COURSE DESCRIPTION FOR RAST2332
DEATH, JUDGEMENT, HEAVEN, & HELL
“The Four Last Things”
DSPT Room 1, Thursdays 9:40 AM-12:30 PM

This is a religious, cultural, and art historical study of “The Four Last Things.” The course will chart the human body in the rituals of death and the journey of the soul into the world beyond.

The goal of this course is to expand the student’s knowledge of “The Four Last Things” by concentrating on the language, iconography, and literature of Death, Judgment, and the Afterlife. The means of achieving this goal can be found in those elements listed below:

GRADERS
Grades will be determined by the following tools of assessment: 1) Occasional Quizzes based on the lectures given in class (50%), 2) Discussion based upon the readings assigned for class (15%) and finally, 3) a ten-page Research Paper (35%) on some topic based on an aspect of “The Four Last Things.” The student is urged to retain a second copy of the paper for security’s sake. For artists who are taking the class and wish to substitute an art project in lieu of the research paper, they may do so. The professor must first approve the nature of the art project.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE COURSE

DEATH: The Fear of Death; ARS MORIENDI, The Art of Dying; Symbols of Death; The Hour of Death; The Battle for the Soul; The Body and Death; Death as Spectacle; Preservation of the Dead; The Incorruptibles; The Exhibition of the Dead; From Home to Grave; Tombs and Cities of the Dead; Omnia Vanitas; The Danse Macabre; Crossing Over of the Soul.

JUDGEMENT: Where Souls are after Death; Purification and Punishment; The Five Abodes of the Dead; Ghosts; Reincarnation; Limbo; Purgatory; Communication with the Dead; Journeys to the Netherworld in Art and Literature; Mystical Accounts; The Seven Deadly Sins; Virtue and Vice; Signs of the End Times; Rapture; Apocalypse; The Last Judgement.

HELL: The Geography of Hell; The Iconography of the Devil; Malleus Mallificarum; Hunting for the Devil; The Devil in Art and Legend; Possession; Exorcism; The Devil and the Body; The Anti-Christ; A
Hierarchy of Demons; The Souls of the Damned; Masterpieces of Supernatural Horror; The Development of The Horror Film.

**HEAVEN:** Essential and Accidental Beatitude; The Resurrected Body; Notions of Paradise and the History of Heaven; The Hierarchy of Heaven; Angels and Mortals; The Communion of Saints; The New Jerusalem; Seeing God and the Beatific Vision.

Attendance is mandatory for all classes. Absences will result in the reduction of one’s grade. Appointments with the professor can be made immediately after class.

A READER WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FOR CLASS AND REGULAR READINGS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO COMPLEMENT THE WEEKLY LECTURES

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**General**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church
Summa Theologica. St. Thomas Aquinas
The Divine Comedy. Dante Alighieri
The Four Last Things: Death, Judgement, Hell, Heaven. Fr. Martin von Cochem

**Death**

Last Things: Death and the Apocalypse in the Middle Ages. Caroline Walker Bynum & Paul Freedman
Otherworld Journeys: Accounts of Near-Death Experience in Medieval and Modern Times. Carol Zaleski
Death in Literature. Edited by Robert Wier
The Space of Death. Michel Ragon
The Shape of Death. Jarislov Pelikan
Tomb Sculpture. Erwin Panofsky
Looking at Death. Barbara P. Norflect
Images of Afterlife. Geddes MacGregor
Preparation for Death. St. Alphonsus Ligouri
Death and its Mysteries. Ignace Lepp
Encyclopedia of Death. Robert and Beatrice Kastenbaum
The Hour of Our Death. Philippe Aries
Images of Man and Death. Philippe Aries
Master of Death. Michael Camille
The Soul After Death. Fr. Seraphim Rose
The Mystery of Death. Ladislaus Boros
Afterlife: The Other Side of Dying. Morton D. Kelsey
The American Way of Death. Jessica Mitford
The Loved One. Evelyn Waugh
Shane Leslie’s Ghost Book. Shane Leslie

