

A COURSE TOWARDS A CULTURAL-SPIRITUAL APPROACH
TO DYING & DEATH

INSCRIBING SIGNS
WITH A FINGER DIPPED IN LIGHT



IN COOPERATION WITH: THE SECTION FOR LITERARY ARTS &
HUMANITIES, THE SECTION FOR PERFORMING ARTS, THE COLLEGIUM OF
THE SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE, GOETHEANUM, DORNACH

COURSE DURATION: MARCH - NOVEMBER 2027

A COURSE TOWARDS A CULTURAL-SPIRITUAL APPROACH TO DYING AND DEATH

This work is of great importance to us, thank you for your inquiry!

Inscribing Signs

ABN 13 895 494 342

Course convenors:

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Course duration: March - November 2027

Modes of delivery:

Four 4-Day Intensives Thursdays - Sundays

Four Online Learning sessions with conversations, follow ups and questions [2 hours sessions, set dates] Independent reading and engagement with course material

Course Venue: Ballina Beach Resort, 76 Cedar Cres., East Ballina, NSW 2478

Course Accommodation: please inquire and book with the Resort (02) 6686 8888

reception@ballinabeachresort.com.au

www.ballinabeachresort.com.au

Endorsement Presentations: February 2028

Front cover Image: Yolanda Overvelde, 'Kosmisch Licht' [Cosmic Light]

Introduction

Most of us do not understand how to die, how to consciously meet Death, prepared and with equanimity. Most of us do not know how to accompany those we love in their process of dying. Predominantly, conventional approaches to quality end of life care offer a way to relieve pain and limit suffering, to provide compassionate support to family, friends and carers and increasingly include information that directs the terminally ill towards voluntary assisted dying. Death, in this way of thinking, can be 'managed' and scheduled, and consequently, our experience of the spiritual dimension of the act of dying becomes an abstraction.

If we look to earlier times, we find images and approaches to dying and death borne by imaginations, inspirations and intuitions that held profound knowledge. The consciousness, understanding and reverence that should surround dying and death and life beyond the threshold, have been lost, silenced and 'dropped' out of the cultural-spiritual life of individuals and communities. We now need to approach this in new ways.

As course presenters, we all work out of our professional and personal insights and spiritual understanding - we encourage you to bring your own individual spirituality to bear on course content. Our aim is to develop a sincere, earnest relationship *with* Death, an understanding of the individual path of dying, and reverence and honoring of the actual, autonomous moment of death. Using creative sources and insights offered by Anthroposophy, we discover death is the most sacred moment in our life; *it is entirely individual*. This insight allows us to focus on and develop with you approaches that are praxis related, experiential, socially connecting and spiritually in-depth to assist you in your personal understanding of life and death and in developing your professional capacities as artists, practitioners, therapists, homecare-givers, experienced laypeople, and Companions, who wish to be part of a new cultural-spiritual approach to dying, death and rebirth.

We will offer a deep study of and engagement with Anthroposophy and the praxis-based development of indications provided by Rudolf Steiner in this specialised area, to support and encourage you, especially as a Companions of the dying, to work confidently and autonomously within a community of peers.

There is a further increasingly urgent question we will explore. Our fear of death and dying has separated us from life imbued with Spirit and pushed us deeper into materialism and consequently onto a path of destruction we now know by the term of 'omnicide'. Our course is shaped by our resolve to find new approaches to dying and death not only for our own sake, but for the sake of Earth's healing and health, the sacred interconnectedness of life, and the evolution of humanity towards freedom and love. Our increasingly challenging times will provide us with opportunities to realise and to deepen our spiritual interconnectedness and responsibilities.

Who is this course for?

This Schooling Course is a spiritual pathway to understand dying, death and rebirth. It is not a hands-on home care course as we feel these are offered in other contexts with competence and commitment. What we offer is a process of inner development for those of you dedicated to accompanying the dying with your authentic spiritual insights through cultural and creative means. We recommend our Course if you wish to care for family and friends, your community, or consciously prepare yourself for death; are grieving a loved one; or seeking greater understanding of the journey beyond the threshold. Our Course equally provides personal and professional development if you seek greater emotional intelligence, self-awareness and lifelong learning in relation to your profession, for example: counsellors, health practitioners and therapists, carers, social- and support workers, educators, first responders, and those who wish to care for the newly deceased, such as funeral personnel and celebrants.

Course intention:

- To facilitate a process through which participants develop their own healthy and integrated relationship to dying and death
- To educate and mentor participants who intend to become trusted Companions of the dying, or those who have recently crossed the threshold
- To enable participants to offer, where appropriate, artistic and contemplative activity for, or with, the dying and their loved-ones as ways to experience threshold crossings

Trusted Companions are open to:

- Contemplating their own life, examining their relationship to dying or near-death experiences and, through personal exchanges of these experiences, actively practice perceiving, contemplating and engaging with death
- Actively engaging in stimulating and supporting transformative change in individuals and communities
- Participate in creating a community of people who support each other on this path in service to their families, friends and communities
- Learning about current developments, insights and research in cultural-spiritual approaches to dying and death

Application of enrolment:

Why do you wish take this course? Do you wish to develop your own relationship to Death and dying as part of Life, and consciously engage with dying and death on a personal level? Are you enquiring about this course to develop your understanding of dying and death to serve your family, friends and/or community as a trusted Companion? Are you inquiring because you are interested in your professional development? Please include any experiences you have relevant to this field and send to:

Iris Curteis an_lomall@bigpond.com mob: 0487 719 476

The course convenors will contact you to arrange a conversation and answer questions. We guarantee discretion in all matters of the application process.