

California State University, Fullerton

RELIGION 375
“Conceptions of the Afterlife”
Schedule No. 19192
Section 1
[FALL 2014]

*“To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death,—
The undiscover’d country, from whose bourne
No traveler returns,—puzzles the will,
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of?”*
(*Hamlet*, III, 1)

*“... tell me—when a man dies, and his speech
disappears into fire, his breath into the wind,
his sight into the sun, his mind into the moon, his
hearing into the quarters, his physical body
into the earth, his self into space, the hair
of his body into plants, the hair of his
head into trees, and his blood and semen
into water—what then happens to that person?”*
(*Brhadāranyaka Upaniṣad* 3.2.13)

“It’s very beautiful over there.”
(Thomas Edison)

OH WOW. OH WOW. OH WOW.
(Steve Jobs’ final words)

*“The cradle rocks above an abyss, and common sense tells us
that our existence is but a brief crack of light between two
eternities of darkness. Although the two are identical twins,
man, as a rule, views the prenatal abyss with more calm than
the one he is heading for (at some forty-five hundred
heartbeats an hour).”*
(Alexander Nabakov, *Speak, Memory*)

PROFESSOR: JAMES SANTUCCI
OFFICE: University Hall 312
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday: 9:15 am – 9:45 am and
11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Thursday: 9:15 am – 9:45 am
ONLINE HOUR: Wednesday: 9:30 am – 10:30 am

[I will be online and available for immediate response to any question you may have during the Online Hours.]

CONTACT: Email: jsantucci@fullerton.edu
Telephone: 657-278-3727(office); 647-278-2442(Dept.)

[The best way to communicate is through email. I generally respond within the hour. I do receive telephone messages through email, so I would encourage you to leave a message should you call. I will respond as quickly as possible.]

MEETING TIMES AND PLACE

[Humanities 224 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 11:15 am](#)

WEBSITE: TITANium

Any important material, including the syllabus, links to primary sources, and supplemental material, will be placed on the class Website. If you are unfamiliar with TITANium, here is some information that might help you.

Go to <http://www.fullerton.edu/> and click on my portal. You should be familiar with the following resources:

Contact the Help Desk (657) 278-7777 for Technical Difficulties

****It is recommended you use a current web browser to ensure a smooth TITANium experience.**

For information on TITANium, go to

http://www.fullerton.edu/ittraining/other/moodle/tutorials/Titanium_Student_Tutorial/Titanium_Student_Tutorial.htm

NOTE: Further information is available on the banner page of the class TITANium Website.

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisite: Completion of G.E. Category C.2; CPRL 110 recommended. How selected religious traditions have sought to answer the question “What happens when I die?” Resurrection, reincarnation, immortality of the soul, heaven and hell will be discussed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the teachings of various religious traditions regarding the question: “What happens when we die?” To answer this question, we will survey five major religious traditions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism), significant modern movements (Spiritualism, Theosophy, Swedenborg), selected Greek philosophers and selected non-Western ancient traditions (Egypt, Mesopotamia, Zoroastrianism).

A second question concerns the “substance,” usually identified as “soul,” that may experience life in the hereafter. Is it the same as the body, an integral part of the person, the “personality,” or none of these?

A third question involves the possibility of scientifically proving the existence of an afterlife. In recent years near-death and out-of-body experiences have convinced many that there is indeed an afterlife. Earlier, in the nineteenth century, Spiritualism provided methods of communicating with the spirits. Within this movement, a more scientific method of “cross-correspondences” was developed by Frederic W.H. Myers. Various mechanical means were also developed, such as the Ashkir-Jobson Trianion, the dynamistograph, the Vendermeulen spirit indicator, the electronic voice phenomenon, and even the telephone.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Article Review: 5-6 pages (approximately 1200-1500 words): Due: September 23 (20%)

Choose an article from the list of article publications listed below and write a summary of the contents in the first part followed by an analysis of the contents. The format for the review is as follows:

- a) 12-point font
- b) Use Cambria, Avenir Book, Constantia, Times-New Roman, or Times font
- c) 1.2 margins top and bottom, left and right columns
- d) Number all pages and place the number and your name in the Footer
- e) At the bottom of the page, place *page number, your name, and title of paper*
- f) 1.5 spacing
- g) If you quote or paraphrase passages from the article, use in-text citation. Examples: (45) represents the page number where the quote or paraphrase is located in the article.

