

Death and Afterlife: Eastern Traditions

Lecturer: Dr. Angela Sumegi

Lecture Series Outline:

Lecture 1. Introduction: The Foundations of Religion in India

The Indus Valley people and the Vedic religion of the Aryan-speaking tribes

Lecture 2. Hindu Perspectives

A look at the cyclical view of time, classical Hindu views of Atman and Brahman and the meaning of Liberation

Lecture 3. Buddhism

A look at the Buddhist ideas of no-soul and the problem of personal continuation in that context from life to life.

Lecture 4. Tibetan Buddhism

Overview of the ideas in the Tibetan Book of the Dead and rituals of death.

Lecture 5. Chinese and Daoist Perspectives

Overview of the religions of China and their views of death, specifically the Daoist traditions

Lecture 6. Course Conclusion

Thoughts on death in a secular context.