

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 305 Death, Dying and Religion

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 2 July 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures:	Tuesday 11:00 – 12:50	EA 206
Tutorials:	Tuesday 13:10 – 14:00	MY 107
	Tuesday 14:10 – 15:00	MY 404

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Professor Paul Morris HU 316 paul.morris@vuw.ac.nz Ph: 463 5037

Tutor: Comfort Max-Wirth comfort.max-wirth@vuw.ac.nz

Administrator: Alibi Kalliabetsos, HU 318, aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz Ph: 463 5299

Office Hours

The religious Studies office is open Monday – Friday, 9:30 – 12:00 noon and 2:30 – 3:30. You can arrange to meet with Professor Morris by appointment

Communication of additional information

Additional information on any changes or notices regarding the course will be conveyed to students, through Blackboard. Students who do not use their assigned student.vuw.ac.nz email addresses should ensure that ITS has an up-to-date email address, and that they check this address regularly. Tutorials are administered through S-cubed, and students should enrol on line. Tutorial lists shall be posted on the Programme notice board, outside the Religious Studies office in the Hunter Building, HU 318, two weeks after the start of the trimester.

Prescription

The course explores the representations of death - mythologies, practices, beliefs and institutions - in contemporary society and in a number of selected religious traditions. Topics include: dying; suicide; burial and cremation; death in New Zealand; grieving; beliefs in the afterlife; and, the representations of death in popular culture.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

- 1 Be familiar with the changes in institutions, agencies, practices and procedures involved with death and dying in New Zealand;
- 2 Have an introductory understanding of the ways in which these developments, and their overseas parallels, have been understood by scholars;
- 3 Use the opportunity to learn about and discuss the meaning and significance of death in a number of religious traditions;
- 4 Critically engage with the issues and debates found in the scholarly literature on death and dying;
- 5 Develop skills in research and the writing of academic presentations on death and its interpretations;
- 6 Develop academic autonomy, that is, the capability to develop frameworks for the undertaking of research and the confident presentation of findings orally and in writing.
- 7 Develop their advanced research skills by preparing a project on a chosen topic.

Teaching format

The course includes both lectures and tutorials. The lectures communicate theoretical and descriptive case study materials, while the tutorials allow students the opportunity to develop their own communication skills through critical discussion of the readings and lectures.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).
2. Attend 80% of tutorials.

Workload

For 20 points one trimester courses, 200 hours spread over the trimester are recommended. An average student should spend 13 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials.

Assessment

The course is internally assessed by means of the following assignments:

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One short essay up to 1,500 words <i>Recommended average time spent on this task 50 hours</i>	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	17.04.2014
2	One research proposal up to 1,000 words <i>Recommended average time spent on this task 25 hours</i>	15%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	16.05.2014
3	One research essay/project up to 4,500 words <i>Recommended average time spent on this task 90 hours</i>	55%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3.06.2014

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted to Blackboard electronically and hard copies must be submitted to the essay box outside the Religious Studies office, HU 318. Both methods of submission are mandatory. Marked work may be collected from the Programme Office, HU 318, approximately two weeks after submission.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

An extension (with no penalty) will be considered on the grounds of exceptional personal circumstances or workload pressure such as having three or four major pieces of work due in a short period. (Please see the Student Workload Policy).

Penalties

2% per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays. Essays submitted late due to medical reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a doctor's certificate.

Set texts

There is no set text for this course. All readings are available on Blackboard under Course Resources.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Student evaluations of this course shall be administered by CAD. Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz