

## SYLLABUS

<b>DATE OF LAST REVIEW:</b>	Fall 2019
<b>CIP CODE:</b>	12.0301
<b>SEMESTER:</b>	Departmental Syllabus
<b>COURSE TITLE:</b>	The Grieving Process
<b>COURSE NUMBER:</b>	PSYC-0115
<b>CREDIT HOURS:</b>	3
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Departmental Syllabus
<b>OFFICE LOCATION:</b>	Departmental Syllabus
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Departmental Syllabus
<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	<i>KCKCC issued email accounts are the official means for electronically communicating with our students.</i>
<b>PREREQUISITE(S):</b>	None

**REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS:** Please check with the KCKCC bookstore, <http://www.kckccbookstore.com/>, for the required texts for your particular class.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Students examine the psychological and ethical issues inherent in grief in order to understand the complex responses that result from a significant loss. This interdisciplinary course draws material from psychology, psychiatry, sociology, anthropology, medicine, religion, and philosophy.

**METHOD 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 milies.

II. Cross-Cultural and Historical Perspectives on Death.

A. Death in early and traditional cultures.

B. Death and dying in Western Culture.

A. Facing Death: Living with Life- Threatening Illness.

1. Being with someone who is dying.
2. Coping with life-threatening illnesses.
3. Treatment options and issues.
4. The dying trajectory.

B. Medical Ethics: Dying in a Technological Age.

1. Informal consent to treatment.
2. Choosing death: Euthanasia and allowing to die.
3. Considering ethical issues.

C. Suicide

1. Comprehending suicide.
2. Explanatory theories of suicide.
3. Risk factors influencing suicide.
4. Lifespan perspectives on suicide.
5. Suicide notes.
6. Prevention, Intervention and Postvention.

D. Survivors: Understanding the Experience of Loss.

1. Bereavement, Grief and mourning.
2. Models of grief
3. Variables influencing grief.
4. Coping mechanisms for survivors.

E. Last Rites: Funeral and Body Disposition.

1. Psychosocial aspects of Last Rites.
2. The American funeral.
3. Selecting funeral services.

F. Death in the Lives of Children and Adolescents.

1. Early childhood encounters with death.
2. Development of the understanding of death.
3. Children with life-threatening illnesses.
4. Helping children cope with change and loss.

G. Death in the Lives of Adults.

1. Parental bereavement
  - a. Childbearing losses

- b. Miscarriages
    - c. Abortion
    - d. Stillbirth
    - e. Neonatal
    - f. Sudden infant death syndrome
  - 2. Spousal Bereavement.
  - 3. Death of Parent.
- H. Risks of Death in the Modern World.
- 1. Risk taking
  - 2. Accidents
  - 3. Disasters
  - 4. Violence
    - a. Assessing the homicidal act.
    - b. Capital Punishment.
    - c. Steps toward reducing violence.
  - 5. War
  - 6. AIDS
- I. Beyond Death/After Life.
- 1. Traditional concepts about life after death.
  - 2. Near-Death experiences.
- J. The Path Ahead: Personal and Social Choices.
- 1. The value of exploring death and dying.
  - 2. New directions in death education

### **EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES:**

- A. The student will be able to identify historical antecedents of current attitudes toward death.
- B. The student will be able to discuss how culture influences death, dying and bereavement.
- C. The student will be able to describe various stages in the dying process.
- D. The student will be able to identify treatment strategies for individuals with life-threatening illnesses.
- E. The student will be able to evaluate ethical issues involved in euthanasia.
- F. The student will be able to explain the risk factors influencing suicide through the lifespan.
- G. The student will be able to describe the different models of grief.
- H. The student will be able to discuss the function of funeral rites.
- I. The student will be able to review children's conception of death and their mourning reactions.
- J. The student will be able to discuss adult losses associated with death of spouse, baby/child and parents.
- K. The student will be able to identify social and personal consequences of studying death and dying.

**ASSESSMENT OF LEARNER OUTCOMES:**

Student progress is evaluated by means of classroom participation, out-of-class written assignments, a minimum of three in class one-hour examinations, and a final examination.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Material included is intended to provide an outline of the course and rules that the instructor will adhere to in evaluating the student's progress. However, this syllabus is not intended to be a legal contract. Questions regarding the syllabus are welcome any time.

Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to an appreciation of diversity with respect for the differences among the diverse groups comprising our students, faculty, and staff that is free of bigotry and discrimination. Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to providing a multicultural education and environment that reflects and respects diversity and that seeks to increase understanding.

Kansas City Kansas Community College offers equal educational opportunity to all students as well as serving as an equal opportunity employer for all personnel. Various laws, including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, require the college's policy on non-discrimination be administered without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, physical handicap, or veteran status and that such policy be made known.

**ADA Compliance Statement:****Disability Services**

Kansas City Kansas Community College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodations due to a documented disability, please contact the disabilities services office at (913) 288 -7664.

**Student Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook:**

All enrolled students at Kansas City Kansas Community College are subject to follow all rules, conditions, policies and procedures as described in both the Student Code of Conduct as well as the Student Handbook. All Students are expected to review both of these documents and to understand their responsibilities with regard to academic conduct and policies. The Student Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook can be found on the KCKCC website.

**KCKCC Weapons Policy:**

The Kansas City, Kansas Community College (KCKCCC) has a Prohibited Weapons Policy, Policy 5.12, applicable to all students, staff and guests of KCKCC. All weapons are generally prohibited on KCKCC property except as permitted under the limited circumstances described in the Weapons Policy and under Kansas law.

Please refer to the KCKCC Weapons Policy at [<http://www.kckcc.edu/explore-kckcc/campus/safety/conceal-carry>] or your Student Handbook for more information. Anyone who witnesses a violation of the KCKCC Weapons Policy should contact Campus Police at: 913-288-7636. Violations of federal, state or local laws or KCKCC policies may result in discipline

up to and including expulsion from the college, criminal charges and monetary fines for personal injuries and property damage.