

Montgomery County Community College
 SOC 244
 Sociology of Death and Dying
 3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course consists of an investigation of the following topics: individual attitudes on death and dying, social and cultural attitudes on death and dying, socializing the individual into attitudes on death and dying, medical concept of death and dying, legal concept of death and dying, demographic data on death and dying, death and dying and its effect on the economy, the family and death, religion (attitudes and ritual) and death, euthanasia and suicide as well as practical methods for dealing with death and the dying.

REQUISITES:

Previous Course Requirements

None

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Examine their feelings and reactions to death and grieving.	Lecture/Discussion Small Group Activities AV/Multimedia Materials Role Play	Student Presentations Mid-Term/Finals Written Assignments – Reflection Papers
2. Describe death and bereavement customs of different cultures and religions.	Assigned Readings Lecture/Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials	Student Presentations Mid-Term/Finals Written Assignments – Reflection Papers
3. Describe the biomedical approaches to the definitions of death including legal/ethical concepts.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Discussion/Lecture	Student Presentations Mid-Term/Finals Written Assignments – Reflection Papers

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Identify the contemporary figures associated with movements which are influencing societal changes in attitudes and policies regarding death and dying.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Discussion/Lecture	Student Presentations Mid-Term/Finals Written Assignments – Reflection Papers
5. Discuss techniques for providing support to the dying and their families.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Discussion/Lecture Role Play	Student Presentations Mid-Term/Finals Written Assignments – Reflection Papers
6. Explain the differences between euthanasia, suicide, and assisted suicide, as well as the ethical, legal, and cultural issues corresponding to each of them.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Discussion/Lecture	Student Presentations Mid-Term/Finals Written Assignments – Reflection Papers

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Dying as a Process
2. Societal and Cultural Attitudes towards Death and Dying
3. Individual Attitudes towards Death and Dying
4. Medical Issues Related to Death and Dying
5. Legal and Political Issues Related to Death and Dying
6. Economic Issues related to Death and Dying
7. Impact of Death and Dying on the Family
8. Attitudes and Rituals of Major Religions Regarding Death and Dying
9. Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide, and Suicide
10. Funeral Rituals from a Cultural Perspective
11. Societal/Cultural Attitudes Regarding Expression of Grief
12. The Physiology of Death
13. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross' Model of the Stages of Death and Dying
14. Evolution of the Hospice Movement
15. The Political/Ethical/Medical/Legal Issues Regarding Assisted Suicide
16. Contemporary Trends and Changes in Attitudes Regarding Death and Dying

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Leming, M. and George E. Dickenson. (2015) *Understanding Dying, Death, & Bereavement*. (8th edition) Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Dale Goldberg	Date: 4/1998
Revised by: Andria J. Kallarakal	Date: 3/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 4/10/2013
Revised by: Mary Lou Whitehill	Date: 2/26/2018
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 2/27/2018



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.