1. (If quoted from the article being reviewed):

“Few ideas are as old as that of the soul” (13).

[This is a quote from an article by Moshe Barasch, “The Departing Soul”]
The assumption is that this is the article under review.

If it is an article not under review, but serves as a supplemental reference, then include the author’s name. Example:

“Few ideas are as old as that of the soul” (Barasch, 13).

The full bibliographical information will then need to be included in the Bibliography:

Barasch, Moshe. “The Departing Soul. The Long Life of a Medieval Creation.” *Artibus et Historiae*, Vol. 26, No. 52 (2005), pp. 13-28.

NOTE: The article chosen must be cleared by me since the article is limited to one student. If time permits, be prepared to give a 10-minute presentation on the contents of the article.

**2. Article Review or Book Chapter Review: 5-6 pages
(approximately 1200-1500 words): Due October 28
(20%)**

You may choose any article (subject to my approval) that covers the topic of the afterlife. A book chapter may include a collected text with many contributors. An example of an edited book is the following:

Obayashi, Hiroshi, editor. *Death and Afterlife: Perspectives of World Religions*. Westport, Conn: Praeger, 1992.

[Thirteen articles are included, including the following entry:

Frank E. Reynolds, "Death as Threat, Death as Achievement: Buddhist Perspectives with Particular Reference to the Theravada Tradition." In Hiroshi Obayashi, *Death and Afterlife: Perspectives of World Religions*, 157-67.]

**3. Article Review or Book Chapter Review: 5-6 pages
(approximately 1200-1500 words): Due December 2
(20%)**

4. YOUTUBE Assignments (20% Total)

- a. "Is there an afterlife?" [DUE: SEPTEMBER 30] (10%)
This is a debate featuring **Christopher Hitchens, Rabbi David Wolpe, Sam Harris** and **Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson**. The address is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbzd6ZbCowY&feature=related>

The assignments involve the following :

1. What are the positions of each of the four speakers?
2. Give two notable observations of each of the speakers.
3. Of all the observations, which one observation struck you as especially effective and illuminating?
4. Which of the speakers did you think most successfully presented his arguments? Present two examples?

5. Group Oral Presentation: About 15 – 20 minutes
[DUE: SEPTEMBER 30]

b. “Consciousness and The Near Death Experience.”
Interview with Pim van Lommel and conducted by Iain McNay.
[DUE: OCTOBER 23] (10%)

Pim van Lommel is a cardiologist who had conducted one of the most important studies on the near-death experience, the results of which appeared in *The Lancet* with the title "Near-Death Experiences in Survivors of Cardiac Arrest: A Prospective Study in the Netherlands", [Vol. 358 (2001): 2039-2045. This was followed by his book *Consciousness Beyond Life: The Science of the Near-Death Experience*" (HarperOne, 2010).

The interview with Dr. van Lommel, located at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIKccJ5YUcg> discusses his research and observations of the near-death experience, especially the nature of consciousness and its relationship with the brain.

What are five important observations made by Dr. van Lommel on the near death experience?

Also, give your assessment of the interview.

5. FINAL EXAM: Take Home Essay. (20%)

The exam will comprise a series of questions based upon the readings assigned in the class plus some files that are based upon the lectures. The exam will be open-book and will be based upon your understanding and reaction to the material under discussion.

EXTRA-CREDIT

Extra credit assignments will not be given in this class.

