

## **DRAFT SYLLABUS –SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

*Fall 2023-2024 Monday 9:30-12:30 ITB Seminar Room*

*Office: # B4-320 Dept. Humanities and Social Sciences, FEB*

*Office Hours: Wednesday 09.00-1300 Phone: 285 7277, email: kocan@itu.edu.tr*

### **Course Description**

This course investigates the intricate relationship between death and politics, examining how mortality shapes political authority, social order, and cultural practices. Death is not merely a biological event but a political phenomenon that influences governance, law, and collective identity. Political regimes regulate life and death through mechanisms such as war, punishment, and public health, while societies construct rituals of mourning and remembrance that reflect and reinforce political values.

We will explore how states respond to mass death, how societies negotiate grief and memory in the aftermath of violence and catastrophe, and the ethical and democratic challenges of commemorating the dead. Central questions include: What forms of remembrance are appropriate in pluralistic societies? How can mourning become a site of political resistance or reconciliation?

Through classical and contemporary theoretical frameworks, the course analyzes how mortality informs ethical and political debates. Topics include biopolitics, necropolitics, sovereignty, the politics of mourning, and the meaning of life in the face of death. Case studies will address war, terrorism, pandemics, natural disasters, and contemporary controversies such as euthanasia and the death penalty.

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### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **Understand** key theoretical frameworks (e.g., biopolitics, necropolitics, states of exception) and their relevance to death and politics.
- **Analyze** the political, ethical, and cultural dimensions of death across historical and contemporary contexts.
- **Critically evaluate** debates on mortality, mourning, and commemoration in democratic societies.
- **Apply** theoretical insights to real-world political issues involving death, such as war, terrorism, and public health crises.

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### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Explain** how mortality influences political authority and social structures.
2. **Compare and contrast** philosophical and political theories of death and dying.
3. **Assess** normative arguments about the value of life, the badness of death, and the ethics of killing.
4. **Develop and defend** original arguments on contemporary issues such as euthanasia, suicide, and capital punishment.
5. **Produce scholarly work** that demonstrates rigorous engagement with primary texts and secondary literature.

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## Course Structure

This is a **seminar-based course** emphasizing discussion, critical reading, and analytical writing. Students are expected to come prepared, having read all assigned materials and ready to engage in dialogue. The course combines **theoretical analysis** with **case studies**, encouraging students to connect abstract concepts to real-world political phenomena.

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## Required Work & Evaluation

### Attendance

Attendance is **mandatory**. More than **two absences** may result in dismissal from the course. Arriving more than **20 minutes late** counts as an absence.

### Participation (10%)

Active participation is essential. Students should come prepared to discuss readings, raise questions, and engage respectfully with peers.

### Presentations (30%)

Each student will present **at least 14 articles** during the semester. Presentations (10–15 minutes) should:

- Summarize the author's main arguments.
- Explain the text's relevance to the week's theme.
- Offer **critical insights** and raise discussion questions.

### Book Review (20%)

One book review (~2,000 words / 6–7 pages). The review should:

- Summarize the book's thesis and arguments.
- Situate the book within broader philosophical and political debates.
- Critically assess its contribution to understanding death and politics.

### Term Paper (40%)

One major research paper (15–20 pages) on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor.

The paper must:

- Engage with **at least 10 secondary academic sources**.
- Demonstrate original analysis and clear argumentation.

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## Required Texts

- **Course Packet** (available on Kovan file sharing system).
- Additional readings will be provided via the course platform..

## COUTSE OUTLINE

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### Week 1: Introduction – Why the Focus on Death and Dying in Politics?

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#### Objective:

This week introduces the central question of why death and dying are crucial to political theory and practice. Students will explore how mortality shapes political subjectivity and the foundations of political order. We will also examine philosophical debates on the nature and value of death, setting the stage for later discussions on biopolitics, necropolitics, and the politics of mourning.

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#### Required Readings

##### The Political Subject and Mortality

- Dolgoy, E. A., Hale, K. H., & Peabody, B. (Eds.). (2021). *Political theory on death and dying*. Routledge.
- Laclau, E. (1996). Subject of politics, politics of the subject. In *Emancipation(s)* (pp. xx–xx). Verso.

##### Philosophical Investigations into Death

- Feldman, F. (1992). *Confrontations with the reaper: A philosophical study of the nature and value of death*. Oxford University Press.
  - Luper, S. (2009). Death. In *The philosophy of death* (Chapter 3). Cambridge University Press.
  - Timmerman, T. (Ed.). (2020). *Exploring the philosophy of death and dying: Classical and contemporary perspectives*. Routledge.
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### Week 2: What is Political?

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#### Objective:

Introduce key debates on what counts as “political,” examine sovereignty and decisionism, and explore post-foundational and judgment-based approaches to political reasoning. **Required**

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#### Readings

##### Conceptual Foundations of the Political

- Etzioni, A. (1973). What is political? *Political Theory*, 1(1), 1–20.
- Miller, E. F. (1983). What does 'political' mean? *The Review of Politics*, 45(1), 57–72.
- Sartori, G. (1987). What is politics? In *The theory of democracy revisited, Vol. 1*. Chatham House.
- Warren, M. E. (2001). What is political? *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 13(3), 337–360.

##### Sovereignty, Conflict, and Decisionism

- Schmitt, C. (2007). *The concept of the political* (G. Schwab, Trans.). University of Chicago Press. (Original work published 1932)
- Schmitt, C. (2005). *Political theology: Four chapters on the concept of sovereignty* (G. Schwab, Trans.). University of Chicago Press. (Original work published 1922)

### Post-Foundational and Ontological Approaches

- Marchart, O. (2007). Political difference in Nancy, Lefort, Badiou and Laclau. In *Post-foundational political thought* (Chapters 2 & 7). Edinburgh University Press.

### Judgement and Political Reasoning

- Geuss, R. (2008). What is political judgement? In *Philosophy and real politics*. Princeton University Press.
- Thompson, D. F. (1988). Political theory and political judgment. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 21(1), 20–25.
- Atkins, J. (n.d.). Cicero on rhetoric and political judgment. *Society for Classical Studies*.
- Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Communication. (n.d.). *Rhetorical judgment*. Oxford University Press.

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### Further Readings

#### *Partisanship and Political Identity*

- Schmitt, C. (2007). *The theory of the partisan: Intermediate commentary on the concept of the political*. Telos Press.

#### *Judgement and Rhetoric*

- Bourke, R. (2013). Theory and practice: The revolution in political judgement. *History of European Ideas*, 39(4), 467–481.
- McGeer, V., & Pettit, P. (2011). Sticky judgement and the role of rhetoric. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 89(4), 617–638.

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## Week 3: Ontology of Death

### Objective:

Examine competing definitions of death from biological, medical, and philosophical perspectives, and explore metaphysical and phenomenological debates on brain death, mortality, and the conceptual boundaries between life and death.

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### Required Readings

#### Defining Death: Biological, Philosophical, and Medical Perspectives

- DeGrazia, D. (2007). The definition of death. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/death-definition/>
- Marquis, D. (1994). Death is a biological phenomenon. *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, 19(2), 143–155.
- Nguyen, D. (2017). A holistic understanding of death. *The Linacre Quarterly*, 84(2), 130–144.
- Kirschen, M. P., et al. (n.d.). New perspectives on brain death. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry*.
- Lizza, J. P. (2006). Defining death: Beyond biology. *The Hastings Center Report*, 36(6), 23–30.
- Pojman, L. (2000). What is death? The crisis of criteria. In *Life and death: Grappling with the moral dilemmas of our time*. Wadsworth.
- Schumacher, B. N. (2010). *Death and mortality in contemporary philosophy*. Cambridge University Press.

- Youngner, S. J., & Arnold, R. M. (1999). Philosophical debates about the definition of death. In *The definition of death: Contemporary controversies*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

#### Phenomenology and Conceptual Analysis of Death

- Bartlett, E. T. (1985). Differences between death and dying. *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, 10(1), 1–15.
- Feldman, F. (1992). The search for death itself & the termination thesis. In *Confrontations with the reaper*. Oxford University Press.
- Scarre, G. (2007). What is death? In *Death* (Chapter 1). Acumen.
- Graham, M. (2017). What is death? *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 43(11), 745–749.

#### Brain Death and Metaphysical Challenges

- McMahan, J. (1995). The metaphysics of brain death. *Bioethics*, 9(2), 91–126.
- Huneman, P. (2022). Death: Perspectives from the philosophy of biology (Chapters 1, 11, & 15). Springer.
- Johnson, L. S. M. (2024). *Philosophical, medical, and legal controversies about brain death*. Cambridge Elements in Bioethics and Neuroethics.

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### Further Readings

#### *Historical and Ethical Contexts*

- Morris, A. (1981). *Defining death: A report on the medical, legal and ethical issues in the determination of death*. President's Commission.
- Chitwood, A. (2004). *Death by philosophy: The biographical tradition in the life and death of the Presocratic philosophers*. University of Michigan Press.
- Boniolo, G., & di Fiore, P. P. (2005). A defining analysis of the life and death dyad. *Bioethics*, 19(5–6), 491–502.

#### *Alternative and Critical Perspectives on Brain Death*

- McMahan, J. (2002). An alternative to brain death & brain death. In *The ethics of killing: Problems at the margins of life*. Oxford University Press.
- Lizza, J. P. (2006). In defense of brain death. *The Hastings Center Report*, 36(6), 23–30.
- Sullivan, L. S. (2018). What does a definition of death do? *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*, 39(4), 265–281.
- Bernat, J. L. (1998). A defense of the whole-brain concept of death. *The Hastings Center Report*, 28(2), 14–23.

#### *Sociological and Bioethical Dimensions*

- Kearl, M. C. (1989). *Endings: A sociology of death and dying* (Chapter 6). Oxford University Press.
- Van Hoof, S. (2007). Life, death, and subjectivity. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 4(3), 215–225.

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## Week 5: Political Death, Biopolitics, and Governmentality

### Objective:

Analyze how modern states exercise power over life and death through biopolitics and governmentality, and explore their implications for sovereignty, ethics, and social order.