Judgement
The Birth of Purgatory. Jacques LeGoff
Purgatory: Explained by the Lives and Legends of the Saints. Fr. F. X. Schouppe
Purgatory and the Means of Avoiding It. Martin A. Jugie
Michelangelo’s Last Judgement: The Renaissance Response. Bernadine Barnes
Vice: An Anthology. Edited by Richard Davenport Ines
Back to Virtue. Peter Kreeft
The Seven Deadly Sins: Jewish, Christian, and Classical Reflections on Human Nature. Solomon Schimmel
The Four Cardinal Virtues. Josef Pieper
Seven Sins and Seven Virtues. Karl A. Olsson
Limbo: Unsettled Question. George J. Dyer
Images of the Journey in Dante’s Divine Comedy. Charles H. Taylor and Patricia Finley
The Visions of Tondol. The Getty Museum
Apocalypse. Frederick van der Meer
The Thunder of Justice. Ted and Maureen Flynn

Heaven
The Resurrection of the Body. Caroline Walker Bynum
Heaven and Hell in Western Art. Robert Hughes
Heaven: The Heart’s Deepest Longing. Peter Kreeft
Encyclopedia of Heaven. Miriam Van Scots
The Book of Heaven: An Anthology of Writings from Ancient to Modern Times. Edited by Carol Zaleski and Philip Zaleski
Heaven: A History. Colleen McDannell and Bernhard Lang
A Dictionary of Angels. Gustav Davidson
Angels: An Endangered Species. Malcolm Godwin
Angels and Demons. Peter Kreeft
Paradiso: The Illustrations to Dante’s Divine Comedy. John Pope-Hennessy
Hell
The History of Hell. Alice Turner
Hell: An Illustrated History of the Netherworld. Richard Craze
The Medieval Underworld. Andrew McCall
The Hierarchy of Hell. Lauren Paine
Visions of Heaven and Hell Before Dante. Edited by Eileen Gardiner
The Fear of Hell: Images of Damnation and Salvation in Early Modern Europe. Piero Camporesi
Maps of Heaven, Maps of Hell: Religious Terror as Memory from the Puritans to Stephen King. Edward J. Ingebretsen
The History of the Devil and the Idea of Evil. Dr. Paul Carus
The Devil in Legend and Literature. Maximilian Rodwin
Maps of Heaven, Maps of Hell: Religious Terror as Memory from the Puritans to Stephen King. Edward J. Ingebretsen
The History of the Devil and the Idea of Evil. Dr. Paul Carus
The Devil in Legend and Literature. Maximilian Rodwin
The Devil: A Mask Without a Face. Luther Link
The Devil: The Archfiend in Art from the 6th to the 16th Century. Luther Link
The Old Enemy: Satan and the Combat Myth. Neil Forsyth
Anti-Christ: Two Thousand Years of Human Fascination with Evil. Bernard McGinn
The Devil: Perceptions of Evil from Antiquity to Primitive Christianity. Jeffrey Burton Russell
The Devil Bernard Leeming, S.J. and Walter Farrell, O.P.
Begone Satan. Rev. Carl Vogl
Possessed: The True Story of an Exorcism. Thomas B. Allen
An Exorcist Tells His Story. Gabriele Amorth
Evidence of Satan in the Modern World. Leon Cristiani
The Book of Demons. Victoria Hyatt and Joseph Charles
Demons! The Devil, Possession, and Exorcism. Anthony Finlay
La Beauté du Diable. Roland Villeneuve
More Things Than Are Dreamt Of: Masterpieces of Supernatural Horror—from Mary Shelley to Stephen King—in Literature and Film. Alain Silver and James Ursini
THE DEAD DRESSING FOR THE LAST JUDGMENT

A carved detail from the north portal, Bâle Cathedral. (From G. G. Coulton, Art and the Reformation.)