

PHIL 3160: Death and Dying Fall 2026



Course Information

Course Meetings: TTH 12:45-2:05pm
Location: Wooten Hall 317

Professor Meda-Lambru

E-Mail: denise.meda-lambru@UNT.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays 10am-12:00pm

ENV (EESAT) 310U, by appointment. For alternative times, email me to schedule an appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Em Jackson

Email: Emily.Jackson@unt.edu

Course Description

What is the nature of death? How should we feel or perceive death? What happens after death? What kind of relationship exists between life and death? The course will address these questions and study the value of death, dying, afterlife, rituals, and ancestor worship in contemporary literature. The purpose of course readings and discussions is to engage students to think philosophically about the metaphysical, social, ethical, and religious aspects related to death.

Course Learning Objectives

- Students will outline influential positions and arguments concerning metaphysical and ethical issues raised by death and dying.
- Students will be able to identify, compare, and critically assess philosophical arguments about death and dying, and forms of reasoning presented in course readings.
- Students will critically examine their own perspectives on death while engaging respectfully with various philosophical, and communal understandings of human existence.

- Students will develop an understanding interconnected views of life and death through discussions of afterlife and ancestor worship.
- Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the literature through exams, reading quizzes, and course discussions.

Course Readings and Course Schedule

To fully participate in the class, students will need internet access to reference Canvas and course materials. Readings are accessible digitally through the UNT Library [course guide](#)* and/or Canvas. Students are responsible for reading the assigned readings *by* the date listed. The reading schedule and assignment deadlines are accessible through Canvas.

Our **PHIL 3160 Library Course Guide*** is available at:
<https://guides.library.unt.edu/phil3160>

Assignments

Quizzes (4)	40%
<i>Exams</i> (2)	40%
Podcast Interview	20%
<i>Attendance</i>	10%
<i>Participation</i>	10%

Quizzes

There will be five canvas quizzes. The four highest scores of the five will count for this category's credit. If the student scores at least 75% on the remaining quiz, those points will convert to five extra credit points.

Exams

Exams will consist of short essay questions related to the course readings and class discussions.

Podcast Interview

Students will participate in peer video interviews asking and responding to a series of related to the course readings and class discussions.

A note on Late Submissions/Make-Up Assignments

Late submissions are strongly discouraged. However, I understand that life happens, so I accept late submission and allow make-up assignments. Permission to submit a late assignment requires the student to communicate with me. A penalty of 5% per day may apply. Attendance, participation, and the art project are assignments a student cannot make-up.

Attendance

The course is scheduled to meet in person twice a week. Students are expected to attend every class on time. However, students are allowed four absences without any

penalty. After four absences, a 1% deduction will be applied to the attendance category for *each* missed class. Please note that attending less than 75% of a single class is considered an absence. If you miss a class, contact me and a peer to discuss the class material and assignments.

Participation

Student participation involves discussing the course materials, especially with an understanding of the argument and main claims, critiques, questions, and connections with other course materials. Participation will be evaluated through a variety of opportunities such as in-class quizzes, and class discussion, i.e., asking questions, offering analysis and/or commentary, engagement during small group discussions. Additional components include adherence to the technology policy and classroom etiquette as they impact the classroom experience and learning environment.

Technology policy

Given that technology is essential for this course, it is important you utilize devices such as laptops or tablets as an advantage and not as a distraction. As such, cell phones and headphones or earbuds are not permitted for use during class, unless stated by the professor. Continuous disruptions will impact the learning environment and may result in penalties from the student's overall participation score.

Classroom Etiquette

This course is going to discuss challenging topics that may engender strong responses to the subject matter. Our classroom is meant to be a space to investigate, understand, and engage with the material. To do so, classroom etiquette is important and, at the least, requires students to maintain open communication, respectful engagement, active listening, and self-reflectiveness.

Email Communication*

Students should check emails regularly. Any emails to me should follow proper email etiquette:

A clear title in the subject line, a detailed purpose of the email in the text box, and a closing/student's signature.

I will respond to emails within 48 hours, Monday – Friday.

*Before emailing me, double check for the answer in the syllabus, class notes, or any previous email correspondence.

Course Suggestions

- Check *Canvas* regularly for assignments, readings, and course updates.
- Actively check your grade and attendance throughout the semester. It is easier to address any questions or issues as they arise.
- Exchange contact information with at least two peers so you can discuss the course material and/or notes if you miss any information or class.
- Use the campus resources to your advantage. For example, the [UNT Writing Center](#) is a great place to develop your writing skills and to work through your writing assignments. For subject related materials resources, visit the [UNT libraries](#).
- Philosophy courses may be challenging, especially at first, so *please* do not hesitate to ask for help. I am happy to serve as a resource.

Non-Academic Responsibilities

You are a student among many other roles you fulfill in life. If our course and other priorities, such as family responsibilities, conflict, please speak with me. I will try to be flexible and accommodate your learning experience with outside classroom responsibilities.

UNT Policies

UNT Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to [UNT Policy 06.003](#), Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Artificial Intelligence Use

In this course, I want you to engage with the materials personally, develop your critical thinking skills, and strengthen your writing abilities. For these reasons, students are not permitted to use generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and related tools on assignments and submissions for credit. Moreover, using GenAI content without proper credit or substituting your own work with GenAI undermines the learning process and violates academic integrity (see [Policy 06.003](#))

ADA Accommodation

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities and different abilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter. Students will provide me with a copy of the letter and are encouraged to meet with me to discuss their course needs during office hours or through email. For additional information see the [ODA website](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/) at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/>.

Eagle Alert

Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class and describe that the calendar is subject to change.