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## Required Readings

### *Biopolitics and Sovereignty*

- Agamben, G. (1998). *Homo sacer: Sovereign power and bare life* (Introduction, Chapter 1, Part 3). Stanford University Press.
- Foucault, M. (2003). Lecture 11. In *Society must be defended* (pp. 239–265). Picador.
- Foucault, M. (1978). We “Other Victorians,” The repressive hypothesis, Right of death and power over life. In *The history of sexuality, Vol. 1* (pp. 2–51, 134–159). Pantheon Books.
- Foucault, M. (2007). Lecture 1. In *Security, territory, population* (pp. 16–38). Palgrave Macmillan.
- Lazzarato, M. (n.d.). From biopower to biopolitics.
- Lefort, C. (1986). The image of the body and totalitarianism. In *The political forms of modern society* (Chapter 9). MIT Press.
- Butler, J. (2004). Violence, mourning, politics. In *Precarious life* (pp. 19–49). Verso.

### *Ethics, Citizenship, and Social Theory*

- Ticktin, M. (2006). Where ethics and politics meet. *American Ethnologist*, 33(1), 33–49.
- Rose, N. (2001). The politics of life itself. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 18(6), 1–30.
- Kellehear, A. (2007). *A social history of dying* (Chapters 10–12). Cambridge University Press.
- Kearl, M. C. (1989). *Endings: A sociology of death and dying* (Chapters 10–11, pp. 379–442). Oxford University Press.
- Walter, T. (2020). *Death in the modern world*. Sage.

### *Health and Political Power*

- Krieger, N., et al. (2024). Politicians, power, and the people's health: US elections and state health outcomes. *Oxford Academic*.

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## Further Readings

### *Sovereignty and Political Theology*

- Schmitt, C. (2005). Definition of sovereignty. In *Political theology* (pp. 5–15). University of Chicago Press.
- Lefort, C. (1988). Permanence of the theologico-political? In *Democracy and political theory* (Chapter 11). Polity Press.
- Lefort, C. (1986). The image of the body and totalitarianism. In *The political forms of modern society* (Chapter 9). MIT Press.
- Santner, E. (n.d.). The people's two bodies and the endgames of sovereignty.
- Arendt, H. (1951). The decline of the nation state and the end of the rights of man. In *The origins of totalitarianism* (pp. 267–304). Harcourt.
- Rancière, J. (2004). Who is the subject of the rights of man? *South Atlantic Quarterly*, 103, 297–310.
- Geertz, C. (2000). What is a state if it is not sovereign? In *Life among the anthros* (pp. 200–218). Princeton University Press.

### *Biopolitics and Critical Theory*

- Agamben, G. (1999). *Remnants of Auschwitz: The witness and the archive*. Zone Books.
- Foucault, M. (1988). Omnes et singulatum: Towards a criticism of ‘political reason’.
- MacGregor, C. (2015). The right to life. *Journal of Sociology*, 51(1), 47–62.

- Rees, T. (2014). Humanity/Plan. *Cultural Anthropology*, 29(3), 457–478.
- Roosth, S. (2017). *Synthetic: How life got made*. University of Chicago Press.
- Lemke, T. (2011). *Biopolitics: An advanced introduction*. NYU Press.
- Campbell, T., & Sitze, A. (Eds.). (2013). *Biopolitics: A reader*. Duke University Press.

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## Week 6: Social Nature of Death

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### Objective:

Explore the cultural, sociological, and anthropological dimensions of death, focusing on how societies construct meanings, rituals, and practices around dying, mourning, and the dead body.

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### Required Readings

#### *Sociological and Cultural Foundations*

- Kellehear, A. (2007). *A social history of dying* (Chapters 1–9). Cambridge University Press.
- Kearl, M. C. (1989). *Endings: A sociology of death and dying* (Chapters 1–4, pp. 3–159). Oxford University Press.
- Penfold-Mounce, R. (2019). Mortality and culture: Do death matters matter? In *Death matters*.
- Ariès, P. (1981). The dead body & the living dead. In *The hour of our death* (Chapters 8–9, pp. 351–406). Knopf.
- Laqueur, T. (2015). The cemetery and the new regime, Disenchantment and cremation, Ashes and history. In *The work of the dead* (Chapters 5, 10, 11). Princeton University Press.
- Thompson, N., et al. (2016). The case for a sociology of dying, death, and bereavement. *Death Studies*, 40(3), 172–181.

#### *Anthropological and Cross-Cultural Perspectives*

- Suzuki, H. (2001). Phase of negated death. In *Death, mourning, and burial* (pp. 224–237). Routledge.
- Hertz, R. (1907). A contribution to the study of the collective representation of death.
- Lock, M. (2002). *Twice dead* (pp. 14–53, 78–189, 235–309, 347–377). University of California Press.
- Sharp, L. (2000). Commodification of the body and its parts. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 29, 287–328.

#### *Philosophical and Psychological Reflections*

- Becker, E. (1973). The terror of death. In *The denial of death* (Chapter 5). Free Press.
- Han, B.-C. (2021). *Capitalism and the death drive* (Chapter 1, pp. 2–14, 33–40). Polity Press.
- Dollimore, J. (2001). Social death. In *Death, desire and loss in Western culture*. Routledge.
- Elias, N. (1985). *The loneliness of the dying*. Blackwell.
- Freud, S. (1918). Our attitudes toward death.
- Ekerwald, H. (2019). Me and my dead body. In *Death matters*.

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## Further Readings

### *Philosophical and Biological Perspectives*

- Huneman, P. (2022). *Death: Perspectives from the philosophy of biology* (Chapter 14). Springer.
- Steiner, R. (n.d.). *Against death* (pp. 23–29).
- Canetti, E. (1960). *Crowds and power* (pp. 15–169). Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Harvell, L. A., & Nisbett, G. S. (2020). *Denying death: An interdisciplinary approach to terror management theory*. Routledge.

### *Anthropological and Archaeological Studies*

- Humphreys, H. C., & King, H. C. (Eds.). (n.d.). *Mortality and immortality*.
- Fabian, J. (2001). How others die. In *Death, mourning, and burial* (pp. 49–61). Routledge.
- Palgi, P., & Abramovitch, H. (1984). Death: A cross-cultural perspective. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 13, 385–417.
- Kaufman, S., & Morgan, L. (2005). The anthropology of the beginnings and ends of life. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 34(1), 317–341.

### *Historical and Cultural Perspectives*

- Davies, D. J. (2007). *A brief history of death* (pp. 1–110). Wiley-Blackwell.
- Ariès, P. (1974). *Western attitudes toward death*. Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Prothero, S. (2001). *Purified by fire: A history of cremation in America*. University of California Press.
- Sharp, L. (2006). *Bodies, commodities, and biotechnologies* (Chapters 2–3, pp. 47–105). Columbia University Press.
- Woodward, K., & Woodward, S. (2020). *Birth and death: Experience, ethics, politics*. Routledge.

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## Week 7: Death, Personal Identity, and Survival

### Objective:

Examine philosophical, cultural, and psychological perspectives on personal identity, the self, and survival after death, focusing on metaphysical debates and their implications for mortality and meaning.

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### Required Readings

#### *Philosophical Foundations of Personal Identity*

- Parfit, D. (1984). Personal identity. In *Reasons and persons*. Oxford University Press.
- Descartes, R. (1641). *Meditations on first philosophy* (Meditations II–IV).
- Olson, E. (2013). The person and the corpse. In Ben Bradley, F. Feldman, & J. Johansson (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of philosophy of death*. Oxford University Press.
- Feldman, F. (2013). Death and the disintegration of personality. In Ben Bradley, F. Feldman, & J. Johansson (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of philosophy of death*. Oxford University Press.



- Zimmerman, D. (2013). Personal identity and the survival of death. In Ben Bradley, F. Feldman, & J. Johansson (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of philosophy of death*. Oxford University Press.
- Frankfurt, H. (1971). Freedom of the will and the concept of a person. *Journal of Philosophy*, 68(1), 5–20.
- Perry, J. (1978). *A dialogue on personal identity and immortality*. Hackett.
- Mullins, R. T. (2020). Personal identity over time and life after death. In C. Taliaferro & C. Meister (Eds.), *Death, immortality and eternal life*. Routledge.
- Paterson, R. W. K. (1996). *Philosophy and the belief in a life after death* (Chapters 1–3, pp. 1–103). Macmillan.
- Altshuler, R. (2016). Immortality, identity, and desirability. In M. T. Olson & A. T. Peperkamp (Eds.), *Immortality and the philosophy of death*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Chappell, S.-G. (2016). Seeds on personal identity and the resurrection. In M. T. Olson & A. T. Peperkamp (Eds.), *Immortality and the philosophy of death*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Merricks, T. (2022). *Self and identity*. Oxford University Press.

#### *Cultural and Psychological Perspectives*

- Gupta, A. (2002). Reliving childhood? *Ethnos*, 67(1), 33–53.
- Bynum, C. W. (1995). Why all the fuss about the body? *Critical Inquiry*, 22, 1–33.
- Lock, M. (2004). Living cadavers and the calculation of death. *Body & Society*, 10(2–3), 135–152.

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### **Further Readings**

#### *Historical and Religious Perspectives*

- Bynum, C. W. (1990). Material continuity, personal survival and the resurrection of the body. *History of Religions*, 30(1), 51–85.
- Hume, D. (1739). Of identity. In *A treatise of human nature*.
- Locke, J. (1690). Identity. In *An essay concerning human understanding*.
- Sartre, J.-P. (1956). *Being and nothingness* (pp. 681–687). Philosophical Library.
- Davies, D. J. (2007). *A brief history of death* (Chapter 6, pp. 111–131). Wiley-Blackwell.

#### *Contemporary and Digital Perspectives*

- Kania-Lundholm, M. (2019). Digital mourning labor. In *Death matters*.
- Sorabji, R. (2006). *Self: Ancient and modern insights* (pp. 1–115, 301–330). Oxford University Press.
- Kierkegaard, S. (1849). *The sickness unto death* (Part 1).
- Bergström, L. (2013). Death and eternal recurrence. In Ben Bradley, F. Feldman, & J. Johansson (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of philosophy of death*. Oxford University Press.
- Luper, S. (2009). Life. In *The philosophy of death* (Chapter 1, pp. 11–39). Cambridge University Press.

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## Week 8: Moral and Political Value of Death

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### Objective:

Evaluate philosophical debates on the badness of death, its ethical and existential implications, and the political significance of posthumous justice and the rights of the dead.

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### Required Readings

#### *Philosophical Arguments on the Badness of Death*

- Brueckner, A. L., & Fischer, J. M. (n.d.). Why is death bad?
- Bradley, B. (n.d.). How bad is death? *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 111–128.
- Adler, M. D. (2024). *Risk, death, and well-being*. Oxford University Press.
- Belshaw, C. (2013). Death, value and desire. In Ben Bradley, F. Feldman, & J. Johansson (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of philosophy of death* (pp. 274–296). Oxford University Press.
- Suits, D. B. (2000). Why death is not bad for the one who died. In D. B. Suits (Ed.), *Death, life and meaning* (pp. 265–285). Wadsworth.
- Feldman, F. (1992). *Confrontations with the reaper* (Chapters 8–9). Oxford University Press.
- Feldman, F. (2000). Some puzzles about the evil of death in life. In D. B. Suits (Ed.), *Death, life and meaning* (pp. 221–241). Wadsworth.
- Nagel, T. (1979). Death. In *Mortal questions*. Cambridge University Press.
- Brennan, S. (2005). The badness of death. In M. Cholbi (Ed.), *Philosophy and death* (pp. 380–395). Broadview Press.
- Luper, S. (2009). Mortal harm. In *The philosophy of death* (Chapter 5, pp. 82–122). Cambridge University Press.
- Blatti, S. (2013). Death's distinctive harm. In Ben Bradley, F. Feldman, & J. Johansson (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of philosophy of death*. Oxford University Press.

#### *Fear, Rationality, and Emotional Responses*

- Murphy, J. G. (1976). Rationality and the fear of death. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 36(3), 528–534.
- Patterson, A. (2020). Getting all emotional about the fear of death. In C. Taliaferro & C. Meister (Eds.), *Death, immortality and eternal life*. Routledge.
- Kamm, F. M. (2022). The badness of death and what to do about it. In *Almost over*. Oxford University Press.
- Epicurus. (n.d.). Letter to Menoeceus.
- Lucretius. (n.d.). *De rerum natura*, Book II. In *Mortalism* (pp. 41–50).

#### *Existential and Ethical Implications*

- Benatar, D. (2004). Why it is better never to come into existence. In R. M. Stewart (Ed.), *Life, death, and meaning*. Wadsworth.
- Parfit, D. (2004). Causing someone to exist can benefit this person. In R. M. Stewart (Ed.), *Life, death, and meaning* (pp. 117–123). Wadsworth.
- Ingemar, L. P. (2022). *The case against death*. MIT Press.
- Hobbes, T. (1651). *Leviathan* (Chapters 10, 12, 13, 20).

### *Posthumous Justice and Rights of the Dead*

- Stemplowska, Z. (2019). Duties to the dead: Is posthumous mitigation of injustice possible? In D. Sobel, P. Vallentyne, & S. Wall (Eds.), *Oxford studies in political philosophy*, Vol. 6. Oxford University Press.
- Smolensky, K. R. (2009). Rights of the dead. *Hofstra Law Review*, 37, 763–803.

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### **Further Readings**

#### *Philosophical and Historical Perspectives*

- Bradley, B. (2009). The evil of death. In *Well-being and death* (pp. 47–73). Oxford University Press.
- Suits, D. B. (n.d.). Epicurus and the singularity of death.
- Warren, J. (2004). *Facing death: Epicurus and his critics* (Chapters 2–6). Oxford University Press.
- Pitcher, G. (1984). The misfortunes of the dead. *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 21(2), 183–188.
- Rosenbaum, S. (1986). How to be dead and not care. *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 23(2), 217–225.
- Luper, S. (2009). The challenges (Chapter 4, pp. 60–82); The timing puzzle (Chapter 6, pp. 122–143). In *The philosophy of death*. Cambridge University Press.
- May, T. (2009). Our dealings with death (Chapter 1, pp. 1–43). In *Death*. Acumen.
- Ferraiolo, W. (n.d.). Death: A propitious misfortune.

#### *Cultural and Literary Reflections*

- Tolstoy, L. (1886). *The death of Ivan Ilyich*.
- Davies, D. J. (2007). *A brief history of death* (Chapter 7, pp. 131–150). Wiley-Blackwell.
- Momeyer, R. W. (1988). *Confronting death* (pp. 3–89). Indiana University Press.
- Scheffler, S. (2013). *Death and the afterlife*. Oxford University Press.
- Vincent, B. (2019). *Philosophical thinking about death and dying*. Routledge.
- Stark, A. (2017). *The consolations of mortality*. Yale University Press.

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## **Week 9: Politics of Death and Immortality**

### **Objective:**

Investigate philosophical and political debates on immortality, symbolic survival, and the desire to transcend death, considering their ethical, cultural, and biotechnological implications.

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### **Required Readings**

#### *Classical and Philosophical Foundations*

- Long, A. G. (2019). *Death and immortality in ancient philosophy*. Cambridge University Press.
- Williams, B. (2000). The Makropulos case. In R. M. Stewart (Ed.), *Life, death, and meaning* (pp. 331–349). Wadsworth.
- Phillips, D. Z. (1970). Death and immortality. *Philosophy*, 45(172), 303–319.
- Parfit, D. (1984). Personal identity. In *Reasons and persons*. Oxford University Press.

