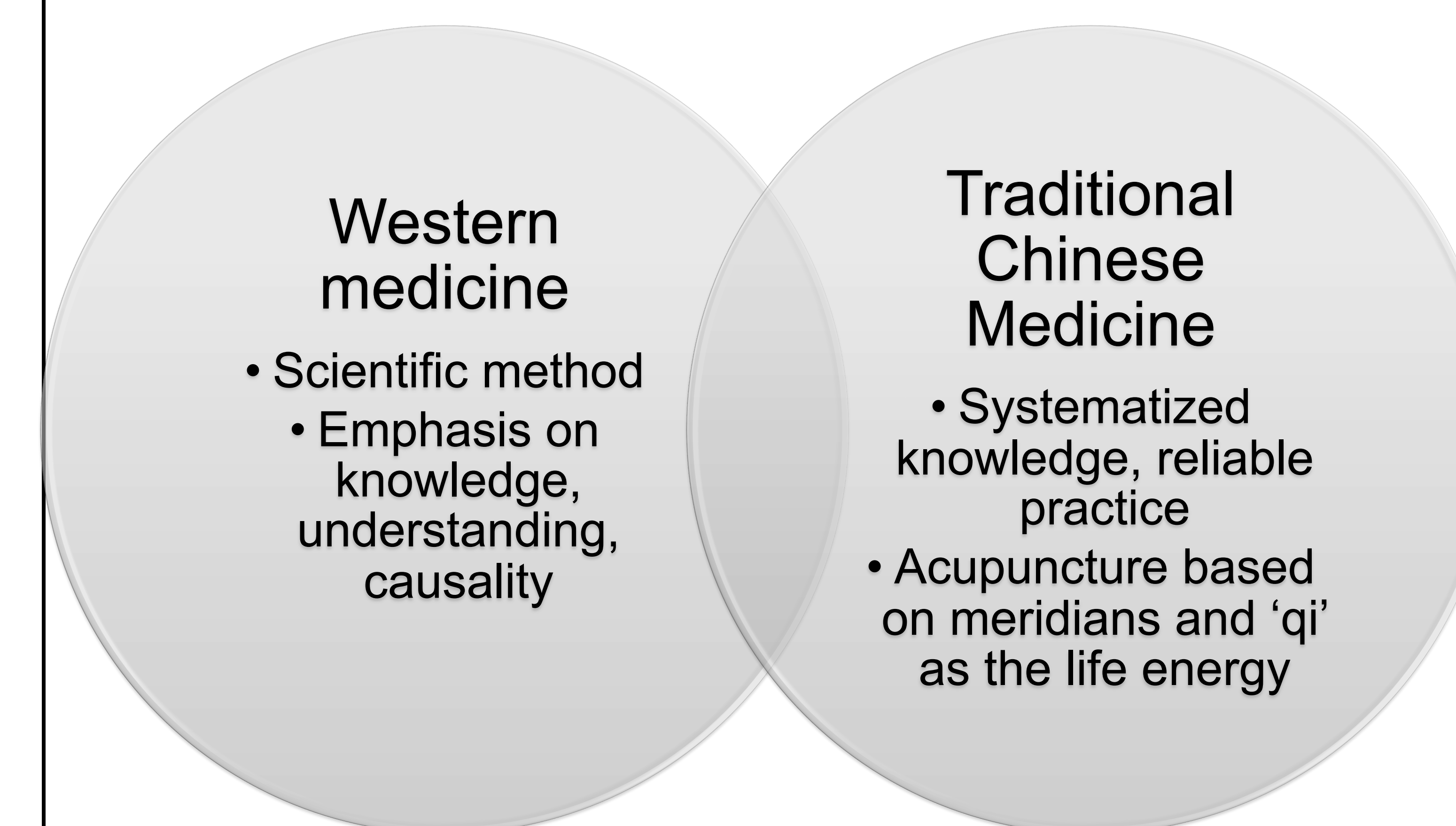
Draws on previously existing pain research/physiology from varied sources.

Literature review of published work with commentaries on culture approaches to pain in the healthcare setting.

RESULTS



RESULTS



LIMITATIONS

Limited source material

Cultural sources primarily studied ethnic minorities in Western contexts

CONCLUSIONS

It is vital in the healthcare setting to acknowledge that the culture of patients and the culture of providers influence pain care.

More extensive research is needed into understanding pain in many different contexts, including gender, religion, culture, and philosophy.