

Religious Studies (RELS) 211

Death and Dying in World Religions (Revision 1)

Delivery mode: [Individualized study online](#) 

Credits: 3



Areas of study: Arts or Humanities

Prerequisite: None

Precluded: None

Challenge: RELS 211 is not available for challenge.

Faculty: [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Status: Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 


Overview

RELS 211: Death and Dying in World Religions is a general survey course about the conceptions of the afterlife in Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism, and the various rituals and experiences associated with death in each of these traditions. This course does not require any prior experience in the academic study of religion, nor does it require you to have a prior knowledge of any of the religions covered in this course. The *Study Guide*, assigned readings, and videos will provide you with all the information necessary to help you to successfully complete the course.

Outline


- Unit 1: Course Overview
- Unit 2: An Overview of Judaism and Jewish Views of Death and the Afterlife
- Unit 3: An Overview of Christianity and Christian Views of Death and the Afterlife
- Unit 4: An Overview of Islam and Muslim Views of Death and the Afterlife
- Unit 5: An Overview of Hinduism and Hindu Views of Death and the Afterlife
- Unit 6: An Overview of Buddhism and Buddhist Views of Death and the Afterlife
- Unit 7: Near-Death Experiences
- Unit 8: Death and Funerary Rituals
- Unit 9: Grieving, Mourning, and Remembrance
- Unit 10: Dying the Good Death

Evaluation

To successfully pass RELS 211, Students must complete all their quizzes and hand in all their assignments by the end of the stipulated contract date and complete the exam with a passing grade of **50 Percent**  or higher.


In order to pass the course, students must hand in their assignments complete the quizzes, pass the exam with a grade of 50 percent or higher, and achieve a composite grade of 50 percent or higher between the exam and the assignments.


Activity	Weight
Quiz 1	10%
Quiz 2	10%
Quiz 3	10%
Research Essay	35%
Final Examination	35%
Total	100%


The **final examination** for this course must be taken online with an AU-approved exam invigilator at an approved invigilation centre. It is your responsibility to ensure your chosen invigilation centre can accommodate online exams. For a list of invigilators who can accommodate online exams, visit the [Exam Invigilation Network](#) .

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .

Materials

Moreman, Christopher. *Beyond the Threshold: Afterlife Beliefs and Experiences in World Religions*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008.  (Print)





Katzir, Yael. *Shivah for my Mother: Seven Days of Mourning*. Directed by Yael Katzir. 2003. Los Angeles: New Love Films, 2005.  (Audio/Video)

Nakazawa, Shinichi and Douglas Penick. *The Tibetan Book of the Dead: A Way of Life / The Great Liberation*. Directed by Hiroaki Mori, Yukari Hayashi, and Barrie Mclean. 1994. New York: Kino Lorber, 2009. DVD. 
(Audio/Video)

Other Materials

All other materials, including additional required readings, are available online.

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 1, October 19, 2015

Updated July 11, 2022, by Student & Academic Services