

# **GSEM 619 Death and Beyond**

**Office: Old Library 245  
Phone: 5046**



(Sibbing-Plantholt 2021), Coping with time and death  
(Tarlow 2023), Chapter 1 (note that this is a very personal chapter which may cause some distress)

### Special Topics:

- 
- (Azevedo and Bitencourt Othero 2020) Human death as a triptych process
- (Bauks 2016) “Soul Concepts”
- (Farber 2007) Lamaštu—Agent of a specific disease
- 
- (Lambert 1980) Theology of Death
- (Ortner and Frohlich 2007), The EB IA tombs and burials
- Black et al. 1998c), *Gilgamesh, Enkidu, and the world* (ETCSL Translation) (Black et al. 1998e)
- 
- (George 2009) *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
- (Black et al. 1998f). (ETCSL Translation)
- (Black et al. 1998g), *The death of Gilgamesh* (ETCSL Translation)

### Week 3: September 18 Death in Greece: Dying - Who Dies? When and How?

#### Topics:

- Mortals vs. Immortals
- Good Death and Bad Death
- Mechanics of Dying – departure of the psyche, dissolution of elements

#### Primary Readings:

Plato,  
Hesiod, *Works and Days*  
Lyric Poets: Callinus, Tyrtaeus, Semonides, Mimnermus, and Solon  
Homer, *Iliad* xvi, xxii  
Herodotus I.30-33 (Solon)  
Stobaeus, *On Death*

#### Secondary Readings:

Edmonds (forthcoming) *What is Death?*  
Garland, ch. 1-2

048) ( ofi<2 >H)M6(24638)6 on ao Tf0 c5 (a0.001-0.001 Tw m)5 (aoTw m)5 (aoTw[(Hew[F (,) -1 ( M)3 (i)-1 (m)1 (ne)-3&.300  
E

## Section 2: Liminality

### Week 4: September 25 Liminality for the Community in the Near East: The Funeral Ritual and Mourning

#### Topics:

- Ritual for the community
- Funeral rituals and burial practices in different periods
  - Burial and disposal methods
- in di :  
Week

## Week 5: October 2 Liminality for the Community in Greece: The Funeral Ritual and Mourning

### Topics:

- Ritual for the community
- Miasma and Purification
- Funeral ritual in different periods
  - Funeral components – burial vs. cremation, offerings, lamentation
  - Funeral Legislation – community regulates its rituals, the role of women
- Parallels between funeral ritual and marriage ritual
  - Assimilation of the transitions in myth
  - the case of Persephone at Locri

### Primary Readings:

Homer, *Odyssey* 11.1-11.100

Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* 1000-1050

Arat, *Phaenomena* 100-110

**Week 6: October 9 Liminality for the Deceased in the Near East and Greece: The Journey and its Perils**

**Topics:**

- the journey – directions
- obstacles to the journey –

Plutarch, *de genio Socratis* 589f-592f  
Ghost Magic from Greece

**Secondary Readings:**

(Finkel 2020), *The First Ghosts*  
Johnston 1999, ch. 3  
Vermeule 1979, ch. 6  
(Weiss-Krejci 2013), *The Unburied Dead*

**Special Topics:**

Johnston 2001, *Defining the Dead* (K)eing t15 (MCID 10 BDC /TT3 1 Tf-6.2d()TjEM5 (r)4 (





## **Week 11. November 13 Beyond: Afterlife in the Near East – The Netherworld, Remembrance and Ancestors**

### **Topics:**

- the afterlife and different conceptions
- Memory, Identity and Ancestors
- Death, Time, and Transformation

### **Primary Readings:**

(Black et al. 1998i), Sumerian King's List  
(Lambert 2014), Enuma Elish Tablet V and VI

### **Secondary Readings:**

(Assmann 2010), Re-framing memory  
(Lucas 2005), Ch. 3  
(Whitley 2002), Too many ancestors

### **Special Topics:**

(Katz 2003), ch. 5  
(Lundström 2013), Chaos and Creation  
-  
(Lange 2012), Food and Libation Offerings  
(Lange 2014), The Next Level  
-  
(Croucher 2006), Death, Display and Performance (this focuses on the Neolithic, which is outside of our main periods of interest but reveals several interesting points regarding time and human remains)  
(Peltenburg 2007), Enclosing the Ancestors  
(Schwartz 2013), Umm el Marra

## **Week 12: November 20 Beyond: Afterlife in Greece – Topography of the Underworld**

### **Topics:**

- the changing location of the underworld – Elysium, Isles of the Blest, Hades
- the nature of life in the afterlife
- privilege and punishment
- Mystery Cults and Salvation
- Eleusinian Mysteries and Orphism
- Symposia of the Blest

