

SOCI424

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : SOCI424 **Title :** Sociology of Death and Dying

Length of Course : 8

Prerequisites : ENGL102, ENGL200 **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: This course is an exploration of the social, psychological, cultural, and individual experiences of death, grief, and loss. The study of the structure of the human response to death, dying, and bereavement in a socio-cultural, interpersonal, and personal context will be examined. Topics to be discussed will include development of perceptions of death, bereavement and grief over the life course; functions of the funeral; euthanasia and death-related ethical debates; and, suicide. Current sociological theories and empirical research regarding the study of death and dying will also be introduced and discussed. Attention will be given to appropriate coping strategies for dealing with death and for aiding others in the coping process.

Course Scope:

This 8-week course explores the social-psychological aspects of death, dying, and bereavement in different life stages, settings, and cultures. The course examines the socialization, history, and cultural dynamics behind perspectives on death and mortality systems. This course will help students develop an understanding of how we learn about and process death and end of life issues; death through the life course, from infancy into later adulthood; and, perspectives and traditions from people of African, Hispanic, Native American, Jewish, Arab, Oceanian, and Asian heritages in addition to the Southeast Asia cultures.

In this course we will review materials about physician-assisted suicide; insights about suicide and risk factors; and, death-related risks and threats related to war, terrorism, emerging diseases, and natural disasters. Religious and secular viewpoints about death and near-death experiences will be examined along with beliefs and concepts surrounding immortality and the afterlife.

Students will explore these themes independently and with their cohort through weekly themes, discussion, low-stakes quizzes, and applied exercises. Students will also have the opportunity to further investigate a social issue about mortality through a research project that includes use of three assignments, which build on each other concluding with an Annotated Bibliography focused on a comparative critical analysis of peer-reviewed journal articles.

Objectives

Students successfully completing this course will demonstrate knowledge and skills related to:

CO1: Compare and contrast how individuals and groups deal with the social-psychological aspects of death, dying, and bereavement and how death, dying, and bereavement differs for persons at various ages of life.

CO2: Describe changing demographics, attitudes, and practices surrounding death.

CO3: Examine current trends, attitudes, and dynamics regarding end-of-life issues such as suicide, grief, widowhood, and the social organization of death and dying in modern society.

CO4: Deconstruct the differences between societies in how they deal with dying, death, and bereavement, to include cultural and religious practices, media influence, and socialization.

CO5: Analyze the effect of bureaucratic settings (hospitals, old age homes, etc.) on the behavior of the dying individual, his or her family, and the service workers in the organization.

CO6: Evaluate legal and ethical issues associated with death and dying.

Outline

Week 1: Socialization and Attitudes About Death

Learning Outcomes

1, 2, 3

Assignments

Week 1 Introduction

Week 1 Forum

Week 2: Historical Perspective on Death and Death Systems

Learning Outcomes

1, 2, 3

Assignments

Week 2 Forum

Week 3: Health Care and End of Life Issues

Learning Outcomes

3, 4, 5, 6

Assignments

Week 3 Forum

Week 3 Forum Collaboration

Week 4: Facing Death and Last Rites

Learning Outcomes

3, 4, 5, 6

Assignments

Week 4 Forum

Assignment #1 due

Week 5: Experiencing Loss and Children's Experience with Death

Learning Outcomes

1, 2, 3

Assignments

Week 5 Forum

Week 6: Death in Lives of Adults and Suicide

Learning Outcomes

1, 2, 3, 5, 6

Assignments

Week 6 Forum

Week 7: Risks, Perils, and Traumatic Death

Learning Outcomes

1, 4, 6

Assignments

Week 7 Forum

Assignment #2 due

Week 8: Beyond Death and Social Choices

Learning Outcomes

1, 2, 3

Assignments

Week 8 Forum

Evaluation

Forums:

Participation in classroom dialogue on threaded Forums is required. Forums are scheduled weekly and found in the Forums tab in the classroom. Initial Forum posts are due Thursdays, peer responses are due

Sundays. Specific instructions and the grading rubric are located on each Forum.

Assignments:

This course includes Assignments. Instructions and specific grading rubrics are found under the Assignments tab in our classroom.

Quizzes:

This course includes eight Quizzes, located under the Tests & Quizzes tab in the classroom. Quizzes are designed to facilitate engagement with the course textbook.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Assignments	40.00 %
Assignment 1: Lossography	20.00 %
Assignment 2: Impact of Suicide	20.00 %
Forums	30.00 %
Introduction Forum	1.30 %
Week 1 Forum	2.61 %
Week 2 Forum	2.61 %
Week 3 Forum	2.61 %
Week 3 Forum Collaboration	7.83 %
Week 4 Forum	2.61 %
Week 5 Forum	2.61 %
Week 6 Forum	2.61 %
Week 7 Forum	2.61 %
Week 8 Forum	2.61 %
Quizzes	30.00 %
Week 1 Quiz	3.75 %
Week 2 Quiz	3.75 %
Week 3 Quiz	3.75 %
Week 4 Quiz	3.75 %
Week 5 Quiz	3.75 %
Week 6 Quiz	3.75 %
Week 7 Quiz	3.75 %
Week 8 Quiz	3.75 %

Materials

Book Title: The Last Dance: Encountering Death and Dying, 10th ed. - the VitalSource e-book is provided via the APUS Bookstore

Author: DeSpelder

Publication Info: McGraw-Hill

ISBN: 9780078035463

Book Title: You must validate your cart to get access to your VitalSource e-book(s). If needed, instructions are available here - <http://apus.libguides.com/bookstore/undergraduate>

Author: N/A

Publication Info: N/A

ISBN: N/A

The electronic textbook required for this course is available through Vital Source Bookshelf. If you have not yet registered for Vital Source Bookshelf, you will need to register. View the tutorials on our Library page for assistance. Once inside the Vital Source Bookshelf site, your books will be in a shopping cart. You must accept your books in order for them to be placed on your virtual Bookshelf so that they are accessible for reading. If you do not accept your books, you will not be able to read your books.

APA reference:

DeSpelder, L. A., & Strickland, A. L. (2015). *The Last Dance: Encountering Death and Dying* (10th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw Hill Education.

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow APA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on Forums in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources.

Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments. ***Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.***

Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.
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University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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