
Fall 2013
Monday, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

HSE K171

Death and Dying

Instructor: Denise DeBrady
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Overview

This course is designed to familiarize you with attitudes toward death, dying, grief, and loss. You will have opportunities to understand approaching death from several perspectives. The issues will include the organizational context of dying, cross cultural studies of death, and the personal struggle of terminally ill people and their families.

Goals

- Understand societies' definitions of death and dying from a variety of perspectives.
- Challenge and increase your own awareness of how personal attitudes and beliefs about death and dying develop, and influence the grief process.
- Understand the issues facing people with life threatening illnesses and their families.
- Describe the death and grief concepts and rituals as viewed from a variety of cultural and spiritual perspectives.
- Increase awareness and competence in successfully working through death, loss and grief.

Evaluation

Student achievement of the knowledge and skill objectives is assessed via examinations and/or policy analysis.

Assignments	Percentage
Lossography Paper	15%
Funeral Paper	15%
I Learned Paper	15%
Take Home Quizzes	40%
Class Participation/Assignments	<u>15%</u>
Total Points	100%

Required Materials

The Last Dance by DeSpelder, 8th Edition, 2009.

Assignments

Due September 23, 2013
Lossography Paper is an essay that details the death and loss events in your life, along with your present understanding of how each experience has influenced your attitudes and beliefs.

Due October 4, 2013
Quiz 1

Due November 4, 2013
Funeral Paper is an obituary that you write about yourself.

Due November 18, 2013
Quiz 2

Due December 9, 2013
I Learned Report is a review of your learning during the term. Choose at least three personal learnings and three learnings of broader social import.

Quiz 3

All assignments that are turned in late will be dropped one letter grade if arrangements have not been made in advance.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 - August 26th

Class Instruction/Syllabus

Week 2 - September 2nd

NO CLASS

Week 3 - September 9th

Text Readings: Last Dance Chapters 1 & 2

Week 4 - September 16th

Text Reading: Last Dance Chapter 3

Week 5 – September 23rd

Text Reading: Last Dance Chapter 15

Lossography Due

Quiz 1 Opens – Due October 7, 2013

Week 6 – September 30th

Text Reading: Last Dance Chapter 4

Week 7 – October 7th

Text Reading: Last Dance Chapters 6 & 8

Quiz 1 Due

Week 8 – October 14th

NO CLASS

Week 9 – October 21st

Text Reading: Last Dance Chapter 7

Week 10 – October 28th

Text Reading: Last Dance Chapter 10

Week 11 – November 4th

Text Reading: Last Dance Chapter 11

Funeral Paper Due

Quiz 2 Opens – Due November 18th

Week 12 – November 11th

NO CLASS

Week 13 – November 18th

Text Reading: Last Dance Chapters 12 & 13

Quiz 2 Due

Week 14 – November 25th

Text Reading: Last Dance Chapters 5 & 9

Quiz 3 Opens - Due December 9th

Week 15 – December 2nd

Text Reading: Last Dance Chapter 14

Week 16 – December 9th

Last Class

Quiz 3 Due

I Learned Report Due

Assignments

Due dates are included in the syllabus and are not generally flexible. Late papers will *not* usually be accepted. If you are experiencing a personal situation of some kind that impacts your work in this class, please speak to me privately *before* the fact. All late assignments will be marked down five points for every day it is late.

College Withdrawal Policy

A verbal “drop or withdrawal” from course(s) cannot be accepted by the instructor. Students must complete the required form and file it with the Registrar’s Office. Students may drop or withdraw from a course up to the 12th week of the semester; the exact ending date for the drop period is listed in the academic calendar.

Instructor’s Attendance Policy

I will be conducting a formal “roll call” for the first couple of weeks of classes. After that, I will simply make note of those students who are missing on any given day. Because many of the ideas for out-of-class writings and in class assignments will be discussed in detail during class, it is to your advantage to attend regularly. One or two missed classes will not result in any kind of grading penalty, but excessive absences (more than three) will most likely impact your work negatively.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person’s words or ideas in your writing. Conscious plagiarism is an unacceptable academic behavior. ***Any instance of conscious plagiarism will result in a “zero” for that assignment. More than one instance will result in an “F” grade for the course.*** Plagiarism by omission or “unconscious” plagiarism will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Cellular Phones etc.

Students are notified that cellular phones and other electronic devices are allowed in class only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered in class. When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class so that together they can arrive at an agreement.

Early Warning Policy

Students experiencing academic difficulty and/or chronic absenteeism will be notified of their class standing.

Disabilities Statement

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabilities Counseling Services at 892-5751. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Revisions to Syllabus

The information contained in the syllabus is subject to revision at my discretion. I will inform the class of any changes that are made. If you miss a class, check with a classmate upon your return to verify that you have the most up-to-date information.

Please remember that it is your responsibility, not mine, to keep up with assigned readings and paper due dates as outlined by the syllabus. Contact me if you miss a class to get any handouts from the session you did not attend. If a class is cancelled for some reason, expect to do the work and turn in any papers as outlined on the syllabus.