### **Primary Readings:**

Pindar                    II & Dirges  
'Orphic' Gold Tablets  
Plato: myths from            (107c-115b) and            (523a-527e);  
Pausanias X.28-31 on Polygnotos (cp. Frazer's commentary)  
Lucian,  
Plutarch

### **Secondary Readings**

Edmonds 2015, Imagining the Afterlife

Garland, ch. 5, 6  
Vermeule 1979, ch. 2

**Special Topics:**

Burkert 2009, Pleading for Hell  
Saunders 1991, Anxieties and Surrogates

**Mystery Cults and Salvation**

Burkert 1987, Mystery Cults  
Redfield 1991, The Politics of Immortality

Parker 1995, Early Orphism  
Edmonds 2008, Extra-ordinary People

[Plato]  
Plutarch,  
Boys-Stones 2013, The : Therapy for the Dead

**Week 13: November 27 Beyond the Afterlife: Reincarnation or Nothing?**

**Topics:**

- Alternatives to the Underworld
- The fragmentary body
- Atomism and the afterlife
- Ethicization of reincarnation

**Primary Readings:**

Diogenes Laertius: Lives of Empedokles & Pythagoras  
Plato on reincarnation: selections from  
Lucretius, , book III  
Aeneas of Gaza,

**Secondary Readings:**

Edmonds 2013, Life in the Afterlife  
(Fowler 2016), Relational personhood  
Henry 2009, Introduction (xvi-xxii) Epicurean Ideas of Death  
Long 1948, A Study of the Doctrine of Metempsychosis  
Obeyesekere 2002, Eschatology In Greek And Rebirth Soteriology

**Special Topics:**

Obeyesekere, (online in Tripod)  
**Epicurean philosophy and death**  
Epicurus,



## Bibliography

### Near East:

Archi, Alfonso. 2002. "Jewels for the Ladies of Ebla." *Zeitschrift Für Assyriologie* 92: 161-99.

———. 2008. "The Soul Has to Leave the Land of the Living." *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 7.2: 169–95.

Arnold, Bettina. 2014. "Life After Life: Bioarchaeology and Post-Mortem Agency." *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 24 (3): 523–29.

Assmann, Aleida. 2010. "Re-Framing Memory. Between Individual and Collective Forms of Constructing the Past." In *Journal of American Studies* 44 (1), 1–25.

s004 Tc 0.004 Ass/NC/17/12/13 (e2: 169)]TJ 0 Tc 0 Tw (-)7]TJ 0 Tc1-2

- Chesson, Meredith, S. 1999. "Libraries of the Dead: Early Bronze Age Charnel Houses and Social Identity at Urban Bab Edh-Dhra', Jordan." *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 18: 137–64.
- Cradic, Melissa S. 2021. "Materializing the Ancestors: Sacred Body Parts and Fragments in the Ancient Near East." In *The Sacred Body*, edited by Nicola Laneri, 1:83–114. *Materializing the Divine through Human Remains in Antiquity*. Oxbow Books. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv13nb8wc.9>.
- Croucher, Karina. 2006. "Death, Display and Performance: A Discussion of the Mortuary Remains at Çayönü Tepesi, Southeast Turkey." In

- . 1965. *š ... f ~ f - < ' • • f - † " < ... Š ' á ' Ž — • † ™ ' ä Š* Jerusalem: *š ... f ~ f - †*  
British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem.
- . 1965. "The Death of Ur-Nammu and His Descent to the Netherworld." *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 21: 104–22.
- Lambert, Wilfred G. 1980. "The Theology of Death." In *† f - Š < • † • ' ' - f • < f } ã f ' † " • † f - Š † † † • ... ' • - " † • • > " < ' Ž ' %*, edited by Benoit Alster, 53–62. Leiden: Brill.
- . 2014. *f „ > Ž ' • < f • " † f - < ä • t • † - Š " < • - < • % ä † • ' ' - f • < f • < ~ < Ž < œ f - < ' • •*  
Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9781575068619>.
- Laneri, Nicola. 2007. "An Archaeology of Funerary Rituals." In *† " ^ ' " • < • % † f - Š ä ' ... < f Ž •*









Anton Bierl, Rebecca Lämmle, Katharina Wesselmann. Walter de Gruyter. Berlin. New York: 151-177.

Hame, Kerri (2008). Female Control of Funeral Rites in Greek Tragedy: Klytimestra, Medea, and Antigone. *Classical Philology* 103: 1-15.

Herrero, Miguel (2015). Traditions of Catabatic Experience in Aeneid 6. *Classical Philology* 83: 329-349.

Hertz, Robert (2006). *Death and Time*. trans. Rodney Needham, and Claudia Needham. Florence: Taylor & Francis Group,.

Humphreys, S. C. (1981). *Death and Time*. S. C. Humphreys & H. King. London, Academic Press: 261. Ss:9.

) H ( A e r n . t i Humphreys, S. C. (