GRADING POLICY:

According to UPS 300.020, letter grades and their corresponding values are listed as follows:

A+		4.0	(98-100%)
A	Outstanding	4.0	(93-97%)
A-		3.7	(90-92%)
B+		3.3	(88-89%)
B	Good	3.0	(83-87%)
B-		2.7	(80-82%)
C+		2.3	(78-79%)
C	Acceptable	2.0	(73-77%)
C-		1.7	(70-72%)
D+		1.3	(68-69%)
D	Poor	1.0	(63-67%)
D-		0.7	(60-62%)
F	Failing	0.0	(Below 60%)

MISSION AND GOALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION:

A. Mission

To describe and interpret the developments, worldviews, and practices of religious traditions in a non-sectarian, academic manner for the benefit of students, faculty from other fields, and the greater Orange County community.

B. Goals

1. To offer classes in the world's religions within the General Education framework and for majors and minors;
2. To teach in a scholarly and non-sectarian manner;
3. To conduct scholarly research that contributes to an understanding of the varieties of religious thought and experience;
4. To investigate in a scholarly manner the impact of the varieties of religious thought and experience on contemporary society.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS FOR CPRL 375

Students will be expected:

1. To become acquainted with the attitudes of the afterlife in five world religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism), Theosophy (as a comparative, syncretic movement), and Spiritualism (representing a major movement in nineteenth century U.S.).
2. To become acquainted with the overriding similarities in those

religions which might be termed postaxial. For these religions, the agreement is the assumption and promise of a liberation from a less satisfactory life to an “existence” that offers bliss, either in the literal or allegorical sense.

3. To become acquainted with the fundamental differences between certain postaxial religions regarding the afterlife. One important difference is the issue over the continuation of individuality, however interpreted, either in the body or through the soul.
4. To be aware of the naturally problematic issue of resurrection, its variations in interpretations, its implications, its anti-intuitive nature, and the difficulty in fitting the teaching into the natural scheme of things.
5. To be aware of the more palatable teaching of reincarnation in its many senses, and the case that can be made of the possibility that some form of reincarnation is entirely possible.
6. To be aware of the powerful and persuasive teaching of martyrdom in both Islam and Christianity and its centrality in both religions.
7. To understand that the quality of the afterlife (heaven[s], hell[s], limbo, purgatory) is measured by the ethical dimension.
8. To understand the causal relation of the present life with the afterlife (either spiritual or bodily). This includes the issue of *karman*- and whether this concept was originally associated with reincarnation or whether it is a scholarly and academic construct and interpretation that the two were originally related. Students will need to argue this in a critical and intelligent manner.
9. To make students aware of and to evaluate in a critical manner the scientific proofs of the afterlife such as those surrounding the near-death experience and sophisticated arguments of the possibility from Oliver Lodge, F. W. Myers, and Raymond Moody.
10. To be aware that teachings about the afterlife and of religion present interesting possibilities that religion and science are not necessarily in disagreement.

REQUIRED BOOK:

Beyond the Threshold: Afterlife Beliefs and Experiences in World Religions, by Christopher M. Moreman. Lanham, *et. al.*: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2010.

This book is available at the Little Professor Book Store

725 North Placentia Avenue,
Fullerton (Tel.: 714-996-3133).

OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL/ACTIVITIES

I. Reading Material in addition to the required text

[The items listed below are readings that may be works that are linked in the PowerPoints and other class materials that further elucidate the topic, may be of use in your research topics, or may be used in Assignments. These titles are given in the Class Schedule. It is assumed that the readings given in the Schedule should be completed that week.]

