

COURSE SYLLABUS

LAST REVIEW	Spring 2021
COURSE TITLE	Funeral Service Counseling
COURSE NUMBER	MTSC 0225
DIVISION	Health Professions
DEPARTMENT	Mortuary Science
CIP CODE	12.0301
CREDIT HOURS	3
CONTACT HOURS/WEEK	Class: 3
PREREQUISITES	None
COURSE PLACEMENT	This course is part of a selective admission program. Students must be admitted to the Mortuary Science program to enroll in this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This subject area examines psychological concepts in the areas of grief, bereavement and mourning with particular emphasis on the roles of the funeral director in relation to these concepts as well as a facilitator of the funeral service, crisis intervener and after care counselor.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Explain the importance of funeral service professionals in developing relationships with families and communities they serve.
2. Identify standards of ethical conduct in funeral service practice.
3. Interpret how federal, state, and local laws apply to funeral service in order to ensure compliance.
4. Apply principals of public health and safety in handling and preparation of human remains.
5. Demonstrate technical skills in embalming and restorative art that are necessary for the preparation and handling of human remains.
6. Demonstrate skills required for conducting arrangements conferences, visitations, services, and ceremonies.
7. Describe the requirements and procedures for burial, cremation, and other accepted forms of final disposition of human remains.
8. Describe methods to address the grief-related needs of the bereaved.
9. Explain management skills associated with operating a funeral establishment.
10. Demonstrate verbal and written communication skills and research skills needed for funeral service practice.

TEXTBOOKS

<http://kckccbookstore.com/>

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction to sociology of funeral service
- II. American funeral rites as related to family structure
- III. Social factors which affect American funeral rites
- IV. Changes in American funeral rites
- V. Introduction to psychology and counseling in funeral service
- VI. Theories of grief
- VII. Normal grief reactions
- VIII. Complicated grief
- IX. Children and grief
- X. Grief and the family system
- XI. Types and styles of counseling
- XII. Grief counseling
- XIII. Characteristics of the helping funeral director
- XIV. Understanding the helping process
- XV. Developing interpersonal skills for successful funeral service practice
- XVI. Barriers to effective communication
- XVII. Crisis intervention counseling
- XVIII. The ABC method of crisis intervention
- XIX. Aftercare
- XX. Funeral director's own grief
- XXI. Funeral service and stress

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

- A. Explain the application and purpose of sociology in funeral service.
- B. Value the cultural requirements and cultural diversities of each family the funeral director meets with.
- C. Identify the different types of family structure.
- D. Identify the values and purposes of the funeral for the family and friends.
- E. Describe the theories of grief.
- F. Relate various age groups of children to their comprehension of death.
- G. Differentiate between the types and styles of counseling.
- H. Discuss the major goals of counseling as well as the functions of the counselor.
- I. Identify personal resources for coping with loss.

- J. Identify when to make grief-related referrals to the appropriate community resources.

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student progress is evaluated through both formative and summative assessment methods. Specific details may be found in the instructor's course information document.

COLLEGE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Student Handbook

<https://www.kckcc.edu/files/docs/student-resources/student-handbook-and-code-of-conduct.pdf>

College Catalog

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/catalog/index.html>

College Policies and Statements

<https://www.kckcc.edu/about/policies-statements/index.html>

Accessibility and Accommodations

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/resources/student-accessibility-support-services/index.html>.