

# 840:112:03 DEATH AND AFTERLIFE FALL 2014

## Description

The course looks at the beliefs and practices on the topic of death and afterlife in major religious traditions of the world.

## Instructor

Dr. Thomas Myladil

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Office: Loree 134, Douglass Campus

Office Hours: By appointment

## Requirements

### 1. Class Attendance and Participation

You are expected to attend and actively participate in every class meeting. Attendance will be marked in the roster and accounts for 10% of the final grade. Every class session missed, without authoritative documentation explaining the absence provided to the instructor, will result in one (1) point reduction of your attendance grade. Please note that late arrival to and early leaving from class might lower your attendance and participation grade.

The University encourages you to use the absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to you. This does not mean that your absence is excused.

### 2. Exams and Quizzes

Exam 1: Monday, September 29, in class

Exam 2: Monday, November 3, in class

Exam 3: Wednesday, December 10, in class

The dates of the Quizzes are given in the Course Schedule. They will be held at the beginning of the class.

## Grading

3 Exams 75%

3 Quizzes 15%

Attendance and Participation 10%

Grading System: A=100-90, B+=89-87, B=86-80, C+=79-77, C=76-70, D=69-65, F=64 and below.

No make-ups will be given on exam etc., unless arrangements are made prior to the scheduled dates with documentation for the reasons for requesting make-ups.

**Note:** Cellphones must be turned off in class. Laptops or tablets may be used only for note-taking. Anyone whose device goes off during class will lose points (1-2 per instance) from the attendance and participation grade and may be asked to leave for the remainder of that period.

## **Textbook** (required reading)

H. Obayashi, ed., *Death and Afterlife: Perspectives of World Religions*, Praeger.

## Course Schedule

<u>Class Days</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Sept. 3,	Introduction, Death and Afterlife in Early Societies Pan-Vitalism, Animism, Totemism...	<i>Textbook:</i> Introduction
Sept. 8, 10	Death and Afterlife in African Religions Hadza, Yombe, Mende...	Chapter 1
Sept. 15, 17	<b>Quiz 1</b> (15 <sup>th</sup> ), Death and Afterlife in Mesopotamia and Egypt The Underworld, Mummification...	Chapters 2-3
Sept. 22, 24	Death and Afterlife in Zoroastrianism, in Ancient Greece Towers of Silence, Hades, Socrates, Plato...	Chapter 4
Sept. 29	<b>Exam 1</b> in Class	
Oct. 1	Death and Afterlife in the Old Testament Pre-exilic and Post-exilic periods, Sheol...	Chapter 5
Oct. 6, 8	Death and Afterlife in the New Testament Resurrection, Jesus, New Testament writings...	Chapter 6
Oct. 13, 15	Death and Afterlife in Post-Biblical Judaism Rabbinical Tradition, World to Come...	Chapter 7
Oct. 20, 22	<b>Quiz 2</b> (20 <sup>th</sup> ), Death and Afterlife in Christianity Early Christianity, Medieval Christianity...	Chapter 8
Oct. 27, 29	Muslim Understanding of Death and Afterlife The Koran, Inter-world, Heaven, Hell...	Chapter 9
Nov. 3	<b>Exam 2</b> in Class	
Nov. 5, 10, 12	Death and Afterlife in Hinduism The Three Paths, Reincarnation...	Chapter 10
Nov. 17, 19	Death and Afterlife in Buddhism The Buddha's teachings, Nirvana...	Chapter 11
Nov. 24, Dec. 1	<b>Quiz 3</b> (24 <sup>th</sup> ), Tibetan Buddhist Views on Death and Afterlife Tantric Buddhism, The Tibetan Book of the Dead...	Chapter 12
Dec. 3, 8	Death and Afterlife in Chinese Religions Hun soul and P'o soul, Realms of Afterlife...	Chapter 13
Dec. 10	<b>Exam 3</b> (Final) in Class	