### *Contemporary Philosophical Debates*

- Belshaw, C. (2020). Life. In C. Taliaferro & C. Meister (Eds.), *Death, immortality and eternal life*. Routledge.
- Stump, E. (2020). The true self and life after death in heaven. In C. Taliaferro & C. Meister (Eds.), *Death, immortality and eternal life*. Routledge.
- Lenman, J. (2000). Immortality: A letter. In R. M. Stewart (Ed.), *Life, death, and meaning* (pp. 323–331). Wadsworth.
- Leslie, J. (2007). Immortality defended. *Philosophy Now*, 64, 6–9.
- Fischer, J. M. (2013). Immortality. In B. Bradley, F. Feldman, & J. Johansson (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of philosophy of death* (pp. 336–355). Oxford University Press.
- Bortolotti, L., & Nagasawa, Y. (2015). Immortality without boredom. *Ratio*, 28(2), 126–137.
- Nagasawa, Y. (2020). Pro-immortalism and pro-mortalism. In C. Taliaferro & C. Meister (Eds.), *Death, immortality and eternal life*. Routledge.
- Beres, L. R. (2025). Sovereignty and immortality. *JURIST Commentary*.
- Bostrom, N. (2005). The fable of the dragon-tyrant. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 31(5), 273–277.

### *Cultural and Political Immortality*

- Tumarkin, N. (1997). *Lenin lives!* (Chapters 4–6, pp. 112–206). Harvard University Press.
- Metcalf, P., & Huntington, R. (1991). The immortal kingship. In *Celebrations of death* (Chapter 6, pp. 153–188). Cambridge University Press.

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## **Further Readings**

### *Anthropological and Cultural Perspectives*

- De Coppet, D. (1995). The life-giving death. In H. C. Humphreys & H. C. King (Eds.), *Mortality and immortality* (pp. 175–204). Cambridge University Press.
- Lifton, R. J., & Olson, E. (2001). Symbolic immortality. In J. Davies (Ed.), *Death, mourning, and burial* (pp. 23–40). Routledge.
- Wittman, L. (2011). *The tomb of the unknown soldier*. University of Toronto Press.
- Landecker, H. (2007). Immortality, in vitro: A history of the HeLa cell line. *BioSocieties*, 2(3), 275–301.
- Peach, F. (2008). Death, ‘deathlessness’ and Existenz. In A. W. Wood (Ed.), *Karl Jaspers’ philosophy*. Ashgate.

### *Philosophy, Ethics, and Biotechnology*

- Brodwin, P. (Ed.). (2000). Biotechnology and culture (pp. 53–72). Indiana University Press.
- Fischer, J. M. (2012). Free will, death, and immortality: The role of narrative. *Philosophical Papers*, 41(2), 161–179.
- May, T. (2009). Immortality. In S. Luper (Ed.), *The philosophy of death* (Chapter 2, pp. 45–79). Cambridge University Press.

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## Week 10: Politics on the Meaning of Life

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### Objective:

Explore philosophical, existential, and political perspectives on life's meaning, examining how mortality, ethics, and social contexts shape interpretations of purpose and value.

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### Required Readings

#### *Philosophical Foundations*

- Ayer, A. J. (1987). The meaning of life. In R. M. Stewart (Ed.), *Life and death* (pp. 117–127). Wadsworth.
- Taylor, R. (2000). The meaning of life. In R. M. Stewart (Ed.), *Life, death, and meaning* (pp. 19–29). Wadsworth.
- Nozick, R. (2000). Philosophy and the meaning of life. In R. M. Stewart (Ed.), *Life, death, and meaning* (pp. 63–91). Wadsworth.
- Nagel, T. (1986). Birth, death, and the meaning of life. In *The view from nowhere* (pp. 208–233). Oxford University Press.
- Wittgenstein, L. (1922). *Tractatus logico-philosophicus* (Parts 6.4–7).
- Wittgenstein, L. (1929). A lecture on ethics.

#### *Existential and Absurdist Perspectives*

- Camus, A. (1942). Absurdity is the divorce between reason and world. In *The myth of Sisyphus* (pp. 68–80). Vintage.
- Tolstoy, L. (1887). Fundamental contradiction of human life. In *On life and essays on religion* (pp. 16–37). Penguin.
- Frankl, V. E. (1946). *Man's search for meaning*. Beacon Press.

#### *Contemporary and Interdisciplinary Approaches*

- Dennett, D. C. (1995). *Darwin's dangerous idea: Evolution and the meanings of life*. Simon & Schuster.
  - Derrida, J. (2020). The logic of the supplement. In *Life death*. University of Chicago Press.
  - Kamm, F. M. (2022). Death, dying, and meaning: Gawande on choosing how to die. In *Almost over* (Chapter 3). Oxford University Press.
  - Singer, I. (1992). *Meaning in life: The creation of value*. MIT Press.
  - Kekes, J. (2000). *The meaning of life*. Prometheus Books.
  - Luper, S. (2022). The meaning of life and death. In I. Landau (Ed.), *The Oxford handbook of meaning in life*. Oxford University Press.
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### Further Readings

#### *Historical and Literary Reflections*

- Tolstoy, L. (1882). My confession. In *The meaning of life* (pp. 11–20). Penguin.
- Schlick, M. (2002). On the meaning of life. In E. D. Klemke (Ed.), *The meaning of life: A reader*. Oxford University Press.
- Eagleton, T. (2007). *The meaning of life*. Oxford University Press.

#### *Ethical and Political Dimensions*

- Singer, P. (1995). *How are we to live? Ethics in an age of self-interest*. Oxford University Press.

- Wolf, S. (2010). *Meaning in life and why it matters*. Princeton University Press.

#### *Philosophical Overviews*

- Nagel, T. (2000). Absurd. In R. M. Stewart (Ed.), *Life, death, and meaning* (pp. 29–41). Wadsworth.
- Hauskeller, M. (2021). *The meaning of life and death: Ten classic thinkers on the ultimate question*. Routledge.
- Metz, T. (2022). The concept of life's meaning. In I. Landau (Ed.), *The Oxford handbook of meaning in life*. Oxford University Press.

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## **Week 11: Death and Ethics of Killing**

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### **Objective:**

Analyze moral arguments about the wrongness of killing and its relation to the badness of death, and examine political violence, martyrdom, and ethical challenges in contexts of war and terrorism.

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### **Required Readings**

#### *Philosophical and Ethical Foundations*

- Kamm, F. M. (2013). The morality of killing in war. In B. Bradley, F. Feldman, & J. Johansson (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of philosophy of death* (pp. 336–355). Oxford University Press.
- Hanser, M. (2013). The wrongness of killing and badness of death. In B. Bradley, F. Feldman, & J. Johansson (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of philosophy of death* (pp. 391–409). Oxford University Press.
- Feldman, F. (1992). *Confrontations with the reaper* (Chapters 10–12). Oxford University Press.
- Singer, P. (2011). Why is killing wrong? In *Practical ethics* (pp. 83–110). Cambridge University Press.
- Young, R. (1979). What is so wrong with killing people? *Philosophy*, 54(210), 515–528.
- Luper, S. (2009). Killing. In *The philosophy of death* (Chapter 7, pp. 143–171). Cambridge University Press.

#### *Political Violence and Martyrdom*

- McMahan, J. (2002). Killing. In *The ethics of killing* (Chapter 3, pp. 189–267). Oxford University Press.
- Asad, T. (2007). *On suicide bombing*. Columbia University Press.
- Euben, R. L. (2002). Killing (for) politics. *Political Theory*, 30(1), 4–35.
- Morse, T. (2020). #Massacre: Ethical challenges of spreading spectacular terrorism. In *The age of spectacular death*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Kearl, M. C. (1989). *Endings* (Chapter 9, pp. 344–371). Oxford University Press.
- Haileybury MUN Research Report. (2025). *Ethics and consequences of political assassinations*.

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## Further Readings

### *Political and Sociological Perspectives*

- Heath-Kelly, C. (2013). *Politics of violence: Militancy, international politics, killing in the name*. Routledge.
- Moller, D. (2006). Killing and dying. *Philosophy*, 81(316), 555–575.
- McMahan, J. (2011). Humanitarian intervention, consent, and proportionality. In N. Ann Davis, R. Keshen, & J. McMahan (Eds.), *Ethics and humanity*. Oxford University Press.

### *Martyrdom and Terrorism*

- Bloom, M. (2005). *Dying to kill: The allure of suicide terror*. Columbia University Press.
- Mitchell, J. (2012). Debating martyrdom. In *Martyrdom: A very short introduction*. Oxford University Press.
- Murphy, A. R. (2022). Theorizing political martyrdom. *Political Theology*, 23(1), 1–18.

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## Week 12: Politics of Killing – Suicide and Euthanasia

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### Objective:

Examine philosophical, ethical, and political debates on suicide and euthanasia, focusing on autonomy, dignity, and the regulation of life and death in modern societies.

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### Required Readings

#### *Philosophical Foundations*

- Schopenhauer, A. (1851). Suicide. In *Essays and aphorisms*. Penguin Classics.
- Hume, D. (2000). Of suicide. In R. M. Stewart (Ed.), *Life, death, and meaning* (pp. 289–297). Wadsworth.
- Kant, I. (1797). Suicide. In *Metaphysics of morals*.
- Durkheim, É. (1897). *Suicide*. Free Press.

#### *Ethical and Bioethical Perspectives*

- Rachels, J. (1975). Active and passive euthanasia. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 292(2), 78–80.
- Harris, J. (1975). The survival lottery. *Philosophy*, 50(191), 81–87.
- Singer, P. (2011). Taking life: Humans. In *Practical ethics*. Cambridge University Press.
- Brandt, R. (1975). The morality and rationality of suicide. *Ethics*, 85(4), 305–319.
- Young, S. (2020). Understanding rights in the context of a ‘right to die’. In *Regulating the end of life*. Routledge.
- Kagan, S. (2012). Suicide. In *Death* (pp. 318–362). Yale University Press.
- Hook, S. (1961). The ethics of suicide. *The Humanist*, 21(1), 5–11.
- Luper, S. (2009). Suicide and euthanasia. In *The philosophy of death* (pp. 171–197). Cambridge University Press.
- Beauchamp, T. L. (1989). Suicide. In *Matters of life and death* (Chapter 3, pp. 77–125). Temple University Press.



