



Broward Community College

Course Outline

STATUS: A

COMMON COURSE NUMBER: DEP 2481

COURSE TITLE: The Psychology of Dying

CREDIT HOURS: 3

CONTACT HOURS BREAKDOWN:

Lecture/Discussion 48

Lab

Other

Contact Hours/Week 3

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisite: PSY 2012

Co requisite: None

An examination of the historical and present perspectives of death and dying in an intensive assessment of the psychological and cultural factors that serve as the etiological basis of this phenomena; Topics include grief, euthanasia, eschatology, the dying person, the hospice systems, bereavement, and widowhood.

General Education Requirements - Associate of Arts Degree, meets Area(s):
 General Education Requirements - Associate in Science Degree, meets Area(s):

UNIT TITLES:

1. Death and Dying: The Issues Today
2. The Dying Patient
3. Death and the Child
4. Grief
5. Partner Loss
6. The Funeral
7. Morality and Mortality in Modern Society
8. Suicide

I. Course Overview:

Upon successful completion of this course, the students should be able to understand the historical and present perspectives of death and dying.

II. Units:

Unit 1. Death and Dying: The Issues Today

General Outcome:

- 1.0 The students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the nature and extent of current interest in the topic of death and dying.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 1.1 Describe the rapid changes in the nature of death and the way in which it is experienced in our culture.
- 1.2 Explain why modern medicine has brought about a shift in the likely causes of death.
- 1.3 Explain why separation of family members, once the children are grown, serves to change our response to death both by insulating children from its occurrence and by removing the emotional support of previously close kin.
- 1.4 Explain why the definition of death has been transformed with advent of organ transplantation and the legalization of abortion.
- 1.5 Discuss American attitudes toward death.

Unit 2. The Dying Patient

General Outcome:

- 2.0 The students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the current methods in the treatment and care of dying persons.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 2.1 Describe the issues and alternatives in care for the terminally ill.
- 2.2 Discuss the new approaches to terminal care and pain relief as practiced in the hospice movement.
- 2.3 Explain institutional death and the role of the family in providing support.
- 2.4 Discuss the patient's right to know.
- 2.5 Identify death work and the stages of dying.

Unit 3. Death and the Child

General Outcome:

- 3.0 The students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the way in which children experience death in our multicultural society.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 3.1 Explain the various ways in which children experience death in our multicultural society.
- 3.2 Discuss how one can approach a child's questions about death.
- 3.3 Identify the ways which children respond to the death of a family member.
- 3.4 Understand denial and isolation in the terminally ill.
- 3.5 Explain expressing anger in the terminally ill.
- 3.6 Discuss bargaining in the terminally ill.
- 3.7 Explain depression in the terminally ill.
- 3.8 Explain resolution in which children accept the death of a significant figure in their life.

Unit 4. Grief

General Outcome:

- 4.0 The students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the symptoms of normal and abnormal grief.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 4.1 Explain the fundamental goal of grief.
- 4.2 Review the symptoms of normal and abnormal grief.
- 4.3 Describe the nature of anticipatory grief and its significance in prolonged illness.
- 4.4 Identify the emotional responses to death and its cultural expression in mourning.
- 4.5 Review the predictable pattern of grief beginning with shock and numbness proceeding to pining and feeling of dejection, and finally resulting in recovery.
- 4.6 Explain the ways we can help persons suffering from grief.

Unit 5. Partner Loss

General Outcome:

5.0 The students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the problems associated with partner loss in particular and survivorship in general.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 5.1 Discuss status change in partner loss.
- 5.2 Explain surviving partner programs.
- 5.3 Describe the research on partner loss.

Unit 6. The Funeral

General Outcome:

- 6.0 The students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the historical significance of funeral rites.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 6.1 Explain the historical significance of funeral rites.
- 6.2 Discuss the meaning of the modern funeral and the controversy that surrounds it.
- 6.3 Describe the alternatives to traditional funeral practices and the value and difficulties that they pose.
- 6.4 Describe a memorial service.
- 6.5 Discuss embalming.
- 6.6 Define a wake.

Unit 7. Morality and Mortality in Modern Society

General Outcome:

- 7.0 The students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the issues raised by changing technology and extended life expectancy.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 7.1 Explain the issues raised by changing technology and extended life expectancy.
- 7.2 Describe the meaning and significance of euthanasia as it is currently practiced.
- 7.3 Explain the dilemma of the physician and the care given in treating patients who do not wish to live.
- 7.4 Discuss the problems in the definition of life and death and how they bear upon abortion and euthanasia legislation.
- 7.5 Define the significance of organ donation as it affects the families of the donor and the recipient of the organ.
- 7.6 Explain the living will.

Unit 8. Suicide

General Outcome:

8.0 The students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the current issues and problems associated with suicide and its possible prevention.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 8.1 Discuss the current issues and problems associated with suicide and its possible prevention.
- 8.2 Explain the difficulties faced by the families of those who commit suicide.
- 8.3 Describe death seekers.
- 8.4 Identify death initiators.
- 8.5 Explain death ignorers.
- 8.6 Identify death darers.

Special Student Projects:

Optional:

Field trip to local hospice program.