

# 840:112:02/03 DEATH AND AFTERLIFE SPRING 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. Exams (90% of final grade)

Exam 1: Monday, February 17, in class

Exam 2: Monday, March 31, in class

Exam 3: Monday, May 5, in class

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 these three exams already scheduled as above, unless arrangements are made prior to the scheduled dates with documentation for the reasons for requesting make-ups.

### 2. Class Attendance and Participation (10% of the final grade)

You are expected to attend and actively participate in every class meeting. If you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to you.

Every class session missed, without proper explanation provided through the dean's office, will result in one (1) point reduction of your final grade. Please note that late arrival to and early leaving from class might lower your attendance and participation grade.

Cellphones must be turned off in class. Laptops or tablets may be used only for note-taking.

## 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>
Jan. 22, 23	Introduction, Death and Afterlife in Early Societies Pan-Vitalism, Animism, Totemism...	<i>Textbook</i> : Introduction
Jan. 27-30	Death and Afterlife in African Religions Hadza, Yombe, Mende...	Chapter 1
Feb. 3-6	Death and Afterlife in Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt The Underworld, Mummification...	Chapters 2-3
Feb. 10-13	Death and Afterlife in Zoroastrianism, in Ancient Greece Towers of Silence, Hades, Socrates, Plato...	Chapter 4
Feb. 17	<b>Exam 1</b> in Class	
Feb. 19-20	Death and Afterlife in the Old Testament Pre-exilic and Post-exilic periods, Sheol...	Chapter 5

Feb. 24-27	Death and Afterlife in the New Testament Resurrection, Jesus, New Testament writings...	Chapter 6
March 3-6	Death and Afterlife in Post-Biblical Judaism Rabbinical Tradition, World to Come...	Chapter 7
March 10-13	Death and Afterlife in Christianity Early Christianity, Medieval Christianity...	Chapter 8
March 24-27	The Muslim Understanding of Death and Afterlife The Koran, Inter-world, Heaven, Hell...	Chapter 9
March 31	<b>Exam 2</b> in Class	
April 2-10	Death and Afterlife in Hinduism The Three Paths, Reincarnation...	Chapter 10
April 14-17	Death and Afterlife in Buddhism The Buddha's teachings, Nirvana...	Chapter 11
April 21-24	Tibetan Buddhist Views on Death and Afterlife Tantric Buddhism, The Tibetan Book of the Dead...	Chapter 12
April 28-May 1	Death and Afterlife in Chinese Religions Hun soul and P'o soul, Realms of Afterlife...	Chapter 13
May 5	<b>Exam 3</b> (Final) in Class	