



Syllabus

Course Number/Title: PS225 Death & Dying

Year: Fall 2012

Days - time

November 3 & 10 2012

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Department: Psychology

Credit Hours: One

Required Text: Provided

Instructor: Reverend Micheal R. McVay, MS, LCPC, NCC.

Room #: BMC 714

Office Hours: Posted

Phone #: 460-5532

785-269-7182 (cell)

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Course Placement: Freshmen/Sophomore

Prerequisite: None

Rationale

This course is an elective for social sciences majors. Students in allied health study areas may also benefit from the course.

Course Description

This course is designed to help people cope with the finality of death. The course includes the American attitude toward death and dying, and the psychological and sociological stages that the dying person and his family goes through in death. Death is the final frontier individuals face in their lives. The psychological and sociological concepts of death are presented as a means of exploring this final frontier.

Course Learning Objectives Assessed:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with an understanding of basic psychological theories involving death & dying, its terminology and concepts.
2. Demonstrate an ability to understand the significance of death & dying in a broader cultural and historical context.
3. Demonstrate an ability to develop and evaluate the American attitude toward death and dying, and the psychological and sociological stages that dying people and their families experience in death.

Kansas Core Outcomes Statement

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Project for this course.

Course Competencies

After completing the course, students will exhibit the following competencies:

1. Define the American attitude toward death and dying.
2. Describe the psychological and sociological states that dying person's experience.
3. Discuss the family's psychological reactions and coping mechanisms in the death experience.
4. Describe how the helping and support professions help families with funeral selection processes.
5. Describe the therapeutic process a funeral provides for grieving people.
6. Explore an understanding and an awareness of dying and death.
7. Distinguish between grief, mourning and bereavement.
8. Discuss the tasks of grief and mourning.
9. Identify grief reactions and the coping mechanisms used by people in grief.
10. Identify cultural issues related to the grief process.
11. Recognize special types of losses and their implications for grief work.
12. Apply knowledge of the grief process in working with families.
13. Discuss community bereavement referrals and procurement of grief resources.

Method of Instruction

Your instructor strongly believes that a free and open exchange of ideas and points of view concerning the concepts and issues that surround the social sciences is an essential element of the learning process. This approach requires that students think about the social sciences in an objective fashion. It also requires students to adequately prepare themselves to participate in class discussions. Opposing points of view, even those contrary to my own, which are in good taste, pertinent to the topic at hand, and intended to enhance the learning process are encouraged. As such this course will be a collaborative effort between the instructor and student. The course includes discussion, handouts, video evaluation, and reading assignments.

Method of Evaluation

The instructor's evaluation of the student will be based upon class discussion, examination, class presence, student participation, research, and student attitude. Attend each class. Keep clear, chronological notes of the various classroom presentations. Participate in class activities in a positive and sincere manner during class and maintain respect for other students. A written evaluation will be required by each student at the end of the class.

The instructor's evaluation of the student will be based upon class discussion, examination, class presence, student participation, research, and student attitude.

- a. Paper detailing personal thoughts concerning death
- b. Written obituary and funeral plan
- c. Student participation, attendance, and attitude
- d. Final Student Evaluation
- e. grading scale. There is no grading curve, nor are there any expectations as to the number of A's, B's, C's, etc. are given in a particular class. Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D

Attendance Policy

Class attendance will be taken each day. If a student misses a class for any reason, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor and make up the work. If you must be absent, or must miss a session, please arrange with the instructor **in advance**. There is no excuse for missing a class unless a debilitating illness or extreme family emergency occurs. People who participate perform better than those who do not. Moreover, your absence deprives classmates of your wise judgment and could lead hopeless cynics to conclude that your thinking might be as random as your attendance. Regular attendance is essential to earning a passing grade in this class and is strongly encouraged. **You are expected to attend each session.**

Course Requirements

You and your fellow students comprise this course to a large extent. Understanding comes from interacting and you cannot interact if you are not in class. I spend a large amount of class time using various teaching techniques such as lecture, videos, demonstrations and class discussion. You must attend class to take advantage of this teaching technique. Make sure that you take notes on what you see and hear in class because this information will be on the tests. We cover something important every single class meeting. Communicating your thoughts to others is an important component of learning and participation is an important part of the course. Participation requires that you are to have read and thought about the material. Participation means not only responding to questions, but also asking questions inside and outside of class.

Citizenship

The nature of the class is intended to elicit spirited debate and discussion. You are to operate under the assumption that everyone is acting in good faith as to honestly held beliefs. Those beliefs will be respected; discussions will be issue oriented only and not personal. There will be no personal attacks, name calling, questioning of patriotism or the like. One goal of this course is to teach you to learn how to think and analyze critically and academically. You will govern your behavior accordingly, no barbarism.

Behavior

Students pay money to take this course, and most want to learn. However, sometimes an individual is not primarily interested in learning and disturbs or distracts others during class in a variety of ways, such as talking, and laughing. Therefore, I reserve the right to ask the student to leave class and to reduce a student's grade by a letter for each incident. This also extends to a student who distracts others and me by reading other non-class materials or studying for another class. A serious case of misconduct can result in expulsion from the course and a failing grade. Please be considerate of others trying to listen, trying to contribute and trying to learn.

Food/Drink You are to refrain from eating or drinking during class. **Tobacco products are prohibited in this class.**

Assignment Policy

You must be prepared to discuss the assigned reading for each class. You are also responsible to learn all reading material assigned, whether or not it was covered in class. So pace yourself and do not leave your reading until just before a writing assignment is due. Use whatever learning skill you like, but I recommend reading the material at least twice, and making notes about key concepts, or make an outline. You must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the material presented in class, and you must read and comprehend the text.

Test Policy

1. If you must miss a writing assignment/test, please make prior arrangements with instructor, as soon as possible, during posted office hours only.
2. Makeup writing assignments/tests will not be accepted later than one week after the missed writing assignment is due. Failure to complete the writing assignments in this time period will result in a grade of F for that assignment. NO EXCEPTIONS!
3. Make-up exams will cover the same material presented in class, but your instructor reserves the right to administer different versions of tests.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is essential to earning a passing grade in this class and is required. If you plan to drop the course, it is your responsibility to officially withdraw before the last day to drop. If you fail to do so, you may receive a failing grade in the course, instead of a "W". You are expected to attend each session.

Academic Integrity Policy

Colby Community College defines academic integrity as learning that leads to the development of knowledge and/or skills without any form of cheating or plagiarism. This learning requires respect for Colby's institutional values of quality, service and integrity. All Colby Community College students, faculty, staff, and administrators are responsible for upholding academic integrity.

Cheating is giving, receiving, or using unauthorized help on individual and group academic exercises such as papers, quizzes, tests, and presentations through any delivery system in any learning environment. This includes impersonating another student, sharing content without authorization, fabricating data, and altering academic documents, including records, with or without the use of personal and college electronic devices.

Plagiarism is representing or turning in someone else's work without proper citation of the source. This includes unacknowledged paraphrase, quotation, or complete use of someone else's work in any form. It also includes citing work that is not used and taking credit for a group project without contributing to it.

The following procedure will be used for students who violate the policy:

- First Offense – Student will receive a zero for the assignment and the student will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs.
- Second Offense – The student will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs and removed from the class.
- Third Offense – The student will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs and dismissed from the college.

Any questions about this policy may be referred to the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Assessment Statement

Colby Community College assesses student learning at several levels: general education, program, and classroom. The goal of these assessment activities is to improve student learning. As a student in this course, you will participate in various assessment activities. An example of your work, a paper, some test questions, a presentation, or other work may be selected for assessment. This process will not affect your grade, will not require you do additional work and your evaluation will be confidentially handled. Results of these activities will be used to improve teaching and learning at Colby Community College.

A formal assessment exercise will be conducted at the end of the semester. All students are expected to participate in this exercise.

Recommended Resources

Search items at the library. Go to the college web site; then click Student Services; then click Library; then click Library Database to access the following resources: Infotrac, then go to the Opposing Viewpoints. Selections are also found at http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/klmb_colby?id= password klmb_log

Syllabus Information Disclaimer

Your instructor reserves the right to change any information contained in this document, when necessary, with adequate notice given to the student. Notice shall be given in the classroom during class. No other notice is required. It is the students' responsibility to keep up with any changes, modifications, adjustments, or amendments that are made to this document.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is the responsibility of each student with a disability to notify the college of his/her disability and to request accommodation. If a member of the class has a documented learning disability or physical disability and needs special accommodation, he/she should contact Student Support Services, which is located in the Student Union.