

SYLLABUS

LAST REVIEW	Spring 2021
COURSE TITLE	Death and Dying
COURSE NUMBER	PSYC 0115
DIVISION	Social & Behavioral Sciences and Public Services
DEPARTMENT	Psychology
CIP CODE	12.0301
CREDIT HOURS	3
CONTACT HOURS/WEEK	Class: 3
PREREQUISITES	None

COURSE PLACEMENT Students must meet the correct placement measure for this course. Information may be found at:
<https://www.kckcc.edu/admissions/information/mandatory-evaluation-placement.html>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students examine the psychological, cultural, legal and ethical issues inherent in the process of death and dying, in order to understand the complex activities and expectations that occur at the end of life. This interdisciplinary course draws material from psychology, psychiatry, sociology, anthropology, medicine, religion, and philosophy.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

- Communication
- Computation and Financial Literacy
- Critical Reasoning
- Technology and Information Literacy
- Community and Civic Responsibility
- Personal and Interpersonal Skills

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 Attitudes Toward Death.
 - A. Factors affecting familiarity with death.
 - B. Expressions of attitudes toward death.
 - C. The present milieu.

- II. Cross-Cultural and Historical Perspectives on Death.
 - A. Death in early and traditional cultures.
 - B. Death and dying in Western Culture.

- III. Facing Death: Living with Life- Threatening Illness.
 - A. Being with someone who is dying.
 - B. Coping with life–threatening illnesses.
 - C. Treatment options and issues.
 - D. The dying trajectory.

- IV. Medical Ethics: Dying in a Technological Age.
 - A. Informal consent to treatment.
 - B. Choosing death: Euthanasia and allowing to die.
 - C. Considering ethical issues.

- V. Suicide
 - A. Comprehending suicide.
 - B. Explanatory theories of suicide.
 - C. Risk factors influencing suicide.
 - D. Lifespan perspectives on suicide.
 - E. Suicide notes.
 - F. Prevention, Intervention and Postvention.

- VI. Survivors: Understanding the Experience of Loss.
 - A. Bereavement, Grief and mourning.
 - B. Models of grief
 - C. Variables influencing grief.
 - D. Coping mechanisms for survivors.

- VII. Last Rites: Funeral and Body Disposition.
 - A. Psychosocial aspects of Last Rites.
 - B. The American funeral.
 - C. Selecting funeral services.

- VIII. Death in the Lives of Children and Adolescents.
 - A. Early childhood encounters with death.
 - B. Development of the understanding of death.

- C. Children with life–threatening illnesses.
 - D. Helping children cope with change and loss.
- IX. Death in the Lives of Adults.
- A. Parental bereavement
 - 1. Childbearing losses
 - 2. Miscarriages
 - 3. Abortion
 - 4. Stillbirth
 - 5. Neonatal
 - 6. Sudden infant death syndrome
 - B. Spousal Bereavement.
 - C. Death of Parent.
- X. Risks of Death n the Modern World.
- A. Risk taking
 - B. Accidents
 - C. Disasters
 - D. Violence
 - 1. Assessing the homicidal act.
 - 2. Capital Punishment.
 - 3. Steps toward reducing violence.
 - E. War
 - F. AIDS
- XI. Beyond Death/After Life.
- A. Traditional concepts about life after death.
 - B. Near–Death experiences.
- XII. The Path Ahead: Personal and Social Choices.
- A. The value of exploring death and dying.
 - B. New directions in death education

COURSE OUTCOMES:

1. The student will be able to identify historical antecedents of current attitudes toward death.
2. The student will be able to discuss how culture influences death, dying and bereavement.
3. The student will be able to evaluate ethical issues that impact death and dying.
4. The student will be able to describe the different models of grief.
5. The student will be able to discuss the function of memorialization and funeral rites.
6. The student will be able to discuss children's understanding of death and their responses during the developmental stages.
7. The student will be able to discuss adult losses associated with developmental

- stages and the death of a spouse, child and parents.
8. The student will be able to evaluate the benefits of studying death and dying.

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>.