



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

Te Kura Toirangi

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RELI 305 Death, Dying and Religion

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Study period: 17–20 October 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Lectures: Monday 10:00 – 11:50 HU 119

Tutorials: tba. Students should enrol in tutorials through myAllocator

Names and contact details

Course coordinator: Professor Paul Morris KP14/204 463 5037 paul.morris@vuw.ac.nz

Administrator: Alikali Kalliabetsois KP 14/203 463 5299 aliki.kalliabetsois@vuw.ac.nz

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

Religious Studies is located at 14 Kelburn Parade. The programme administrator, Aliko Kalliabetsos, is in room 203 (463 5299), aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz. Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside her office. Notices will also be communicated to students via emails sent from 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.

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 content

The course aims to teach students to think, argue and write in a critical, creative and theoretically informed manner about death, dying and religion. The course uses a mixture of lectures and small-group discussions to make connections between theory and lived religious experience. The course also aims to improve students' skills in critical thinking, creative thinking and communication.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

- 1 discuss knowledgeably the changes in institutions, agencies, policies, practices and procedures involved with death and dying in New Zealand, and how these problems have been understood by scholars
- 2 compare beliefs and practices associated with death in a number of different religious traditions, using appropriate theoretical-conceptual frameworks
- 3 critically and creatively evaluate scholarship on death and dying
- 4 apply advanced level discipline skills in critical reading, independent research, and the construction of oral and written evidence-based arguments

Teaching format

The course will be taught by means of one two hour lecture per week and 9 tutorials sessions scheduled throughout the trimester. Tutorial discussions will focus on the lectures and on the assigned weekly reading material.

Mandatory course requirements

None

Workload

For 20 point courses during the six-week summer trimester, a student should spend on average 26 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials. The total workload for the course, including class time should be approximately 200 hours.

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	19.08.2016
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.	23.09.2016
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.	14.10.2016

Marking criteria

Please note that essays will be marked according to the following **rubrics**:

(1) Argument: Does the writer establish a clearly stated, persuasive *argument* that is *supported* by evidence and sub-arguments? Does it reflect sophisticated engagement with readings using skills developed in class?

(2) Writing Style and Clarity: Is the writing lucid, cogent, and grammatically correct? Does it show evidence of revision and attention to detail?

(3) Technical requirements: Does the essay conform to the assignment, with the appropriate word-count and correct citation format? Please see the "Appendix to Course Outline" for more specific information about writing assignments and requirements.

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted to the **assignment box** outside the Religious Studies office (KP 14 / 203).

Please make sure you sign the sheet to document that you submitted your assignment, and when.

Essays are **also** to be **submitted electronically, via Blackboard**, in part so that student work can be checked for plagiarism via TurnItIn. **DO NOT EMAIL YOUR ESSAYS TO THE LECTURER OR TUTOR.**

No responsibility will be taken for assignments for which there is no record. Students should keep a copy of all their work until it is returned. Marked assignments may be collected from the Religious Studies office 2 weeks from the date of submission.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

If a student requires an extension for any serious or medical reason they must apply for one as soon as practicably possible, and if possible, before the due date of the assessment in question.

Penalties

- 2 per cent per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays (including Saturdays and Sundays).
- 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 textbook. All readings shall be available on Blackboard via the Talis system.

Recommended reading

Please see the Lecture Programme in the Appendix to this Outline (to be distributed during the first lecture, and available on BlackBoard) for a full reading list for this course.

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.

Student feedback

The most recent evaluations for the course were very good, and confirmed that the current shape of the course is working well.

This course will be evaluated 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
- 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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz