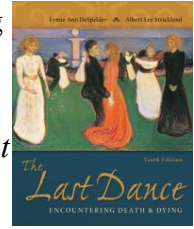


PSY 334 Encountering Death and Dying

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to help students develop an understanding of social and cultural attitudes toward death, historical perspectives on death, the nature of end-of-life decisions, and untimely and tragic deaths.

Recommended Textbook: The recommended textbook for this course is *The Last Dance: Encountering Death and Dying*, 10th Edition. The authors are Lynne Ann DeSpelder, Cabrillo College, and Albert Lee Strickland. Hardcover, 736 pages. ©2015 McGraw-Hill, ISBN-13: 9780078035463.



Learning Outcomes: By the end of this study, students should be able to:

1. Identify some of the factors that have contributed to a lessened familiarity with death in America today.
2. Discuss how one's view of society and culture relates to one's personal view of death.
3. Compare death related rituals and beliefs found in various cultures.
4. Describe the emotional, physical, and ethical components of organ transplantation.
5. Identify factors that influence the onset of stress among caregivers and identify ways of alleviating such stress.
6. Summarize the various types of health care for terminally ill and dying patients and to differentiate between their functions, purposes, and methods of care.
7. Describe and assess various patterns of coping with life threatening illness.
8. Discuss end-of-life decision making.
9. Define bereavement, grief, and mourning and assess how bereavement may provide an opportunity for growth.
10. Describe how young children encounter loss and death as well as identify the kinds of losses experienced in adulthood.
11. Identify types of suicide and explain a strategy for suicide intervention.
12. Understand how beliefs about what follows death influence a person's choices regarding care of the dying.

Structure: Learning resources have been divided into three sections, each with several Areas of Study. The Areas of Study correspond to a chapter of the recommended textbook.

PSY 334.1 Attitudes and Perspectives on Death

First Area of Study: Attitudes Toward Death: A Climate of Change

Second Area of Study: Learning About Death: Socialization

Third Area of Study: Perspectives on Death: Historical and Cultural

Fourth Area of Study: Death Systems: Mortality and Society

PSY 334.2 End of Life Decisions

First Area of Study: Health Care: Patients, Staff, and Institutions

Second Area of Study: End-of-Life Issues and Decisions

Third Area of Study: Facing Death: Living with Life-Threatening Illness

Fourth Area of Study: Last Rites: Funerals and Body Disposition

Fifth Area of Study: Survivors: Understanding the Experience of Loss

PSY 334.3 Untimely and Tragic Deaths

First Area of Study: Death in the Lives of Children and Adolescents

Second Area of Study: Death in the Lives of Adults

Third Area of Study: Suicide

Fourth Area of Study: Risks, Perils and Traumatic Death

Fifth Area of Study: Beyond Death / After Life

Sixth Area of Study: The Path Ahead: Personal and Social Choices

Academic Credit: Academic credit is earned for this course by passing the Death, Dying, Loss, and Grief Examination. The exam has three parts which correspond to the sections listed above.