

SYLLABUS

Code: PSYC 135 **Title:** Death & Dying

Division: Social Sciences and Education **Department:** Psychology

Course Description: This course is an in-depth study of the terminally ill person. Students will analyze the dying person's basic needs, psychological make-up, family situation, and cultural background. Through class exercises and discussion, students will also explore their own feelings about death and dying and learn how these feelings affect their performance as caregivers.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Prerequisites or Corequisites:

Credits: 3 **Lecture Hours:** 3 **Lab/Studio Hours:** 0

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK/MATERIALS:

TEXTBOOK:

Death, Society, and the Human Experience by R.J. Kastenbaum. New York, NY: Allyn and Bacon.

Important Note: Individual instructor addendums, which may be obtained through the Psychology Department (MAN 127), will note the exact edition of this required text.

ADDITIONAL TIME REQUIREMENTS:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze and explain death as part of the life cycle (CRITICAL THINKING).
- Examine and evaluate the psychological and societal approaches that provide the framework for an understanding of the meaning of death, the "Death System", end of life issues, specific ways of dying and bereavement, grief and mourning (CRITICAL THINKING; PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT; HISTORICAL/SOCIETAL ANALYSIS).
- Analyze the concepts learned in class to develop both a cognitive understanding of the issues surrounding death and a personal conception of the way that death affects their lives (CRITICAL THINKING; PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT; HISTORICAL/SOCIETAL ANALYSIS).

GRADING STANDARD:

100-93% = A
92-90% = A-
89-87% = B+
86-83% = B
82-80% = B-
79-77% = C+
76-70% = C
69-65% = D
Less than 65% = F

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COURSE CONTENT:

Topics

- Thinking about and studying death
- What is death?
- The death system
- The process of dying
- Hospice
- Palliative care
- End of life issues and decisions
- Suicide
- Murder
- Terrorism
- Genocide
- Disaster
- Accident
- Euthanasia
- Assisted death
- Abortion
- The Right to Die
- Death in childhood
- Bereavement
- Grief
- Mourning
- Funerals
- Beliefs regarding life after death
- Helping the survivors
- Living a good life
- Dying a good death
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DEPARTMENT POLICIES:

- Attendance is expected and contributes significantly to performance in this course.
- You are responsible for any work done in class that you miss.
- Class will begin and end on time. Lateness or early departure is not acceptable behavior, nor is walking in and out of the classroom during class time. Instructors may penalize such activities.
- Instructors may set a limit on the number of absences allowed. Individual instructor addendums detailing specific attendance policies are to be obtained through the psychology department (MAN 127).
- **During lecture**, periods of class explanation, and when fellow students are speaking to the class, students are expected to use proper courtesy and refrain from using technologies.
- **ALL Cell Phones** and **Beepers** must be turned **OFF** during class time.
- Students are not permitted to use CD players or computers, etc... to play music during class time.
- The use of **IRC**, **AIM** and other instant messaging (chat) programs are not permitted during a class.
- **E-mail** must be professional and well written. As this is a college-level course it is expected that text messages are concise and prepared in full sentence form.
- Any e-mail that does not fully disclose the name of the student will be automatically interpreted as **SPAM** (unwanted junk mail) and be **deleted unopened**.
- Copying and pasting from the internet without a reference as well as purchasing materials online and misrepresenting them as your own work is considered **plagiarism** and is contrary to the BCC student conduct code.

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COLLEGE POLICIES:

For information regarding:

- ◆ Brookdale's Academic Integrity Code
- ◆ Student Conduct Code
- ◆ Student Grade Appeal Process

Please refer to the [BCC STUDENT HANDBOOK AND BCC CATALOG](#).

NOTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who wish to self-identify must contact the Disabilities Services Office at 732-224-2730 (voice) or 732-842-4211 (TTY) to provide appropriate documentation of the disability, and request specific accommodations or services. If a student qualifies, reasonable accommodations and/or services, which are appropriate for the college level and are recommended in the documentation, can be approved.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT/LABS:

The Instructor addendum will be distributed on the first day of class. This addendum will contain specific information about instructor information (hours, office, phone, email), the class schedule, required assignments, and individual instructor class policies.

Additional tutoring can be obtained from the Learning Assistant in the Psychology Department located in the MAN Building Room 127. Please call 732-224-2546 for an appointment.

The syllabus is intended to give student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the faculty member reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as the need arises.