

840:112 DEATH & AFTERLIFE
Scott Hall rm 221 CAC

HYBRID

Summer 2012

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

This is a hybrid course with 7 in class meetings. In other respects it assumes the same time commitment as the regular summer session: Monday -- Thursday, 8:10 -- 10:00, beginning on June 25. Other than the in- class meetings, the course is conducted in a non-synchronous form so you may allocate your time in a way that best suits your schedule. However, you must put in the time. Like all summer courses, this class is very compressed and requires intense participation over a short 5 week period. The advantage of a course structured in this way is that you may earn 3 credits in half the time. The disadvantage is that you have to work twice as hard since time is short.

IN CLASS MEETINGS: 8:10--10:00

June 28

July 10 & 12

July 17 & 19

July 26

July 31

Requirements:

There will be three quizzes during the summer session. All will take place during our in-class meetings during the first 30 minutes of the class period.

Quiz #1 July 12

Quiz #2 July 19

Quiz #3 July 26

No makeup tests will be given without prior notification and documentation of conflict. Class attendance counts significantly toward final grade.

*subject to change

Grade breakdown: tests = 25% each (total 75%) attendance = 25%

TEXTBOOK (required reading): H. Obayashi, ed., Death and Afterlife: Perspectives of World Religions.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Unit One (corresponds to Unit 1 Slides)

1. *Death and Reincarnation Among the Early Races and Non-Literate Cultures*

Primitive and Pan-vitalism and Death

Animism and Death

Totemism and Death

Required reading: Text, Intro. and Chap. 1

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: Text, Chaps. 2&3

3. *Death and Immortality in Greek Thought*

Greek Mythology and Tragedy

Socrates

Plato

Required reading: Text, Chap. 4

Unit Two

4. *The Biblical Understanding of Death and Resurrection – The Hebrew Outlook*

Pre-Exilic concept of Death and the Underworld

Eschatology

Apocalypticism

Messianic Kingdom

Individual and Corporate Resurrection

Required reading: Text, Chaps. 5 & 7

5. *The Christian Answer to Death*

Crucifixion and Resurrection

The Kingdom of God

The Eternality of Human Personhood

Immortality or Resurrection

Required reading: Text, Chaps. 6 & 8

6. *Islamic Images of the Afterlife*

Seven Levels of Heaven

Seven Levels of Hell

Required reading: Text, Chap. 9

Unit Three

7. *Death and Reincarnation in India*

The Land of the Fathers

Karma Reincarnation

The Ultimate Fate of the Soul

Required reading: Text, chap. 10

8. *Death in Buddhist Thought*

Buddhist Interpretation of “Reincarnation”

“Nothingness” and “Extinction”

Required reading: Text, Chaps. 11 & 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: Text, Chap. 13