

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

PSYC 1108: Death and Dying

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

(Cross-listed as SOC 1108)

(MnTC Goal 5)

Recommended Skills, Abilities, or Coursework: General Psychology and General Sociology

Death is a natural part of the life cycle and a universal event, but it is still a topic that is often not discussed or examined. This course will explore historical and contemporary theories and research about grief and death issues. The course will examine death and grief from psychological, sociological, biological and cultural perspectives. It will include topics such as the understanding of death across the lifespan, legal definitions of death, advance directives, religious and cultural death rituals, and grief trajectory research. It will also include a consideration of controversial issues related to death and dying, such as physician assisted suicide.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 05/05/2014 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Historical changes in the way societies view grief and death
2. Cultural and religious understandings of death, dying and grief
3. Coping with grief, dying, death on an individual, group, and societal levels
4. Developmental perspectives about grief, dying and death
5. Theories and research about grief trajectories
6. Legal issues concerning death and dying
7. Ethical concerns about end of life decision-making
8. Hospice and palliative care
9. Gender and ethnic/race differences in causes of death and life-expectancy

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Understand how lifespan development status affects the experience and understanding of grief and dying
2. Discuss death and dying issues from a historical perspective
3. Explore how religious and cultural beliefs shape a person's view of grief and death
4. Describe demographic trends in the causes of death and in life expectancy rates
5. Examine legal and ethical issues concerning death and dying, including advance directives and physician assisted suicide
6. Understand end-of-life issues like pain relief and hospice care
7. Explore a student's personal attitudes and beliefs about grief and loss issues
8. Analyze the impact that unexpected death, from accidents, homicide, or suicide, has on survivor grief
9. Explore how social institutions, like hospitals, nursing homes, and the funeral industry, affect the experience of dying and of grief

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

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted