IN-CALL MEETINGS: 9/02, 9/9, 9/16 = Unit One
10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4 = Unit Two
11/11, 11/18, 12/9, = Unit Three
ONLINE EXAMS: 9/19-20, 11/7-8, 12/12-13

Requirements:
There will be three ONLINE EXAMS during the semester. No makeup tests will be given without prior notification and documentation of conflict.

ONLINE FORUMS
Due dates for posting: TBA
Each student is required to post once and respond once (to another student’s post) before each of these deadlines. Your assignment will be to comment on a YouTube video from the Sakai website that relates to the unit of study we are in at that time. You may select from a variety of videos. Your comment should take the form of a “movie review.”

GRADE CALCULATION
Class attendance and Forum participation = 25%
Tests = 25% each (total 75%)
TEXTBOOKS (required reading):
Lucy Bregman, ed., *Death and Dying in World Religions*
*H. Obayashi, ed., Death and Afterlife: Perspectives of World Religions
*NOTE: Selected chapters will be posted online

COURSE SCHEDULE:

UNIT I—Early Concepts and Practices

1. *Death and Reincarnation Among the Early Humans and Indigenous peoples*
   - Cro-Magnon and Neanderthal burial
   - Animism and Death
   - Indigenous People
     Required reading: Bregman, chap. 11 pages 153-159

2. *Death and Afterlife in Ancient Egypt and Near East*
   - Mesopotamian (Babylonian) Concept of the Underworld
   - Mummification
   - Egyptian Notions of the Soul
   - Zoroastrian Funeral Rites
     Required Reading: Bregman, Chap. 1
     Obayashi Chap. 3
     Online handout: see “resources” for Zoroastrian chapter

3. *Death and Immortality in Greek Thought*
   - Greek Mythology and Tragedy
   - Socrates
   - Plato
     Required reading: Bregman, Chap. 2

UNIT II – Western Religious Concepts and Practices

   - Pre-Exilic concept of Death and the Underworld
   - Eschatology
   - Apocalypticism
   - Messianic Kingdom
   - Individual and Corporate Resurrection
     Required reading: Bregman Chap. 3
     Obayashi Chap. 5

5. *The Christian Answer to Death*
6. Islamic Images of the Afterlife

- Seven Levels of Heaven and Hell
- *Isra’* and *barzakh*
  Required reading: Bregman, Chap. 6

UNIT III – Eastern Religious Concepts and Practices

7. Death and Reincarnation in India

- The Land of the Fathers
- Karma Reincarnation
- The Ultimate Fate of the Soul
  Required reading: Bregman, chap. 7
  Obayashi, chap. 10

8. Death in Buddhist Thought

- Buddhist Interpretation of “Reincarnation”
- “Nothingness” and “Extinction”
  Required reading: Bregman, chap. 8
  Obayashi, chap. 12

9. Death and Afterlife in China and Japan

- Ancient Chinese Concepts of the Soul—Hun and P’o
- Taoist Cult of Immortality
- Shintoism and Deification
  Required reading: Bregman, chap. 9