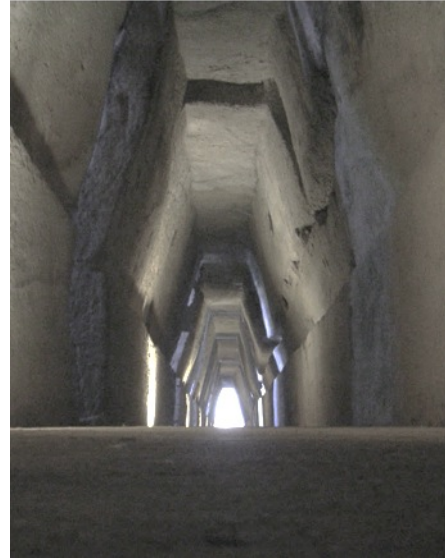


**Death and the Afterlife
in Graeco-Roman Antiquity**
CC348: 32429
Spring 2015, MWF 2-3 PM, MEZ 1.120

Instructor: Dr. James F. Patterson
Email: james_patterson@utexas.edu
Office: WAG 205; phone: (512) 471-5742
Office Hours: MW 12-2 PM and by appointment



Course Description:

This course explores the conceptual development of, and competing views on, the afterlife from Near Eastern myths and Homer through Greek and Roman antiquity to the early Church Fathers. As we go, we will also discuss how these beliefs influenced ethical systems. This course is multi-disciplinary in that it covers the mythology, religion, philosophy, poetics, science, and material culture of death in Graeco-Roman antiquity.

Required Texts (available at the Coop or online):

Aristophanes, *Frogs and Other Plays* (transl. S. Dutta) ISBN-13: 978-0140449693
Homer, *Odyssey* (transl. R. Fagles) ISBN-13: 978-0143039952
Lucan, *The Civil War* (transl. S. H. Braund) ISBN-13: 978-0199540686
The Epic of Gilgamesh (transl. A. George) ISBN-13: 978-0140449198
Petronius, *Satyricon* and Seneca, *The Apocolocyntosis* (transl. J. P. Sullivan) ISBN-13: 978-0140444896
Plato, *Great Dialogues of Plato* (transl. W. H. D. Rouse) ISBN-13: 978-0451530851
Vergil, *Aeneid* (transl. R. Fagles) ISBN-13: 978-0143106296

If you already own a different translation of one of these texts, please talk to me about whether it is appropriate for this course.

All other readings are available on Canvas, our course webpage.

Availability:

Unless otherwise noted, I will respond to emails within 24 hours, even on weekends. As for office hours, I have reserved MW 12-2 as dedicated times I will certainly be in my office. But I am in the office at other times and on other days, though possibly elsewhere in the building. If you would like to meet outside of my dedicated office hours, I am happy to schedule an appointment.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: 5%

Weekly Responses: 20% (due each Friday except for exam weeks)

Midterm Exam: 24% (tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 2)

Midterm Exam Follow-up Meeting: 1%

Final Exam: 25% (Friday, May 8)

Final Paper/Project: 20% (due at the end of our class final, May 16, 9-12)

Final Paper/Project Abstract: 5% (due Friday, April 3)

Weekly Responses:

A one-page discussion response will be due every Friday, including week 1, but excluding exam weeks (weeks 7 and 15). Thus, there will be 13 over the course of the semester. These must be typed and no more than 2 pages, double spaced. They must be submitted in print or by email at the start of every Friday's class (i.e. at 1:59:59 PM). They will ask you to respond to a specific question about that week's material. The Weekly Response will be posted on Canvas the previous Friday before they are due (with the exception of week 1, when it will be posted at the end of class that Wednesday). A total of 10 responses are required for your grade, each worth 2%. Only one response may be submitted each week. Satisfactory work earns full credit (2%); unsatisfactory work receives partial (1%) or no (0%) credit. Outstanding work will earn a bonus of 1% each. Scholastic dishonesty receives a triple penalty (0 for three responses).

