

## **Death , Dying and Bereavement PH-444**

### **Instructor:**

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Office Hours: MWF: 10:30a.m.-12:30p.m. (Phone/Virtual/In person) or by appointment  
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### **Class Time:** Web-based

**Text:** Despelder, A.L., and Strickland, A.L.(2020). The Last Dance: Encountering death and dying (11<sup>th</sup> edition). Boston: McGraw-Hill

ISBN: 978-1-25-987048-4 (11<sup>th</sup> edition)

ISBN: 978-0-07-803546-3(10<sup>th</sup> edition)

As long as you have a book, it does not matter it is a print book, an e-book or a rental book. you need to get the 11<sup>th</sup> edition for the course, but you may be able to use the 10<sup>th</sup> edition if you can find one. I think there are not many changes between the two.

### **Course Description:**

This class introduces student to issues of death, dying and bereavement focusing primarily on psychosocial, mental health, behavioral, and ethical issues. Through-out the semester also student will become familiar with key facts, theories and concepts to help for understanding on the most important topics confronting both individuals, families and society.

**Course Objectives** By successfully completing this course, students will be able to

1. Explore personal affective and spiritual aspects toward death, dying, and bereavement.
2. Define and analyze professional and interdisciplinary roles and responsibilities related to caring for dying people and their families.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical issues surrounding death and dying in contemporary American society.
4. Examine the interrelationships among social, professional, cultural, and political factors on the dying person, family, and care providers.
5. Analyze the role of religious, spiritual, and cultural rituals associated with death and bereavement.
6. Describe variables related to death and bereavement in various stages throughout the lifespan.

### **Course Format:**

This on-line course consists of 15 chapters that are organized into 4 Sections. Each Section contains readings, assignments, discussion boards, and a test. The on-line class sessions are asynchronous and allow students to work within specified time parameters for each section. After completing all readings in a Section, students will complete assignments, test, and a discussion. Each discussion and assignment is intended to expand the student's critical thinking skills and to apply information just learned.

### **Attendance Policy**

The University policy states that "Registration in a course obligates the student to be regular and punctual in class attendance." Since this is an online course, the student is expected to participate in class discussions (postings) and submit materials by the due dates. You are responsible for all course information, reading, class discussions, assignments, and exams. The course is designed so that students can work at their own pace EXCEPT there are specific deadlines for each section. If you are falling behind with a legitimate reason, please contact me about your situation. **You are responsible for your own work and your grade will be affected by lack of contribution to the course.**

### **WKU Policy on Plagiarism**

To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offence. The academic work of students must be their own. Students must give author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

**ALL** work in the class must be **YOUR** work!

### **WKU Policy on Cheating**

No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking examinations or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment, or other project that is submitted for purposes of grade determination.

### **TITLE IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault**

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at [https://wku.edu/policies/hr\\_policies/2040\\_discrimination\\_harassment\\_policy.pdf](https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf).

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159

### **Students with Disabilities**

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. The phone number is 270.745.5004 [270.745.5121 V/TDD] or email at [sarc@wku.edu](mailto:sarc@wku.edu). Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation (LOA) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

### **Pregnant and Parenting students**

Western Kentucky University does not discriminate against any student or exclude any student from its educational programs or activities, including classes or extracurricular activities, on the basis of pregnancy and/or pregnancy-related conditions such as, but not limited to, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom. Students who seek pregnancy or pregnancy-related accommodations should make their requests as soon as possible via WKU's Title IX Website at [www.wku.edu/titleix/](http://www.wku.edu/titleix/) under the heading, "Pregnancy or Pregnancy-Related Conditions." Students can also contact the Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, via email at [ena.demir@wku.edu](mailto:ena.demir@wku.edu) or by phone at (270) 745-6867 to request accommodations or seek assistance.

## Class Policies

1. All class correspondence will be done via your official WKU email and blackboard. It is your responsibility to check these regularly.
2. You will need access to a computer with a reliable internet connection.
3. Technological problems are not an excuse for a late assignment or late test. If you experience computer problems or you do have problems with a WKU site or technology product, call the helpdesk at 270-745-7000 or log onto their website [www.wku.edu/helpdesk](http://www.wku.edu/helpdesk). Then contact me via telephone or email with a case number and I will resolve the problem from my end if it is necessary.
4. Back-up all of your files and the course work you submit. Since we are dealing with the imperfections of cyberspace, unexpected errors can occur.
5. I am available to answer your questions via email, discussion board, or telephone. If you need to call me (745-5862), preferably during my office hour. If you reach my voicemail, leave your name, call back number, and question and I will return your call as soon as I can.
6. Usually I don't check my email during weekend. Thus, if you send me an email on Friday late afternoon, you may receive my response on Monday.
7. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating of any kind will be a zero for the assignment.
8. Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are not permitted for any type of work in this class. If you choose to use these tools, your actions will be considered academically dishonest and a violation of the [WKU Student Code of Conduct](#).

## Assignments

1. Submit all your assignments using 12 font size, Times New Roman and double spacing your paper. **All submissions must be of .doc, or .docx.**
2. All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard. **Assignments submitted via email will NOT be accepted.**
3. Submissions are due by 11:30pm Central Time on the day they are due.

The course schedule is in blackboard and all assignments are described in blackboard within the course section folders.

## Grading System

Grades are based on an accumulated point system. The following schedule will be used to figure the final grade based on points received for each requirement.

<p>Learning activities (requirements) are consisted with article summaries, discussions, assignments, and tests.</p> <p><b><i>Detail description and instruction for the learning activities are in the blackboard course sections.</i></b></p> <p><b>Total possible points – 605</b></p> <p>There are several extra credit opportunities.</p>	<p><b>Grading scale</b></p> <p>A 544 - 605pts</p> <p>B 484 - 543pts</p> <p>C 423 – 483pts</p> <p>D 363 - 422pts</p> <p>F below 362</p>
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## Caveat

The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.