

BIBLICAL IMAGES OF DEATH AND AFTERLIFE
NT 315-1, Spring 2007
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Tuesday 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Instructor:

Susan R. Garrett (Library 112, ext. 396, sgarrett@lpts.edu)

This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supercedes that of the online syllabus.

Course Content and Objectives

This 1-credit course will focus on biblical views of death and afterlife, and compare them to popular ideas about afterlife in contemporary American society. When students complete the course they should be able to identify and summarize pertinent biblical passages, offer informed analysis of popular cultural phenomena related to death, and articulate their own views about death and afterlife in simulated pastoral contexts.

Format

Each session will include lecture by the professor, discussion of assigned readings, and structured activities of various kinds (role-plays, case studies, etc.).

Course Requirements

Consistent attendance is required (must be present for a minimum of 5 of the 6 sessions; roll will be taken; absences may necessitate written make-up work). Careful reading of assigned materials and energetic participation in classroom discussion and exercises are essential. Two two-page papers are required. There will be an oral examination at the end of the course. The student's final grade will be based on attendance, general preparedness, and participation (@30%); written assignments (@20%), and performance on the oral examination (@50%).

Meeting Dates

February 13, 20, and 27; March 6 and 27; April 3

Required Texts (available in LPTS bookstore)

Ernest Becker, *The Denial of Death* (New York: The Free Press, 1973).

William Stringfellow, *Instead of Death* (New and expanded edition; New York: Seabury Press, 1976).

Other readings will be available on reserve in the library.

*****Note: You should always bring a study Bible with you to class. Other readings may be announced as the semester proceeds.*****

Policy on Inclusive Language

In speech and in written assignments, please avoid divisive terms that reinforce stereotypes or are pejorative. Do not use language that leaves out part of the population, perpetuates stereotyping, or diminishes importance. Do not use male pronouns (such as “men”) to refer to a group that includes females as well. Consult the Academic Support Center for additional guidance if necessary.