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Entertaining Judgement: The Afterlife in Popular Imagination

Friday, 22nd - Sunday, 24th July

The lyrics of Madonna and Sean Combs; the plotlines of TV's *Lost*, *South Park* and *The Walking Dead*; the implied theology in films such as *The Dark Knight*, *Ghost*, and *Field of Dreams*; the heavenly half-light of Thomas Kinkadee's popular paintings – all speak to our hopes and fears about what comes next.

During this short course, Greg Garrett offers imaginative insights into our persistent absorption with the afterlife through film, television, novels, art, pop music, graphic novels and more.

Greg published his book *Entertaining Judgement: The Afterlife in Popular Imagination* earlier this year. He is 2013 Centennial Professor at Baylor University where he teaches classes in screenwriting, literature, film, popular culture and theology. He is the author or co-author of three dozen short stories, a dozen scholarly articles and 20 books of fiction, non-fiction and memoir.



Residential prices start from £192, non-residential from £150. Discount rates for clergy and students apply.

For more information or to book, please call 01244 532350 or email enquiries@gladlib.org.

Programme

Meal Times	
8.30am	Breakfast
12.30pm	Lunch
3.30pm	Afternoon tea
6.45pm	Dinner

Friday, 22nd July

6pm Greeting and Introductions

8pm Death and All of His Friends
Death, life after death, and their depictions in literature and culture. We'll consider texts including 'And When I Die' by Blood, Sweat & Tears, *Field of Dreams*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The Lovely Bones*.

Saturday, 23rd July

10am Denizens of the Afterlife: The Undead, Angels, and Devils
These creatures are central to many of the most popular stories told about life after death. We'll consider texts including *Paradise Lost*, *Hamlet*, *A Christmas Carol*, the *Twilight* series, *The Walking Dead*, and *Doctor Who* to see what they have to teach us about our lives now and about life after death.

11am Coffee and Tea

11.30am Heaven
Stories about a place of eternal reward or reunion hold a high place in human thinking about the afterlife—and help us to understand transcendent experiences in this life. We'll consider music from Coldplay and Fred Astaire, *Gladiator*, *Les Miserables*, and *Harry Potter*, among other texts.

12.30pm Lunch
Free afternoon

5pm Hell
If we hope for a place of eternal reward, many of us also desire a place of punishment, so long as we don't wind up there! We'll explore the Hells of Dante and Milton, as well as less literal Hells found in the Batman mythos, *The Hunger Games*, and the works of C. S. Lewis to see what they can teach us about our own stories.

8pm Film: *Gravity* (Alfonso Cuarón, 2013)

Sunday, 24th July

10am Purgatory
The concept of a place in between Heaven and Hell, a place where sinners can be purified and those of good intention can work out their salvation is reflected in many of our stories about undergoing hardship and emerging transformed. We'll consider *Groundhog Day*, *Schindler's List*, *In Bruges*, *Lost*, *House M.D.*, and other narratives of testing and redemption.

11am Coffee and Tea

11.30am Closing Eucharist

12.30pm Lunch and Departure