Exams:

There will be two in-class exams each worth 25% of your final grade. The first is tentatively scheduled in week 7 (on Monday, March 2); the second week 15 (Friday, May 8—the last day of class). Note that 1 of the 25 percentage points of your midterm is a follow-up meeting. This will be a short ca. 30 min. meeting in my office in the week following the exam that will allow us to talk one-on-one about your exam, progress in the course, and any concerns you may have. The exams will be comprised of passage identifications and discussion (e.g. "what is this passage, and why is it relevant?"), short identifications of names and concepts (e.g. "who is Enkidu?", or "what is the theory of recollection?"), and/or short essay responses (e.g. "why are the two underworlds of *Aeneid* 6 incompatible?"). The Daily Handouts (see below) will provide practice questions and direct you toward the questions you should expect to be asked; the Weekly Responses and in-class discussions will show you how to respond. Thus, attendance is crucial for success in this course. Make-ups for exams will be allowed only for University-approved and documented (i.e. written) reasons.

Attendance and Participation:

There is no textbook for this material. I will summarize secondary scholarship and present the background to the assigned readings in class. And we will discuss the readings in class. Moreover, what we do in class is precisely what you will be expected to do on exams. So active participation in class is part of your prep for exams. For all of these reasons, missing class is detrimental to your success. You are allowed two unexcused absences with no penalty, but each additional absence will result in a reduction of 1 point from your final grade. Note: if I see you playing with your phone, if

your phone makes any noise in class, or if you use a laptop for anything unrelated to class (e.g. if Facebook is open in the background), I will consider you absent that day. To earn your 5% for participation, you must come to class having fully prepared that day's assignment and participate actively in discussion. The participation grade is meant as a bonus for hard thoughtful work and engagement with the material and class, not for how frequently you answer questions correctly.

Final Paper/Project and Abstract:

It is impossible to cover all relevant material in this short course. I have selected some major topics to explore, but there will be many things we can only touch upon. The paper/project is designed for you to explore what interests you, whether it is pursuing a topic discussed in class in greater depth or something we could not talk about at all. You may find a question on the first-day handout (which lists many of the larger questions you should have in mind as the course progresses), a topic in the schedule of readings, or a topic that is missing from the schedule that you wish to explore. I will work with you to determine the specific requirements for your individual paper/project, as these may differ slightly depending on whether you want, say, to emphasize primary material or secondary scholarship, literature or material culture, philosophical argumentation, etc. But the universal requirement is 15 pages double-spaced and engagement with a limited bibliography of primary and/or secondary material (or database) that you and I build together. (NB while a term paper of the sort described above is standard fare, it is possible to propose another sort of project so long as it is of equal substance and approved by me in advance. If you have an idea for a creative alternative to a term paper, talk to me a.s.a.p. and we will see if we can do something with it.)

The paper/project itself is 20% of your final grade and is due at the end of the University-scheduled final exam period for our class (May 16, 9-12—this paper/project counts as that final). You will also be required to post and briefly present a short ca. 300 word abstract of your project by Friday, April 3. You need not (and in fact should not) intend to have written the paper by this date. Rather, the abstract is meant to get you thinking early about what you want to do and how you want to do it, and to share your interests with the rest of the class.

***It is my personal policy that all graded material be returned by the next class day unless something unusual comes up, in which case I will notify the class ahead of time when possible.

Daily Handouts:

At the end of each day, I will pass out and post to Canvas a one to two page guide to help you with that night's assignment and the next day's discussion. They will include such things as short summaries of the topic at hand, bibliography, discussion questions, key terms, images, etc. They will be very useful as an organizational tool for your notes and the content of this course. Keep these safe and handy at all times, and be sure to bring them to class. They will help you prepare the material, and we will work directly from them in class.

Disabilities:

UT Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact SSD at 512.471-6259, or go to <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>. You must present me with a UT "accommodation letter" authorizing specific accommodations as soon as possible.

Religious Holidays:

If you need to miss a class or other required class activity for the observance of a religious holiday, you must notify me at least 14 days in advance so we can make alternative arrangements for your absence. The University's Religious Days Policy is online: http://www.utexas.edu/provost/policies/religious_holidays/.

UT Honor Code:

"The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community."

Scholastic Dishonesty:

Scholastic dishonesty on any graded assignment will result in a 0 on that assignment (and see the triple penalty for Weekly Responses). Scholastic dishonesty on an exam or the final paper/project will *also* result in a deduction of 25% from your final grade. Thus, cheating on one exam means the highest possible grade you can get is 50%; cheating on two, 25%. Scholastic dishonesty includes any kind of cheating or collaboration on graded assignments (unless I specify that an assignment is collaborative), or submitting work that is not either your own or accurately attributed to its source (i.e. if you copy sources, you must cite what you have copied). For more information, contact Student Judicial Services at 471-2841, or go to http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php/. Note that I will report to the SJS if I am aware of any cheating.

Computers and Cellphones:

Computers may be used in the classroom only with prior permission of the instructor and only for relevant academic purposes. Any other use of a computer during class (e.g. Facebook, email, Skype) will be considered an absence for that day. Cellphones must always be turned off and kept out of site for the duration of class. If I see a cellphone, even one that is turned off, I will record you as absent for that day.

Important Dates:

Wed., Jan 21: First day of class
Mon., March 2: Midterm exam (in class)
March 16-21: Spring Break
Fri., April 3: Paper/project abstracts due
Fri., May 8: Final exam (in class)
Sat., May 16: Paper/project due at noon

Schedule of Readings

NB this schedule is subject to change both in terms of daily topics and the assigned readings for that day. Some of the readings may be shortened; others may be expanded. But, this will give you a fairly accurate sense of what to expect. (Note: citations of ancient texts follow the traditional line numbers and are not the page numbers of modern translations.)

Week 1: Introduction

Wed., Jan 21: Introduction to the Course and Historical Orientation

Readings: None

Fri., Jan 23: Discussion: Life, Death, and Immortality

Readings: Second Day Discussion Handout

Week 2: From Sumeria to Homer

Mon., Jan 26: Gilgamesh

Readings: Gilgamesh VII-XI, “Bilgames and the Netherworld” (Tablet XII), and “The Death of Bilgames”

Wed., Jan 28: Inanna/Ishtar

Readings: Gilgamesh VI, “Inanna in the Nether World” (*ETCSL* t.1.4.1), and “Dumuzid’s Dream” 1.4.3

Fri., Jan. 30: Odysseus's *Katabasis* Part 1: Circe

Readings: Homer, *Odyssey* 10

Week 3: Homer and Hesiod

Mon., Feb. 2: Odysseus' *Katabasis* Part 2: The *Nekuia*

Readings: Homer, *Odyssey* 11

Wed., Feb. 4: Hesiod's Underworld and the Ages of Man

Readings: Hesiod, *Theogony* 721-819 (the Underworld) and *Works and Days* 109-201 (the Ages of Man); Ovid, *Met.* 1.89-150 (the Ages of Man); Vergil, *Eclogue* 4

Fri., Feb. 6: Hermes, Charon, & Co.

Readings: Patterson

Week 4: Heroes and Antiheroes

Mon., Feb. 9: *Aristeia* and the Homeric Ethos

Readings: Homer, *Iliad* 10 (the Doloneia); Vergil, *Aeneid* 9.176-502 (Nisus and Euryalus); Patterson (on flowers)

Wed., Feb. 11: Collective Immortality

Readings: Homer, *Iliad* 12.290-328 (Glaucus' speech); *Odyssey* 11 and 24.1-204 (dead heroes); Horace, *Ode* 3.30 (pyramids and decay)

Fri., Feb. 13: The Happiest Man, and the Justice of Zeus

Readings: Herodotus 1. 6-92 (Gyges, Solon, and Croesus)

Week 5: Mystery Religions

Mon., Feb. 16: Persephone and Eleusis

Readings: *Homeric Hymn to Demeter*

Wed., Feb. 18: Orpheus and Orphism

Readings: Plato, *Symposium* 178a1- 180b8 (Phaedrus' speech); Vergil, *Georgics* 4. 453-527; Ovid, *Met.* 10.1-85; [Vergil], *Culex*

Fri., Feb. 20: The Dying God and Other Cults

Readings: TBD

Week 6: Death and Satire

Mon., Feb. 23: Aristophanes' *Frogs*

Readings: Aristophanes, *Frogs*

Wed., Feb. 25: Lucian, Part 1

Readings: Lucian, *True History*

Fri., Feb. 27: Lucian, Part 2 (and Byzantine Parodies)

Readings: Lucian, *Menippus* and *Dialogues of the Dead* (optional: the *Timarion* and *Mazaris's Journey to Hades*)

Week 7: Judaism and Zoroastrianism

Mon., March 2: MIDTERM EXAM (in class)

Wed., March 4: The Hebrew Sheol

Readings: TBD (Guest Lecture by Dr. Jordan Smith, University of Iowa)

Fri., March 6: Apocalypse

Readings: TBD (Guest Lecture by Dr. Jordan Smith, University of Iowa)

