Bemidji State University

PSY 3210: Death and Culture

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 08 - Global Perspective

Death is a universal human experience shaped by the attitudes of any given culture. Examines death and dying in various cultural contexts and the accompanying psychological research into death attitudes and processes. [Core Curriculum Goal Area 8]

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 03/02/2001 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Beliefs and Attitudes About Death
2. Death Education
3. Historical and Intergenerational Trauma and the Impact of Systemic Oppression on Death
4. Sociocultural and Historical Influences on Contemporary Death Perspectives
5. End of Life Issues and Decisions
6. Death Industry and Systems
7. Religious and Cultural Death Traditions and Rituals
8. Grieving Loss
9. Euthanasia and Suicide
10. Near Death Experiences
11. Afterlife Beliefs

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. examine their own attitudes and beliefs about dying, death, and afterlife.
2. compare and contrast the values, beliefs, rituals, and social, religious, and historical context of different cultural death traditions.
3. investigate the ethics and practical aspects of end-of-life decision-making.
4. analyze the features of the U.S. death system(s).
5. critique the social systems that can prolong life or hasten death differentially by group, location, and class.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 08 - Global Perspective

1. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
2. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
3. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.
4. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted