

PHI 365: Immortality  
MW 11:00-12:15 Carman 350  
Carl Brownson  
Office Hours: M 5:00-6:00 Carman 365  
[carlbrownson@yahoo.com](mailto:carlbrownson@yahoo.com)

### Texts

Edwards, P., ed. *Immortality*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 1997. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books.  
*The Bible*. Any edition, both Old and New Testaments.  
*The Upanishads*. Prabhavananda and Manchester, trans. 2002. NY, NY: Signet.  
Holder, J., ed. *Early Buddhist Discourses*. 2006. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett.  
Thurman, R.A.F., ed. *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*. 1994. NY, NY: Bantam.  
Alighieri, Dante. *Inferno*. Ciardi, J., trans. 2001. NY, NY: Signet.  
Alighieri, Dante. *Purgatorio*. Ciardi, J., trans. 2001. NY, NY: Signet.  
Alighieri, Dante. *Paradiso*. Ciardi, J., trans. 2001. NY, NY: Signet.

### Course Schedule

1/29 Introduction

#### The Judeo-Christian Traditions

1/31 Ecclesiastes (complete); Psalms 115:16-18, 6:1-5, 88:1-12, and 146:1-4.  
2/5 Job 14; Genesis 3; Daniel 12; Mark 15-16.  
2/7 Luke 23-24; Matthew 19:16-30; Luke 16:19-31; Corinthians 15:35-58;  
Revelations 20-22.

#### The Hindu Tradition

2/14 *The Upanishads*: Katha. **Paper 1 Due.**  
2/15 *The Upanishads*: Isha, Kena, and Kaivalya.

#### The Early Buddhist Tradition

2/21 *Early Buddhist Discourses*: Pages x-xx, 83-88, and 95-100.

#### The Tibetan Buddhist Tradition

2/26 *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, p. 99-148. (Only boldface passages are required.)  
2/28 *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, p. 149-199 (Only boldface passages are required.)

#### The Greco-Roman Tradition

3/5 Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book VI, at <http://classics.mit.edu/Virgil/aeneid.6.vi.html>  
3/7 Virgil, continued. **Paper 2 Due.**

#### The Divine Comedy

3/12 Dante, *The Inferno*, Cantos I-XVII. (Footnotes not required.)  
3/14 Dante, *The Inferno*, Cantos XVIII-XXXIV.  
3/19 Dante, *The Purgatorio*, Cantos I-XVII.  
3/21 Dante, *The Purgatorio*, Cantos XVIII-XXXIII.  
3/26 Dante, *The Paradiso*, Cantos I-XIX.  
3/28 Dante, *The Paradiso*, Cantos XX-XXXIII.

#### The Afterlife in the History of Art

4/11 In-class slide presentation. **Paper 3 Due.**

4/16 Slide presentation, continued.

Western Philosophers on the Soul, the Mind, the Body, and the Self

4/18 Plato, in *Immortality*, pp. 73-82.

4/23 Descartes, in *Immortality*, pp. 100-108.

4/25 Hume and Voltaire, in *Immortality*, pp. 130-147.

4/30 Hick and Van Inwagen, in *Immortality*, pp. 235-247.

5/2 Parfit, in *Immortality*, pp. 308-315.

What Would an Eternal Life be Worth?

5/7 Pascal, from *Pensees*. Handout.

5/9 Williams, "The Makropoulos Case". Handout.

5/14 Nagel, from *The View from Nowhere*. Handout.

5/16 Presentations. **Paper 4 Due.**

5/18-5/25 **Final Exam**

Grades

Attendance, Participation, and Reading Quizzes: 10%

Paper 1: 15%

Paper 2: 15%

Paper 3: 15%

Paper 4: 25%

Final Exam: 20%