

# REL3191

# Death and Afterlife

## **Welcome to REL3191: Death and Afterlife!**

Please read this Course Syllabus thoroughly, as well as all important course deadlines below the Syllabus. Refer to this syllabus throughout the semester for any course related questions.

Instructors:

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## **Course Description**

This course is divided into two sections, all of which examine conceptions of death and the afterlife. The first and largest section examines conceptions of death and the afterlife from the perspective of various religious traditions from around the world. Topics that will be explored in this section include: conceptions of a soul (if any), what happens to a person at death, funerary rites, various conceptions of an/the ultimate reality (theistic, monistic, and so forth), notions of salvation and/or liberation, judgment, and various conceptions of time (e.g., linear or cyclical). The second section will explore how some of these religious perspectives are reflected in popular culture and spiritual movements. This section will focus on views of reincarnation and debates over the topic of near-death experiences.

## **Course Objectives**

***Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:***

- Provide a background for each religious tradition to contextualize notions of death and the afterlife.
- Recognize basic conceptions of death and the afterlife according various Western and Eastern religious traditions (Hindu, Buddhist, Chinese, Japanese Indigenous, Christian, Judaic, and Islamic traditions) as exemplified through sacred texts (written or oral), ritual practices and popular beliefs.
- Identify a few funerary practices associated with different religious traditions.
- Understand relationships between conceptions of death and the afterlife and key doctrinal positions maintained by the respective religious tradition.

### **Required Text**

Bregman, Lucy ed. *Death & Dying in World Religions*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing, 2nd edition, 2019.

### **Course Information**

Students are responsible for all content on this Welcome page, as well as all of the content on the following pages and in the [syllabus](#). This is all part of the START HERE section.

Upon reviewing all of the information in the START HERE section and in the syllabus, please take the syllabus quiz. **You must score a 100% on the syllabus quiz to move on to Module 2.** You will be granted multiple attempts in order to score a 100%.

- [Course Description and Required Text](#)
- [Grading Policy](#)
- [Syllabus](#)
- [University Policies & Services](#)
- [Netiquette Guidelines](#)
- [Technical Help & Other Resources](#)
- [UF Online Student Handbook and Resources](#).

## **Modules Tool**

Students can use the Modules tool for an overview of all course materials. This view will show your progress as you complete each assigned task for the modules.

For additional information on how to use the Modules tool please refer to the Modules Help page in the Student Guide.

## **Succeeding in an Online Course**

Taking a course online can be a lot of fun! Here are some tips that will help you get the most of this course while taking full advantage of the online format:

- Schedule "class times" for yourself. It is important to do the coursework on time each week. You will receive 0 points for work that is turned in late.
- Read ALL of the material contained on this site. There is a lot of helpful information that can save you time and help you get a better grade.
- Complete all assessments, assignments and activities well in advance of the due date.
- Take full advantage of the online discussion boards. Ask for help or clarification of the material if you need it. Do not wait to ask questions! Waiting to ask a question might cause you to miss a due date.
- Sometimes technology malfunctions. If you experience technical difficulties, call the UF Computing Help Desk immediately at 352-392-HELP.

## **Technical Help**

In the event that you have technical difficulties with your course, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk Links to an external site. either by filling out an online request form Links to an external site. or calling 352-392-HELP. The Help Desk is located on the ground floor of the Hub. If your technical difficulties will cause you to miss a due date, you MUST report the problem to the instructor. Include the ticket number that you are given from the Help Desk in an e-mail to the instructor to explain the late assignment/quiz/test.

## **Grading Breakdown**

Quizzes: 40%

Discussion Reflection/Response Postings: 20%

Two Reflection Papers: 20% (10% each)

Final Exam: 20%

Grading Scale

A: 100-93; A -: 92-90

B+: 89-87; B: 86-83

B -: 82-80; C+: 79-77

C: 76-73; C -: 72-70

D+: 69-67; D: 66-63

D -: 62-60; E: 59 or below

### **Quizzes**

This course will conduct weekly online quizzes to evaluate the student's grasp and understanding of concepts, facts, arguments, and other important information covered in the lectures and readings presented during that particular week. Before taking a quiz, students should have watched all the videos and completed the required readings for the week. All quizzes will be administered online through the Canvas website.