Week 8: Prophetic Knowledge

Mon., March 9: Delphi

Readings: Pausanias 10.5.5-13; Plutarch, *De defectu oraculorum* and *De Pythiae oraculis*

Wed., March 11: Chthonic Rituals, Curse Tablets, and the Dying

Readings: Curse tablets and Trophonios (Patterson); prophetic knowledge while dying: Patroclus (Homer, *Iliad* 16.818-67), Hector (Homer, *Iliad* 22.289-404), Socrates (Plato, *Apology* 38c1-42a5)

Fri., March 13: Ghosts and Dreams

Readings: TBD

SPRING BREAK (March 16-21)

Week 9: Philosophy

Mon., March 23: Ancient Theories of the Soul, Part 1: Plato

Readings: Plato, *Phaedo* (selections) and *Meno* (80e1-81e2—Theory of Recollection)

Wed., March 25: Plato on Death and Reincarnation

Readings: Plato, *Gorgias* 523a1-7e7 and *Republic* 613e6-621d2 (Myth of Er)

Fri., March 27: Ancient Theories of the Soul, Part 2: Aristotle, Epicurus, the Stoics

Readings: Patterson; Epicurus, *Letter to Herodotus* and *Letter to Menoeceus* 124-127; Lucretius 830-1094

Week 10: Suicide

Mon., March 30: Suicide, Part 1: Platonism and Stoicism

Readings: Socrates (selections from the Apologies of Plato and Xenophon) and Xeno of Citium (Diogenes Laertius 7.28). Neoplatonism: Plotinus *Enneads* 1.4 and 1.9; Porphyry, *Life of Plotinus* 11; Plethon, conclusion to his *Monody for Helena Palaiologina*

Wed., April 1: Suicide, Part 2: The Noble Roman

Readings: Lucretia (Livy 1.57-59); Cato (Plutarch, *Cato the Younger* 66-73; Lucan, selections from *BC*; Seneca, *Ep.* 24.8); Petronius (Tacitus *Annals* 16.18-20)

Fri., April 3: Abstract Presentations

paper/project abstracts due

Week 11: Vergil's *Aeneid* 6

Mon., April 6: The Sibyl: Delphic versus Chthonic Rituals

Readings: Vergil, *Aeneid* 6.6.1-267

Wed., April 8: Vergil's Underworld, Part 1: Access Points and Topography

Readings: Have read all of Vergil, *Aeneid* 6 by today

Fri., April 10: Vergil's Underworld, Part 2: The Two Underworlds; Guides

Readings: Patterson (Otis's first problem; Vergil's Sibyl and Dante's Vergil)

Week 12: Vergil's *Aeneid* 6, Cont'd

Mon., April 13: The Parade of Heroes: Death, Memory, and History

Readings: Polybius 6.53-54 (on Roman funerals)

Wed., April 15: The Gates of Sleep

Readings: Vergil, *Aeneid* 6. 893-901; Homer, *Odyssey* 19 (Penelope's dream)

Fri., April 17: Lucan's Response: Witchcraft and Necromancy

Readings: Lucan, *Bellum Civile* 6

Week 13: The Empire

Mon., April 20: The Imperial Cult

Readings: Seneca, *Apocolocyntosis*

Wed., April 22: Death and Satire

Readings: Petronius, *Cena Trimalchionis*

Fri., April 24: Christians and the Persecutions

Readings: Origen, *Exhortation to Martyrdom*; Tertullian, *De spectaculis* and *Ad martyras*

Week 14: Martyrdom and the Persecutions

Mon., April 27: Martyr Narratives

Readings: [Anonymous], *Passio sanctorum*

Wed., April 29: Suicide Part 3, and the "Eternal City"

Readings: Augustine, *De civ.* 1.16-31; Salvian, *De gubernatore dei* (selections)

Fri., May 1: Augustine on Heaven and the Body

Readings: Augustine, *De civ.* 13 (selections)

Week 15: Augustine and the West

Mon., May 4: Augustine on Time and Eternity

Readings: Patterson and *Confessions* 9.10, 10.8, 11.29-30, and 12.5-12

Wed., May 6: Conclusion: After Antiquity

Readings: None

Fri., May 8: FINAL EXAM (in class)

Finals Period

***Final paper/project due at the end of the University-scheduled final exam
for our class (May 16, 9-12)***