1. Myers, Frederick W.H. *Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death*. Two volumes. New York: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1903.
[Syllabus for Chapters 1 and 7] [This reading appears in WEEK 2.]
2. Plato *Phaedo* (<http://san.beck.org/Phaedo.html#17>)
<http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/p/plato/p71pho/index.html>
[This reading appears in WEEK 3.]
3. Plato *Apology* (<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html>)
[This reading appears in WEEK 3 in the PowerPoint on “The Soul.”]
4. Herodotus, *History* (Translated by George Rawlinson)
<http://classics.mit.edu/Herodotus/history.html> (Book 2)
[These readings appear in WEEKS 5, 6, and 7 in the PowerPoints on the subjects of Judaism and Christianity.]
5. Online: *The New American Bible*:
http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM
and
Douay Version: <http://www.newadvent.org/bible/dan001.htm>
Readings from Genesis, Numbers, Exodus, I Samuel, Judges, Joshua, 2Kings, Job, Psalms, Isaiah, 2Macabees, Daniel, I Corinthians, the Gospels
[This reading appears in WEEK 3 in the PowerPoint on “The Soul.”]
6. Cullmann, Oscar. “Immortality of the Soul or Resurrection of the Dead?”
Cullmann was a Professor of the Theological Faculty of the University of Basel and of the Sorbonne (Paris). The article originally appeared in French in the *Melanges offerts a Karl Barth a l'occasion de ses 70 ans* (1956).
[This reading appears in WEEK 6 as a supplemental reading.]
7. Augustine, *The Immortality of the Soul [De immortalitate animae]*
[Saint Augustine, *The Immortality of the Soul: The Magnitude of the Soul; on Music; the Advantage of Believing; on Faith in Things Unseen*. Trans. Ludwig Schopp, John J. McMahon, S.J. et.al. Volume 4. Washington, DC. Catholic University of America Press. 1977]
[This reading appears in WEEK 3.]

8. Augustine, *The Magnitude of the Soul [De quantitate animae]*
[Same source as that given in no. 4]
[This reading appears in WEEK 3.]
9. William of Auvergne, *The Immortality of the Soul [De immortalitate animae]*
[Translated from the Latin with an Introduction and Notes by Roland J. Teske, S.J. Milwaukee, WI: Marquette University Press, 1091]
[This reading appears in WEEK 3.]
10. William of Auvergne, *The Soul*
[Trans. Roland J. Teske. Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 2000
(*Mediaeval Philosophical Texts in Translation*, No. 37. Ed. Roland J. Teske, S.J.)] [This reading appears in WEEK 3.]
11. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica: Supplement (Resurrection): Questions 69-99* [This reading appears in WEEK 6.]
<http://www.newadvent.org/summa/5.htm>
12. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Questions on the Soul [Quaestiones de Anima]*
[Aquinas, St. Thomas, O.P., *Questions on the Soul [Quaestiones de Anima]*.
Trans. James H. Robb. Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Marquette University Press, 1984.] [This reading appears in WEEK 3.]
13. Rhys Davids, T.W. "The Theory of 'Soul' in the Upanishads,"
Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland (Jan 1899): pp. 71-87. [This reading appears in WEEK 3.]
14. Zabkar, Louis V. "Herodotus and the Egyptian Idea of Immortality."
Journal of Near Eastern Studies, Vol. 22, No. 1 (Jan., 1963): 57-63.
[This reading appears in WEEK 4.]
15. Taylor, John B., "Some Aspects of Islamic Eschatology." *Religious Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (Oct., 1968): pp. 57-76. [This reading appears in WEEK 7.]
16. Stepaniants, Marietta. "The Encounter of Zoroastrianism with Islam." *Philosophy East and West*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (Apr., 2002): pp. 159-72. [This reading appears in WEEK 8.]
17. Hertel, Bradley R. "Inconsistency of Beliefs in the Existence of Heaven and Afterlife," *Review of Religious Research*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (Spring, 1980): pp. 171-183. [This reading appears in WEEK 1.]
18. Walker, D.P., "Eternity and the Afterlife," *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, Vol. 27 (1964), pp. 241-250. [This reading appears in WEEK 6.]

II. Websites (recommended)

1. Internet Sacred Texts Archive
<http://sacred-texts.com>
2. The Padieia Center for Public Theology

- <http://www.paideiacentre.ca/story/philosophy-resources-online>
3. Online Papers on Consciousness
<http://conc.net/online>
 4. The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<http://plato.stanford.edu>
 5. Project Gutenberg ebooks
<http://www.bibliomania.com>
 6. University of Texas Online texts bibliography
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/books/etext.html>
 7. The Brandeis Online Database of Philosophy texts
<http://people.brandeis.edu/~teuber/textsonline.html>
 8. Plato and his dialogues: Links to Plato's Works on the Internet
<http://plato-dialogues.org/links.htm>
 9. New Advent Site
<http://www.newadvent.org/>
[*Catholic Encyclopedia, Summa Theologica, The Church Fathers, The Douay-Rheims (English) Bible, Vulgate Latin and Greek accompanying texts and (Catholic) Church documents*]
 10. The Pew Forum on Religious Beliefs
[<http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>]
 11. Polling Reports on Religion
[<http://www.pollingreport.com/religion.htm>]
 12. Translations from the Pali Canon
[<http://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/index.html>]

WEBSITE: TITANium

Online course information is available in TITANium. Go to <http://www.fullerton.edu/> and click on my portal. Students are expected to read the latest news each week during the duration of the course and should be familiar with the following resources:

Contact the Help Desk (657) 278-7777 for Technical Difficulties

****It is recommended you use a current web browser to ensure a smooth TITANium experience.****

For information on TITANium, go to

http://www.fullerton.edu/ittraining/other/moodle/tutorials/Titanium_Student_Tutorial/Titanium_Student_Tutorial.htm

NOTE: Further information is available on the banner page of the class TITANium Website.

GENERAL EDUCATION

This course fulfills GE C.3 Explorations in the Arts and Humanities. (if you wish to pursue a minor in Religious Studies, you can “double count” this course for GE and the minor— up to nine units of GE courses from one department may be used to meet minor

requirements. If you are a major in Religious Studies this class counts as one course toward the “Experience of Religion” requirement, but cannot count for GE.)

Learning Goals:

General Education Learning Goals applied to this Course (UPS 411.201)

This course fulfills the learning goals of General Education Section C.3, which also includes the goals for area C.2, namely:

- a. Cultivate their intellectual reasoning skills, expand their capacity for creative imagination, develop their reasonable moral sensibilities, and increase their capacity for sensitive engagement through studying great works of human imagination and reason (which are to be primarily—although not exclusively—written texts and literature).
- b. Understand how the humanities have contributed to the development of culture, including the comparative study of the humanities in diverse cultures.
- c. Understand how the humanities have sought to provide answers to complex problems facing humanity, including the relationship of the self to culture and the natural world, the nature of moral and legal obligations, and the meaning and purpose of human existence.

The specific goals for C.3 are as follows:

- a. Understand broad, unifying themes from cross-disciplinary perspectives in the humanities.
- b. Understand the relevance of the humanities for the thoughtful consideration of complex contemporary problems.
- c. Appreciate the complex relationship and interaction between the humanities and other fields of learning, including the natural sciences, social sciences, and arts.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION LEARNING GOALS & OUTCOMES APPLIED TO THIS COURSE

All students majoring in Religious Studies shall achieve competence in the following domains of skill and knowledge:

A. Skills

Learning Goal: Students possess the ability to perform research and interpret materials related to the study of religion.

Outcome 1: Students can analyze written materials related to the study of religion.

Outcome 2: Students have acquired information literacy in the study of religion.

Learning Goal: Students can effectively communicate in written and spoken mediums.

Outcome 3: Students are able to write well-organized critical and analytical research papers related to the study of religion.

(Outcome 4: Students are able to speak clearly and effectively using relevant and adequate supporting evidence.
[*Not applicable to this course.*])

B. Knowledge

Learning Goal: Students can demonstrate an understanding of the beliefs, rituals, texts, and figures related to a variety of religious traditions.

Outcome 5: Students can describe the basic teachings and practices of major religious traditions and can compare and contrast the principal similarities and differences between them.

Outcome 6: Students are able to identify the history and development of specific religions and their contemporary relevance.

(Outcome 7: Students can compare key theories and theorists in the study of religion. [*Not applied to this course.*])

(Outcome 8: Students can interpret key thinkers and figures within religious traditions. [*Not applied to this course.*])

ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

August 18:	Academic year begins
August 23:	First day of class
September 1:	Labor Day: CAMPUS CLOSED
October 13:	Columbus Day – CAMPUS OPEN
November 11:	Veterans Day: CAMPUS CLOSED
Nov. 24 – Nov. 29:	Fall Recess: NO CLASSES
December 12:	Last Day of Classes
December 14-19:	Semester Examinations

DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you have a disability or special need for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, please inform me and contact the Disability Support Services Office, located in University Hall 101, as early as possible in the term. For more information, the Disability Support Services Office can be reached by calling (657) 278-3117 or visit their website at www.fullerton.edu/disabledservices/. Confidentiality will be protected.

NETIQUETTE:

Since we communicate in part through the Web, please follow the guidelines listed at <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

"Students who violate university standards of academic integrity are subject to disciplinary sanctions, including failure in the course and suspension from the university. Since dishonesty in any form harms the individual, other students and the university, policies on academic integrity are strictly enforced. I expect that you will familiarize yourself with the academic integrity guidelines found in the current student handbook."

For further information, go to "Academic Integrity Resources" at

<http://www.fullerton.edu/deanofstudents/Judicial/Academic%20Integrity%20Resources.asp>

E-MAIL:

All students are required to have e-mail. You may use the @csu.fullerton.edu address or your own provider. When you create an account on TITANium, you will have to provide your e-mail address so be sure to keep it up to date. If you have an AOL or Hotmail account, I would suggest that you use the @csu.fullerton.edu account because of problems with these two accounts.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

http://www.fullerton.edu/emergencypreparedness/ep_students.html

EMERGENCY CALLS DIAL 9-1-1

All campus phones and cell phones on campus reach the
University Police Department
Campus Operation and Emergency Closure Line:
(657) 278-4444
24-hour recorded emergency information line:
(657) 278-0911

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (Aug. 25)

Introduction to the Course

Reading: *Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Introduction (pp. 1-8)*

LABOR DAY: NO CLASSES (Sept. 1)

WEEK 2 (Sept. 1)

Concepts and Definitions

Reading: *Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Chapter 8 ("Mediumship"), Chapter 9 ("Apparitions")*

Chapter 10 (“Near-Death and Out-of-Body Experiences”)

Myers, Frederic W.H., *Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death*, Two vols. (Syllabus for Chapters 1 and 7).

WEEK 3 (Sept. 8)

The Soul

Reading: Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Chapter 11

Rhys Davids, T.W. “The Theory of ‘Soul’ in the Upanishads,”
Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland (Jan 1899): pp. 71 – 87.

Plato, [*Phaedo*](#) and
[*Apology*](#)

Saint Augustine, *The Immortality of the Soul*; and
The Magnitude of the Soul.

Aquinas, Saint Thomas. *Questions on the Soul*:
(*Quaestiones de Anima*).

William of Auvergne, *The Soul*.

WEEK 4 (Sept. 15)

Egypt: Resurrecting the Pharaoh

Reading: Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Chapter 1 (“Ancient Conceptions”)

YOUTUBE: [“The Mummification Process”](#)
(The Getty Museum)

YOUTUBE: [“Resurrecting the Pharaoh”](#)

[The Pyramid Texts](#)

[Book of the Dead: Chapter 125](#)

WEEK 5 (Sept. 22)

Afterlife in the Jewish Tradition

Reading: *Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Chapter 2 ("Judaism")*

Lloyd R. Bailey, "Enigmatic Bible Passages: Gehenna: The Topography of Hell" by. *The Biblical Archaeologist*. Vol. 49, No. 3 (Sept, 1986): pp. 187-191.

Alvah Hovey, "The Meaning of Sheol in the Old Testament," Vol. 5, No. 2 (Oct. 1885): pp. 49-52.

ARTICLE REVIEW: DUE SEPTEMBER 23

WEEK 6 (Sept. 29)

The Christian Tradition

Reading: *Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Chapter 3 (“Christianity”)*

The Church Fathers

Athanasius [296 – 373] “*On the Incarnation of the Word*”

Tertullian [160 – 225] “*On the Resurrection of the Flesh*”

Clement of Alexandria [150 – 215] “*Stromata*”

Oscar Cullmann, “*Immortality of the Soul or Resurrection of the Dead?*”

YOUTUBE ASSIGNMENT: DUE SEPTEMBER 30

WEEK 7 (Oct. 6)

The Christian Tradition: Purgatory

The Creeds of Christendom

Tertullian, A Treatise on the Soul

WEEK 8 (Oct. 13)

The Islamic Tradition

Reading: *Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Chapter 4 (“Islam”)*

Taylor, John B. Taylor. “*Some Aspects of Islamic Eschatology*”

Stepaniants, Marietta. “*The Encounter of Zoroastrianism with Islam*”

WEEK 9 (Oct. 20)

The Hindu Tradition

Reading: *Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Chapter 5*

2. YOUTUBE ASSIGNMENT [Due October 23]

WEEK 10 (Oct. 27)

The Hindu Tradition

Reading: *Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Chapter 5*

**1. ARTICLE REVIEW/BOOK CHAPTER REVIEW
[DUE OCTOBER 28]**

WEEK 11 (Nov. 3)

The Hindu Tradition (Continued) and the Buddhist Tradition

Reading: *Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Chapters 5 and 6*

[*The Manu-Smṛti*](#) (Chapter 12)

[*Bhagavad-Gītā*](#) (Chapter 8)

[*Kaṭha Upaniṣad*](#) (Chapters 1 and 2)

[*Rgveda*](#) IX.113

WEEK 12 (Nov. 10)

The Buddhist Tradition

Reading: *Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Chapters 6 and 7*

The Wheel of Existence

[*The 31 Planes of Existence*](#)

[*The Smaller Sukhāvatī-Vyūha*](#)

WEEK 13 (Nov. 17)

The Buddhist Tradition (Continued) and Emanuel Swedenborg

Reading: *Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Chapters 12 and 13*

[*The Larger Sukhāvatī-Vyūha*](#)

Roberts Avens, "Re-Visioning Resurrection: St. Paul and Swedenborg"

**FALL RECESS: NO CLASSES
(MONDAY TO SUNDAY, NOV. 24-30)**

WEEK 14 (Dec. 1)

Emanuel Swedenborg, Spiritualism, and Theosophy

Reading: Moreman, Beyond the Threshold, Chapter 14

[Heaven and Hell](#) by Emanuel Swedenborg

"The Creed of the Spirits" by Emma Hardinge-Britten (1871)

"Modern Spiritualism: Cartoons and Scribbles from the Field" by Marc Demarest

"Why We Believe" (Newsweek, Vol. 152, No. 18, p. 56)

**ARTICLE REVIEW/BOOK CHAPTER REVIEW:
DUE DECEMBER 2**

WEEK 15 (Dec. 8)

Spiritualism, and Theosophy

"The Case of Dr. Wiltse" (from Frederic W.H. Myers, *Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death*, Vol. 2 (NY and Bombay: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1903), pp. 315 –22.

WEEK 16 (Dec. 14-19):

FINAL EXAM: Take Home Essay

TUESDAY, DECEMBER. 16, 9:30 – 11:20

Take Home Essay: Due December 16

BIBLIOGRAPHY: CPRL 375: Conceptions of the Afterlife

Publications: Books

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