

840:112:02 DEATH AND AFTERLIFE - SPRING 2016

Mondays and Thursdays, 12.35 – 1.55 PM
ARH-100, DC

Description & Learning Goals

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

This course counts toward the following SAS Core Curriculum requirement: Arts and the Humanities [AH] o: Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production relevant to the course. Students will develop an understanding of how religions have shaped and been shaped by various forms of human expression, from philosophical and theological writing to ritual practices.

Instructor

Dr. Thomas Myladil

thomdil@rci.rutgers.edu

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.

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.

2. Three Exams and Three Quizzes

Exam 1: Monday, February 15

Exam 2: Monday, March 28

Exam 3 (Final): Thursday, May 5

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=65 and below.

No make-ups will be given on exams and quizzes unless arrangements are made prior to the scheduled dates with documentation for the reasons for requesting make-ups.

Textbook (required reading)

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

Other readings will be posted on Sakai.

Course Schedule

| <u>Class Days</u> | <u>Topics</u> | <u>Reading</u> |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Jan. 21 | Introduction, Death and Afterlife in Early Societies Pan-Vitalism, Animism, Totemism... | <i>Textbook</i> : Introduction |
| Jan. 25, 28 | Death and Afterlife in African Religions Hadza, Yombe, Mende... | Chapter 1 |
| Feb. 1, 4 | Quiz 1 (1 st), Death and Afterlife in Mesopotamia and Egypt The Underworld, Mummification... | Chapters 2-3 |
| Feb. 8, 11 | Death and Afterlife in Zoroastrianism, in Ancient Greece Towers of Silence, Hades, Socrates, Plato... | Chapter 4 |
| Feb. 15 | Exam 1 | |
| Feb. 18 | Death and Afterlife in the Old Testament Pre-exilic and Post-exilic periods, Sheol... | Chapter 5 |
| Feb. 22, 25 | Death and Afterlife in the New Testament New Testament Writings, Jesus, Resurrection ... | Chapter 6 |
| Feb. 29, March 3 | Death and Afterlife in Post-Biblical Judaism Rabbinical Tradition, World to Come... | Chapter 7 |
| March 7, 10 | Quiz 2 (7 th), Death and Afterlife in Christianity Early Christianity, Medieval Christianity... | Chapter 8 |
| March 21, 24 | Muslim Understanding of Death and Afterlife The Koran, Inter-world, Heaven, Hell... | Chapter 9 |
| March 28 | Exam 2 | |
| March 31, April 4, 7 | Death and Afterlife in Hinduism The Three Paths, Reincarnation... | Chapter 10 |
| April 11, 14, 18 | Death and Afterlife in Buddhism The Buddha's teachings, Nirvana... | Chapter 11 |
| April 21, 25 | Quiz 3 (25 th), Tibetan Buddhist Views on Death and Afterlife Meditations on death, Tibetan Book of the Dead... | Chapter 12 |
| April 28, May 2 | Death and Afterlife in Chinese Religions Hun soul and P'o soul, Realms of Afterlife... | Chapter 13 |
| May 5 | Final Exam (8.00-11.00 AM) | |

Additional information

Academic Integrity

Please be familiar with the Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Violations include: cheating, copying, fabrication, plagiarism, denying other access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

Absence Reporting

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.

Mental Health

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet. Just In Case Web App. <http://codu.co/cee05e/>

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners. (848) 932-7884. 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. You can reach staff during office hours when the university is open or reach an advocate after hours.

(848) 932-1181. 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form/> Full disability policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Scarlet Listeners

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space. (732) 247-5555/ <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

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