

University of Calgary  
Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Religious Studies

*August 23, 2006*

**Religious Studies 333-95 - Religious Perspectives on Death and Afterlife - Fall 2006**

**Lecture:** W (18:30 – 21:20)  
**Location:** Calgary Jewish Centre  
**Instructor:** Dyron Daughrity, PhD  
**Office:** SS 1323  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Telephone:** 220-7906  
**E-mail:** [Daughrity@shaw.ca](mailto:Daughrity@shaw.ca)

**Textbook:**

David Chidester. *Patterns of Transcendence*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)

**Course Description:**

This course presents issues surrounding death, dying, and afterlife within the framework of religious studies. Death is a phenomenon that has always occupied a special role in the various world religions. All humans must face death themselves and grieve for those whom they have lost. This course surveys the various ways humans grieve and prepare for death. The world's religions evince manifold approaches to death, grief, and afterlife.

**Competencies:**

This course will help students to understand some of the basic issues related to death and dying within the context of religion. Students will better understand the various religious responses to death around the world, and will become acquainted with death rituals in various times and cultures. Students will develop skills in critical thinking, group discussion, academic writing, and will learn how to reflect critically on films within a religious studies framework.

**Course Format:**

The pedagogical format for this course will include lectures, class discussions, the use of internet and video, and music. Class participation is highly important in a course of this nature. Students will be expected to have gained literacy on the relevant topics prior to each class session. Students will be informed of what readings will be required of them prior to each class meeting.

**Course Requirements:**

Critical Film Response #1 (October 11)	15%
Mid-Term Exam (October 25)	35%
Critical Film Response #2 (November 29)	15%
<b>Final Exam (Dec. 11-20, TBA by Registrar)</b>	<b>35%</b>

**Assessment:**

*Exams:* Students will take two exams in this course, each worth 30% of the total mark. Exams can be made up of short answer, fill in the blank, matching, true/false, and/or other evaluative methods. Exams will cover readings, lectures, and films.

*Critical Film Responses:* Students will write two in-class Critical Film Responses (CFR) on the days appointed. Detailed instructions for the film responses will be provided in class. Each CFR is worth 15% of the total course mark.

**Grading:**

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

**Academic Honesty:**

***Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.***

**Academic Accommodation:**

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

**Gnosis:**

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [gnosis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.