

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## ENGL 417: Issues of Death & Grief: Creative Non-Fiction of Life & Loss

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

Within the gravities of life and death, love and grief, there is a search for understanding and healing. This course is designed to help students understand that death and grief present choices and changes that face us as citizens within a community of loved ones. During this course, students will consider the importance of care and customs surrounding death and dying and the value of honest dialogue when grief is set upon individuals struggling with loss. This course will develop students' awareness of the ethical dimensions of personal decisions (for self and others in the realm of loss, the business of mourning and the pain of grief) and to cultivate their deliberative skills through respectful engagement with others whose views differ. MnTC Goal 9.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 01/12/2009 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Help students understand that death and grief present choices and changes that face us as citizens within a community of loved ones.
2. Offer readings and discussion that shed understanding on the emotional and ethical conflict for individuals regarding the business aspect of death in the personal aftermath of loss and during the emotional process of grief. This course will work to help students shape articulations of their ethical views in connection with that contrast/conflict.
3. Stimulate respectful focused & careful discussion, writings and presentations allowing students to grow comfortable with correct terms and accurate words on the issues of mortality and to discard the euphemisms and taboos that undermine honest discussion of the issues of death and grief.
4. Provide students with a wide range of views and customs regarding our ethical obligation and concern for the dying and the deceased and the role of grief in our lives.

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Understand core ethical concepts including right, wrong, duty, virtue, vice, care, harm, and respect and use them to articulate their own ethical views.
2. Explain grounds of their ethical and civic commitments; respond constructively to differing beliefs.
3. Make responsible personal, professional, and civic decisions and evaluate how these affect others.
4. Understand core concepts of self-government including rights, duties, public and private goods, minority rights & majority rule; apply them to issues affecting community and their own daily lives.
5. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, cultural and/or scientific issues.
6. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted