

# RELI2732 Notes

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# 1 Definitions

## 1.1 A

## 1.2 B

### 1.2.1 Brain Death

- **complete loss of all brain function**
  - both voluntary **AND**
  - involuntary
    - this is how it differs from a vegetative state
- used as a **legal indicator of death** in many jurisdictions

## 1.3 C

### 1.3.1 Cosmology

- branch of astronomy
- study of the **origins of life** and **the universe**
  - large scale properties of the universe as a whole

## 1.4 D

### 1.4.1 Discourse Community

- group of people who **share** a common discourse
  - i.e., a **set of basic values and assumptions**

## 1.5 E

### 1.5.1 Epoché

- suspension of judgement
- withholding of assent
- all **judgements** on **non-evident** matters are **suspended**
  - induces ataraxia
    - freedom from worry
- role in **phenomenology**
  - block biases and assumptions
  - explain a phenomenon in terms of an inherent system of meaning
  - this predisposition **must be assumed** before phenomenological study

## 1.6 F

## 1.7 G

## 1.8 H

## 1.9 I

### 1.9.1 Iron Crutch Li

- **Li Tieguai**
- one of the **eight immortals** of **Taoist pantheon**
  - able to leave his body and commune with deities
  - while he was gone his body was **like a dead person**

- always back within 7 days
- had an assistant
  - tasked with watching over his body
  - one day heard his mother was dying
  - decided to burn Li's body after 6 days instead of 7
    - but Li was not dead
    - when he came back he took the body of a beggar with an iron crutch

## 1.10 J

## 1.11 K

## 1.12 L

## 1.13 M

### 1.13.1 Memento Mori

- “reminder of mortality”
- “remembrance of death”
- medieval Latin Christian
- **reflection on mortality**
  - consider **vanity of earthly life**
- the idea of being conscious of death
  - reflect on
    - lives
    - morality
    - place in the world

## 1.14 N

## 1.15 O

## 1.16 P

### 1.16.1 Phenomenology

- consider **phenomena** as **distinct from being**
- focus on **consciousness** and **objects of direct experience**
- see definition of **Epoché**

## 1.17 Q

## 1.18 R

## 1.19 S

### 1.19.1 Soteriology

- study of **religious doctrines of salvation**

## 1.20 T

### 1.20.1 Taphophobia

- **fear of being buried alive**
- before medical advances, death was not always clear
  - safety coffins to address this

- designs to allow the buried person to signal they are alive

### 1.20.2 Thanatology

- study of death

1.21 U

1.22 V

1.23 W

1.24 X

1.25 Y

1.26 Z

## 2 Introduction

2.1 Buddhist Parable of the Mustard Seed

2.2 Wari Mortuary Cannibalism

2.3 Religious Ritual (Characteristics)

2.4 Van Gennep's Rite of Passage

2.5 Various Definitions of "Death"

2.5.1 Traditional

- cessation of breath?

2.5.2 Chinese Culture

- Iron Crutch Li
- the dead were left out and venerated for a period of time
  - perhaps like Iron Crutch Li they were just visiting the gods

2.5.3 Harvard

- a person can be declared dead IF
  - **brain function** is **irreversibly lost**
  - even though heart/lung activity is present due to **mechanical support**
- **brain death**

2.5.4 Veatch's Four Possibilities

1. irreversible loss of the **flow of vital fluids**
2. irreversible **loss of soul**
3. irreversible **loss of brain function**
  - including self-regulation (involuntary function)
4. **loss of capacity for social function** due to **loss of higher brain function**

2.6 Issues with Comparative Study of Religion