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## Further Readings

### *Philosophical and Ethical Extensions*

- Kant, I. (2000). Suicide and duty: A letter. In R. M. Stewart (Ed.), *Life, death, and meaning* (pp. 297–305). Wadsworth.
- Velleman, J. D. (1994). Well-being and time. In J. M. Fischer (Ed.), *The metaphysics of death* (pp. 305–327). Stanford University Press.
- Rachels, J. (1989). *Matters of life and death* (Chapter 2, pp. 35–78). McGraw-Hill.
- Brandt, R. (1975). The moral reasons for and against suicide. *Ethics*, 85(4), 319–321.
- Momeyer, R. W. (1988). *Confronting death* (pp. 89–147). Indiana University Press.

### *Anthropological and Cultural Perspectives*

- Lock, M. (2004). Living cadavers and the calculation of death. *Body & Society*, 10(2–3), 135–152.
- Lavi, S. (2005). *The modern art of dying: A history of euthanasia in the United States*. Princeton University Press.
- Kaufman, S. R. (2000). In the shadow of death with dignity. *American Anthropologist*, 102(1), 69–83.
- Gentzler, J. (2003). What is a death with dignity? *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, 28(3), 291–314.

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## Week 13: Politics of Killing – Death Penalty

### Objective:

Critically assess moral, legal, and political arguments for and against capital punishment, considering its ethical justification, deterrence claims, and implications for state power

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## Required Readings

### *Philosophical and Ethical Arguments*

- Sunstein, C. R., & Vermeule, A. (2005). Is capital punishment morally required? *Stanford Law Review*, 58(3), 703–750.
- Van Den Haag, E. (2008). In defense of the death penalty. In S. Cahn (Ed.), *Exploring ethics*. Oxford University Press.
- Bedau, H. A. (1997). The problem of capital punishment. In *The death penalty in America*. Oxford University Press.
- Rachels, J. (2007). Punishment and desert. In H. LaFollette (Ed.), *Ethics in practice*. Blackwell.
- Reiman, J. H. (1990). The folly of capital punishment. *Social Theory and Practice*, 16(1), 1–21.
- Pojman, L. (1998). A defense of the death penalty. In *Ethics: Discovering right and wrong*. Wadsworth.
- Tannsjö, T. (2013). Capital punishment. In B. Bradley, F. Feldman, & J. Johansson (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of philosophy of death* (pp. 475–495). Oxford University Press.



### *Empirical and Political Perspectives*

- Anckar, C. (2004). Determinants of the death penalty. *Comparative Political Studies*, 37(2), 164–178.
- O'Malley, S. (2015). Capital punishment is not a deterrent. In *Current controversies: Capital punishment*. Greenhaven Press.

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### **Further Readings**

#### *Philosophical and Political Critiques*

- Morris, C. W. (2011). Punishment and moral standing. In C. W. Morris (Ed.), *Questions of life and death* (pp. 243–260). Oxford University Press.
- Van Den Haag, E. (2009). Refuting Reiman and Nathanson. In D. Benatar (Ed.), *What's wrong?* (pp. 590–614). Wiley-Blackwell.
- Bedau, H. A. (1997). The minimal invasion argument against the death penalty. In *The death penalty in America*. Oxford University Press.
- Mill, J. S. (1868). *Utilitarianism* and speech on capital punishment.

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## **Week 14: Politics of Living with Death**

### **Objective:**

Reflect on existential, cultural, and posthumanist approaches to mortality, exploring how societies and individuals live with death and imagine futures beyond human finitude.

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### **Required Readings**

#### *Philosophical and Existential Reflections*

- Heidegger, M. (1927). Being toward death. In *Being and time*. Harper & Row.
- Bauman, Z. (1992). *Mortality, immortality and other life strategies*. Polity Press.
- Kamm, F. M. (2022). The badness of death and what to do about it (if anything). In *Almost over* (Chapter 8 & Appendix). Oxford University Press.
- Young, J. (2008). Death and authenticity. *Existential Analysis*, 19(1), 110–117.
- Jacobsen, M. H. (2016). Spectacular death: Proposing a fifth phase to Ariès's history of death. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*, 73(3), 252–277.
- Davies, D. J. (2008). Emotions, grief, and reality-unreality in human mortality. In *Death and mortality*. Continuum.

#### *Posthumanism and Future Ethics*

- Sandberg, A. (2018). Posthumans. In T. M. Vincent (Ed.), *Future morality* (pp. 235–253). Oxford University Press.

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### **Further Readings**

#### *Posthumanism and Technological Perspectives*

- Braidotti, R. (2013). *The posthuman*. Polity Press.
- Hayles, N. K. (1999). *How we became posthuman*. University of Chicago Press.
- Suchman, L. (2007). *Human-machine reconfigurations*. Cambridge University Press.
- Stone, A. R. (1994). Split subjects, not atoms. *Configurations*, 2(1), 1–23.
- Mol, A. (2002). *The body multiple*. Duke University Press.
- Reshe, J. (2023). *Negative psychoanalysis for the living dead*. Punctum Books.

*Philosophical and Cultural Reflections*

- Adkins, B. (2015). Death and desire in Hegel, Heidegger and Deleuze. *Philosophy Today*, 59(1), 3–20.
- Warren, J. (2004). *Facing death* (Chapter 1). Oxford University Press.
- Van Hooft, S. (2007). Life, death, and subjectivity. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 4(3), 182–210.
- May, T. (2009). Living with death. In *Death* (Chapter 3, pp. 79–115). Acumen.