All quizzes will be made available for two days beginning on Thursday. **The quizzes will be made available Thursday morning; the student will have until Saturday of the same week to take the quiz.** Unless otherwise stated the quizzes will be ten minutes. You will be notified in advance in case any changes are made concerning the time. Questions will be randomly generated from a pool predetermined questions which ensures that no two students have the same exact quiz. This procedure is necessary in an online class in order to discourage cheating. These quizzes will comprise 40% of your overall grade for the course.

For further information on taking quizzes in - Canvas please consult the online help files.

### **Online Discussion Postings**

Every week students are expected to post a minimum of two responses/reflections to the online course discussion forums in Canvas. These forums are only available to the instructors and other students enrolled in the

course. One post will be a reflection to the course readings and/or lectures required for that week. The other will be a response to a fellow classmate. The student should feel free to compose posts on a topic that most interests him or her from the readings and/or videos for that week. A few example topics will be made available to students should selecting a topic prove too difficult.

**For credit, the reflection post must be made by Wednesday at 11:59 pm. The response post must be made by Friday at 11:59 pm.** All posts should be articulate, well thought out and adhere to the rules of grammar, punctuation and spelling of the English language. Two posts must meet the minimum requirement of 100 words each (200 words total). Additional posts beyond these two can be of any length. Additionally, all posts should be courteous, academic and non-aggressive. Rude and demeaning online behavior will not be tolerated for any reason and could adversely affect your grade. While students may certainly be critical, such critical responses and observations should be presented in a professional and academic manner. Students are encouraged to make multiple (relevant) posts, although this is not mandatory. These discussion posts will comprise 20% of your overall grade for the course. You can use audio, video, and/or written mediums of communication in the discussion section.

The rubric for the discussion post can be found in the right corner of a discussion forum. From the drop-down menu, click on "Show Rubric." It will display on your screen and you can read the criteria there in case you forget what's listed above.

### **Reflection Papers**

This course will require you to write two 5-page reflection papers. For each paper, you will be provided with a general topic by your instructor. Students are expected to write about this topic by drawing upon their course readings, lectures and discussions. The papers should be double-spaced and have 1-inch page margins. The font should be 12pt Times New Roman (or Calibri). Additional details will be provided online via a Reflection Paper Handout at a later time in the semester. Each reflection paper will comprise 10% of your overall grade for the course (total 20%).

### **Final Exam**

This course will conduct a final exam that will be administered online via Canvas. The exam will be cumulative, and the questions will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, matching and so forth. Once started, students will

have 45 minutes to complete the final exam. The final exam will comprise 20% of your overall grade for the course. Additional details on the final exam will be provided later in the semester. All course activities will be conducted via Canvas (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>).

### **Academic Honesty**

Guidelines for academic honesty at the University of Florida can be found at: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code>. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the guidelines detailed at the above site and related links and adhere to them.

### **Online Behavior**

Students are expected to be courteous to the instructor and other students in the class. Rude and demeaning online behavior will not be tolerated and could adversely affect a student's grade. All posts, emails and other forms of electronic correspondence should be courteous and professional.

Although the course is online, the University's honor and conduct codes still apply.

### **Students requiring Accommodation**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Sun Jan 15, 2023	 Introduce Yourself	due by 11:59pm
	 Syllabus Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 18, 2023	 Discuss Hinduism	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jan 21, 2023	 Quiz 01	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 25, 2023	 Discuss Buddhism	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 27, 2023	 Reflection Paper 1	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 8, 2023	 Discuss East Asian Traditions	due by 11:59pm
Sat Feb 11, 2023	 Quiz 02	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 15, 2023	 Discuss Indigenous Traditions	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 22, 2023	 Discuss Christianity	due by 11:59pm
Sat Mar 4, 2023	 Quiz 03	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 10, 2023	 Reflection Paper 2	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 15, 2023	 Discuss Judaism	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 22, 2023	 Discuss Islam	due by 11:59pm
Sat Apr 1, 2023	 Quiz 04	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 12, 2023	 Discuss Reincarnation	due by 11:59pm
Sat Apr 15, 2023	 Quiz 05	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 19, 2023	 Discuss Contemporary Culture	due by 11:59pm
Sat Apr 29, 2023	 Extra Credit Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 3, 2023	 Final	due by 11:59pm