

Course Syllabus

Department: Social Science

Date: December 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: SOC 209

Course Name: Our Cultural Approach to Death

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites –

An interdisciplinary examination of our culture's attitudes, beliefs and rituals as they relate to death and dying. Coping techniques, the process of bereavement for individuals and communities, ethical, spiritual and moral issues related to death will be examined. Cross cultural variation will also be considered. Prerequisite: none.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum including SUNY Gen Ed designation if applicable:

Course is a social science general elective and is a 200 level course option in the Liberal Arts A. A. degree sociology advisement area.

II. Course Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Be able to describe contemporary and historical understandings of death and dying in the United States.
- Demonstrate an understanding of coping mechanisms in relation to death and dying.
- Identify contemporary medical and health care trends as they relate to death and dying.
- Identify cultural and cross cultural differences as they apply to social practices related to death and dying.
- Discuss and assess how death and dying are understood across various stages in human development.
- Discuss and analyze spiritual, ethical and moral issues as they relate to death and dying.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course: *(check each College Learning Outcome addressed by the Student Learning Outcomes)*

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> writing | <input type="checkbox"/> computer literacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> oral communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethics/values |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> reading | <input type="checkbox"/> citizenship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mathematics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> global concerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> critical thinking | <input type="checkbox"/> information resources |

III. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed): *For each identified outcome checked, please provide the specific assessment measure.*

List identified College Learning Outcomes(s)	Specific assessment measure(s)
Course Content Based Learning Outcomes	Quizzes and exams reflective/journal writing.
Ethics and Values	Quizzes and exams reflective/journal writing
Global Concerns	Embedded multiple choice and/or essay questions in quizzes and examinations or their equivalent in on line sections.
Reading	Embedded multiple choice and/or essay questions in quizzes and examinations and/or reflective/journal writing on assigned readings.

IV. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Required readings and ancillaries as assigned (handouts, podcasts, readers, etc.)

Methods of Instruction

May include: Lecture, discussion, small group collaborative learning activities, videos/podcasts/lecture capture, discussion activities, active learning and online activities.

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

Learning about death – interdisciplinary perspectives

American and cross cultural understandings of death

The dying process

Coping and bereavement

Developmental (life span) perspectives

Legal, ethical and spiritual issues

Medical and health care issues

Emerging challenges in contemporary society

*Note that historical and cross-cultural perspectives will be embedded throughout the course.