

Death and Dying
PH-444-700
Spring 2020

Instructor:

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Office Hours: MWF: 12:30AM-1:00AM, TR: 11:00AM-1:30PM, or by
appointment
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Class Time: Web-based

Text: Despelder, A.L., and Strickland, A.L.(2017). The Last Dance: Encountering death and dying (10th edition). Boston: McGraw-Hill

ISBN: 978-0-07-353201-1

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 and lectures in a Section, students will complete assignments, test, and a discussion. Each discussion is intended to expand the student's critical thinking skills and to apply information just learned.

Instructional Strategies:

Instructional strategies include assigned textbook chapter readings, power point lectures, summary of articles, student discussions, assignments, extra credit opportunities, and tests.

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.

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. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation (LOA) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

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. 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.**

Assignments

- 1. Submit all your assignments using 12 font size, Times New Roman and double spacing your paper. All submissions must be of .doc, .docx, or pdf.**
- 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. Late assignments will not be accepted!**
- 4. All assignments are described within the course sections.**

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.

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

	Section 1
Chapter 1	Attitudes Toward Death: A Climate of Change
Chapter 2	Learning About Death: The Influence of Sociocultural Forces
Chapter 3	Perspectives on Death: Cultural and Historical
	Exam 1 (Feb. 18-19)
	Section 2
Chapter 4	Death Systems: Mortality and Society
Chapter 5	Health Care: Patients, Staff, and Institutions
Chapter 6	End-of-Life Issues and Decisions
Chapter 7	Facing Death: Living with Life-Threatening Illness
	Exam 2 (March 17-18)
	Section 3
Chapter 8	Last Rites: Funerals and Body Disposition
Chapter 9	Survivors: Understanding the Experience of Loss
Chapter 10	Death in the Lives of Children and Adolescents
Chapter 11	Death in the Lives of Adults
	Exam 3 (April 14-15)
	Section 4
Chapter 12	Suicide
Chapter 13	Risks, Perils, and Traumatic Death
Chapter 14	Beyond Death/ After Life
Chapter 15	The Path Ahead: Personal and Social Choices
	Exam 4 (May 12-13)

Caveat

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