

**College of the Humanities**

**Religion Program: RELI 2732 B/V**  
**Death and Afterlife in World Religions**

Professor: Angela Sumegi      Class hours: (In-class) Thursdays 11:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
Office: 2A53 Paterson Hall      Class Location: Southam Hall Theatre 'B'  
Office phone: 520-2600 ex 2107      E-mail: angela.sumegi@carleton.ca  
Office hours: Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.      TAs: TBA

All information for viewing this course online and for distance students can be found at <http://www2.carleton.ca/cuol/>

Back-up viewing options for section B include the kiosks in the CUOL student centre D299 Loeb, the pay-per-lecture rental system or the video on demand service.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the ideas and beliefs associated with death and life after death as they are expressed in various religious and cultural traditions. Our study begins with small-scale tribal beliefs and moves on to concepts of death and afterlife as they developed in the ancient religions of Egypt and Mesopotamia. From there we will explore the development of these ideas in the traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and finally the traditions of India and the Far East. The objectives of this course are: to illustrate the diversity of ways in which human beings conceive of their innermost selves in life and in death; to provide an understanding of the ways in which different religious traditions approach mortality and immortality; and to offer students the opportunity to examine their own conceptions of living and dying.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Available from Haven Bookstore, 43 Seneca St. Ottawa. Tel: 613-730-9888

- *Understanding Death: An Introduction to Ideas of Self and the Afterlife in World Religions* by Angela Sumegi, Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.
  
- Supplementary readings will be available on the website or through ARES

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

Midterm exam (1.5 hrs.)      40 %      (Jan. 7 – Feb. 4)  
Final exam (2 hrs.)      60 %      TBA within the formal exam period (Feb. 11 – Mar. 24)

**EXAMS:**

- The midterm and final exams will be in scantron-graded objective format – multiple choice and true/false questions. Students will be responsible for material covered in the course text, assigned readings, and the class lectures as well as material posted on the course website.
- Exams will not be returned but may be reviewed with the professor or the assigned TA during office hours.
- Exam results will be posted on cuLearn.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

1. ALL e-mail correspondence must first be directed to the TA assigned to you. Please consult cuLearn after the first class for your assigned TA's contact numbers.
2. Students with a disability, who require academic accommodations, please feel free to come and discuss this with the professor. Students must contact the Paul Menton Centre to complete the required forms at least two weeks before the exam.
3. There are no grade-raising exams or assignments for this course. If you miss the midterm due to illness or family crisis or emergency, you may write a make-up with a letter signed by your doctor or minister or counsellor stating the reason for missing the exam. Please contact your TA as soon as possible if you have missed the exam.
4. You must write both exams in order to be assigned a grade for the course.
5. There will be no make-up exams scheduled for the finals. If you miss the final exam, you are required to apply for a deferral from the University.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

WP Jan. 7	Course Introduction: Death and the Journey of the Self
W1 Jan. 14 Reading:	Primal Perspectives <i>Understanding Death</i> Chaps. 1 & 2 ARES: "Death and Immortality in African Religions";
W2 Jan. 21 Reading:	Death in the Ancient World: Egypt and Mesopotamia <i>Understanding Death</i> Chap. 3
W3 Jan. 28 Reading:	Jewish Perspectives <i>Understanding Death</i> Chap. 4 ARES: "Jewish Views of the Afterlife"
W4 Feb. 4 Reading:	Christian Perspectives <i>Understanding Death</i> Chap. 5 ARES: "Christian Eschatology"

W5 Feb. 11 Muslim Perspectives  
 Reading: *Understanding Death* Chap. 6  
 ARES: “Islamic Mystics”

**MID-TERM EXAM**  
**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, 10 – 11:30 a.m.**  
**(Jan. 7 – Feb. 4 inclusive)**

**Feb. 18 WINTER BREAK**

W6 Feb. 25 Hindu Perspectives  
 Reading: *Understanding Death* Chap. 7  
 ARES: “The Last Journey”.

W7 Mar. 3 Buddhist Perspectives  
 Reading: *Understanding Death* Chap. 8  
 ARES: “The Great Passing Away”.

W8 Mar. 10 The Tibetan Book of the Dead  
 Reading: ARES: “The Process of Dying”.

W9 Mar. 17 Chinese and Taoist Perspectives  
 Reading: *Understanding Death* Chap. 9

W10 Mar. 24 Secularization and Contemporary views of death  
 Reading: ARES: “Secularisation and the Terror of Death”;  
 Chap. 10-12 from *The Death of Ivan Ilych*.

W11 Mar. 31 Course conclusion and Exam review

W12 Apr. 7 NO CLASS

## REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

### COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

### PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

### GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Deferr”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 7, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2016**.

### REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 6, 2015** for the Fall term and **March 6, 2016** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

### ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library