

RELI 125

Heaven and Hell



“Heaven and Hell” explores the development and significance of religious notions of an afterlife in Western culture. What do we mean by the word “soul”? Are notions of an individual life after death coherent? Are they desirable? What alternative notions of life after death can we imagine? The course readings include historical materials, literary texts, and philosophical and theological reflections concerning the nature and duration of human identity and the concept of immortality (together with its implications for our understanding of the relations between mind and body, between the human and the divine, and between human beings and their community). The focus of the readings will be primarily on Christian thought, looking particularly at various Christian ideas of reward and punishment, but we will explore other religious traditions as well in order better to understand a broader range of perspectives on these issues.

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Mondays and Wednesdays
1:25PM - 2:15PM

General Education Requirements: PH, NA

