

840:112 DEATH & AFTERLIFE

Summer Session II 2014

Professor: Dr. Kathleen Bishop (kathbish@rci.rutgers.edu)

Scott Hall room 104

8:10– 9:55 am

IN-CLASS MEETINGS: (5 Thursdays)

1. June 26,
2. July 10,
3. July 17,
4. July 24,
5. July 31

Office Hours: (by appointment only)

Thursday 1:00pm – 3:00pm rm 118, Loree Hall, Douglas Campus

Requirements:

There will be three ONLINE EXAMS during the semester

Exam #1 (Friday/Saturday July 11/12),

Exam #2 (Friday/Saturday, July 25/26)

Exam #3 (Friday/Saturday, August 1/2).

No makeup tests will be given without prior notification and documentation of conflict.

ONLINE FORUMS

Due dates for Forum postings

June 27

July 4

July 11

July 18

July 25

Each student must post (author) once during that week. Due date is the latest day post will be accepted but Forum will be open all week.

I will explain this assignment at our first in-class meeting June 26.

YOUR GRADE:

Class attendance and Forum participation = 25%

Exams = 25% each (total 75%)

No “A” is possible without attending in-class meetings. This is not entirely an online course.

TEXTBOOKS:

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

Chapters will be posted on Sakai

Lucy Bregman, ed., Death and Dying in World Religions

COURSE SCHEDULE:

UNIT ONE

Early Peoples, Non-Literate Cultures, Ancient Near East

- Neanderthal, Cro-Magnon burial
- Ancient Mesopotamia (Babylon) concept of the underworld
- Ancient Egyptian notions of the soul
- Ancient Greek mythology and philosophy
- Africa and African diaspora
- Zoroastrian funeral rites

Required reading:

Bregman: chap. 1,2,11

Obayashi: chap. 2,3

UNIT TWO

Death and Afterlife in Western Religion

- Biblical Eschatology
- Hebrew Outlook
- Apocalypticism
- Individual and Corporate Resurrection
- Rabbinic Teachings
- The Christian Answer to Death
- Crucifixion and Resurrection
- Islamic Images of the Afterlife
- Seven Levels of Heaven & Hell

Required reading:

Bregman, chap. 3,4,5, 6

Obayashi, chap. 5,6,7,8

UNIT THREE

Death and Afterlife in Eastern Religion

- Karma Reincarnation
- Hinduism's three paths
- Death in Buddhist thought
- Tibetan Buddhist practices
- Ancient Chinese concepts of the soul
- Taoist Cult of Immortality
- Death and Dying in Japan

Required reading:

Bregman, chap. 8,9,10_

Obayashi, chap. 10,11,12,13

