

## **840:112:02 DEATH AND AFTERLIFE - FALL 2016**

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1.40 – 3.00 PM

Tillett Hall–226, LIV

### **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

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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, October 3

Exam 2: Monday, November 7

Exam 3 (Final): Wednesday, December 21

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>
Sept. 7	Introduction, Death and Afterlife in Early Societies Pan-Vitalism, Animism, Totemism...	<i>Textbook:</i> Introduction
Sept. 12, 14	Death and Afterlife in African Religions Hadza, Yombe, Mende...	Chapter 1
Sept. 19, 21	<b>Quiz 1</b> (19 <sup>th</sup> ), Death and Afterlife in Mesopotamia and Egypt The Underworld, Mummification...	Chapters 2-3
Sept. 26, 28	Death and Afterlife in Zoroastrianism, in Ancient Greece Towers of Silence, Hades, Socrates, Plato...	Chapter 4
Oct. 3	<b>Exam 1</b>	
Oct. 5	Death and Afterlife in the Old Testament Pre-exilic and Post-exilic periods, Sheol...	Chapter 5
Oct. 10, 12	Death and Afterlife in the New Testament Resurrection, Jesus, New Testament writings...	Chapter 6
Oct. 17, 19	Death and Afterlife in Post-Biblical Judaism Rabbinical Tradition, World to Come...	Chapter 7
Oct. 24, 26	<b>Quiz 2</b> (24 <sup>th</sup> ), Death and Afterlife in the Christian Tradition Early Christianity, Medieval Christianity...	Chapter 8
Oct. 31, Nov. 2	Muslim Understanding of Death and Afterlife The Koran, Inter-world, Heaven, Hell...	Chapter 9
Nov. 7	<b>Exam 2</b>	
Nov.9, 14, 16	Death and Afterlife in Hinduism The Three Paths, Reincarnation...	Chapter 10
Nov. 21	Jain Views on Death and Afterlife	
Nov. 23, 28, 30	Death and Afterlife in Buddhism The Buddha's teachings, Nirvana, Nothingness...	Chapter 11
Dec. 5, 7	<b>Quiz 3</b> (5 <sup>th</sup> ), Tibetan Buddhist Views on Death and Afterlife Tantric Buddhism, The Tibetan Book of the Dead...	Chapter 12
Dec. 12, 14	Death and Afterlife in Chinese Religions Hun soul and P'o soul, Realms of Afterlife...	Chapter 13
Dec. 21	<b>Final Exam</b> (8.00-11.00 AM)	