Instructor: Angie M. Andrus

Course: Dying & Death (Sociology 201) Section # 11210

Office: 1423-04

Office Hours: Mon 5:15 - 6:45 pm Tues/Thurs 8:30 - 10:00 am Fri 8:00 - 9:00 am (appt. only)

Phone/Voicemail: (714) 992-7532 (please DO NOT leave messages)

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Class meets on Friday’s 9:00 – 12:10 in Room 1413

Catalog Description

This course includes various perspectives on death, both cross-cultural and historical. Examines beliefs, traditions, rituals and practices surrounding death in American society, euthanasia, suicide, funerals, grief and bereavement.

Course Description

This course will discuss many aspects in the study of death and dying. The focus will be from a social perspective. You will be introduced to the basic principles of this area of study, including; thanatology, defining death, language, death anxiety, children and death, religion, cultural interpretations of death, the dying process, living with dying/terminal disease, organ donation, hospice, euthanasia/right to die movement, suicide, bioethics and body disposition, advance directives, and grief.

Course Objectives

Throughout this course, one of the basic goals is to stimulate students to apply the lessons learned to their own lives. This course will provide students with information about the many issues concerning death, dying, and bereavement in American society. It is an objective that students who may be planning to work in the medical field will improve their competencies in dealing with patients in terms of culture, religion, ethnicity, and different experiences surrounding death. It is also an aim that students will be better prepared in dealing with the death of self and others.

Student Learning Outcomes

• Identify and assess the field of thanatology from the perspective of various disciplines.

• Determine the terminology and language that are critical to the study of dying and death.

• Identify and synthesize critical issues relative to such important dilemmas as defining “death” in a technological society.
**Textbooks (Required)** Textbooks are on reserve at the library. 2 hour loan period.


*Tuesday’s With Morrie, - you can get at your local bookstore and copies are on reserve.

**Exams**

Two exams will be given, a mid-term and a final. Each will cover lectures, text readings, other assigned readings, guest speakers, field trips and videos. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice/true-false questions and will be worth 100 points. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN.** You will need a #882 Scan-Tron and a pre-sharpened #2 pencil with a good eraser for each exam. **If you have testing accommodations outside of the classroom, exam requests forms must be given to instructor one week prior to the exam!** 1 hour time limit for exams.

**Homework/Projects**

Five homework assignments/projects will be given during the semester. **Homework will count as 100 points of your total grade.** No late assignments will be accepted, **NO EXCEPTIONS!!** Assignments must be typed. Assignments will not be accepted via e-mail.

**MyGateway**

Students must check MyGateway weekly for any posted announcements, assignments and/or handouts. It is your responsibility to print out the work posted and to bring to class.

**Field Trips**

Leaving the classroom for field trips will enhance the classroom discussions and reading materials. All students must complete a “Fullerton College Student Participant Agreement” and a “Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Medical Treatment Authorization" forms. These forms will be handed out and collected in class. Students will provide their own transportation to/from field trips. Field trips may substitute for on-campus class meetings.

**Reaction Papers** **SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

A one –page, typed reaction paper will be required after each guest speaker and field trip in order to reflect on the experience.

**Essay/Project – Tuesday’s With Morrie** To be discussed in class.

**Extra Credit** A maximum of 10 points extra credit can be earned for the semester. A one-page analysis must be submitted with proof of event and must include: A summary of the event, what you learned from the event, and how it relates to class.

**Grading** A maximum of 500 points can be earned for the semester. Grading is as follows:

90 - 100% = A 70 - 79% = C
80 - 89% = B 60 - 69% = D  Below 60% = F
Class Guidelines

1. Since success in this course is generally dependent on the quality of notes taken and used for study, you are asked to pay careful attention to note taking in the classroom.

2. Students are expected to read the assigned chapters and any additional readings. You do not need to bring your textbook to class unless you wish to do so.

3. Regular attendance is assumed for academic success in the class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and late arrivals will be considered absent. It is imperative that you attend each class.

4. Each student is responsible for his/her own enrollment in or withdrawal from this course. Students who do not drop the course by the college deadline will receive the grade of “F”. If a student stops attending class, it is the student’s responsibility to officially drop the class.

5. If the class is to be truly valuable to the student, he/she must think seriously about the topics presented, be willing to share personal experiences or thoughts and be willing to listen closely to the views of others. In order for this to be accomplished, an atmosphere of mutual respect must be established and maintained by all class members. Due to the nature of this class, some class material will deal with very sensitive subject matter.

6. The instructor reserves the right to initiate the drop of a student for what is perceived to be a lack of serious academic effort, including; failure to do the assigned readings indicated by an inability to discuss the material, engage in behavior which disrupts the teaching and learning process, leaving class before the end of class meetings (unless prior arrangements have been made), showing a lack of respect towards the instructor or another student, and failure to take exams.

7. Cell phones are expected to be turned off and put away while in class. NO TEXTING.

8. Per campus policy, only students enrolled in the class can be in attendance.

9. Students are responsible to get any missed class material. The instructor does not copy or lend out notes. Please do not ask the instructor what you missed in the event of an absence. Refer to your class syllabus for detailed information.

10. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor during office hours or as needed for further assistance with class related concerns. Please limit e-mails to class questions/comments only. Phone calls and e-mails will be returned at instructor’s discretion/convenience.

11. Instructor is NOT responsible for items left in class. Check your desk before you leave.

12. Please refer to the Fullerton College Catalog for campus regulations and policies.

13. Laptops are permitted (but not preferred) in class for note taking purposes ONLY.

14. Please follow format instructions given in class. STAPLE papers more than one page length! Name always goes in top right corner. Incorrect formats will not be graded.

15. A lack of planning on your part, does not constitute an emergency on my part! Give yourself plenty of time to print your materials. Late assignments are not accepted!
**Academic Honesty Policy**

Students are expected to abide by ethical standards in preparing and presenting material which demonstrates their level of knowledge and which is used to determine grades. Such standards are founded on basic concepts of integrity and honesty. These include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

1. Students shall not plagiarize
2. Students shall not cheat
3. Students shall not furnish materials or information in order to enable another student to plagiarize or cheat.

Instructors may deal with academic dishonesty in one or more of the following ways:

1. Assign an appropriate academic penalty such as an oral reprimand or point reduction.
2. Assign an “F” on all or part of a particular paper, project, or exam.
3. Report to the appropriate administrators, with notification of same to the student(s), for disciplinary action by the College. Such a report will be accompanied by supporting evidence and documentation. Repeated violations may result in students receiving an “F” in the course, suspension or dismissal from the College.

**Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement**

Fullerton College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. Verification of the disability must also be provided. The Disability Support Services office functions as a resource for students and faculty in the determination and provision of educational accommodations.

**Emergency Response Statement**

Take note of the safety features in and around the classroom. Also, please study the posted evacuation routes. The most direct route of exit may not be the safest. Running out of the building during earthquakes may be dangerous. During strong earthquakes, it is recommended to duck, cover, and hold until the quaking stops. Follow the guidance of your instructor. Your cooperation during emergencies can minimize the possibility of injury to yourself and others.

The Fullerton College Catalog and the Class Schedule contain a number of policies relating to students that are important to you. Please be sure that you have read these publications thoroughly.
Death & Dying

Class schedule is subject to change due to the nature of guest speakers and field trips. Regular attendance is mandatory so as to not miss vital information in schedule changes.

Also - be sure you have a current e-mail address on file with the college to ensure any e-mails I send out to the class are received. Please check e-mail regularly!!!!

GUEST SPEAKERS visit our class to share their personal experience and professional knowledge. The upmost respect will be shown to each guest or you will be asked to leave the class and you will forfeit the points for the day. A THANK YOU NOTE is required after each guest presentation.

CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change)

August 26  Introductions, Syllabus, Class description...

Sept. 2  Chapter 1 – As We Think About Death

Sept. 9  Chapter 2 – What is Death?

Chapter 3 – The Death System

H.W. #1 – Euphemisms Due

Sept. 16  Chapter 10 – Death In The World Of Childhood

H.W. #2 – Televised Death Due

Sept. 23  GUEST SPEAKER: Orange County Coroner’s Office

Sept. 30  Chapter 5 – Hospice and Palliative Care

GUEST SPEAKER: Hospice & Near Death Experience

Oct. 7  MIDTERM  (Ch 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, Guest Speakers)
Oct. 14   Chapter 12 – The Funeral Process

**H.W. #3 – Variations in Death Interview Due**

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Funeral Director / Embalmer

Oct 27 (Thurs)   **EXTRA CREDIT** – Day of The Dead/El Dia de Los Muertos at Fullerton College Campus

Oct 21   **FIELD TRIP** : To be announced in class

Oct 28   **GUEST SPEAKER:** Police Officer

Nov 4   **GUEST SPEAKER:** Organ Donation

**H.W. #4 – Obituary Due**

Nov. 11   **Veteran’s Day HOLIDAY**

Nov. 18   Chapter 7 - Suicide

Chapter 9 – Euthanasia and The Right To Die / Legalities of Death

**H.W. #5 – Death Plan Due**

Nov 25   **Thanksgiving HOLIDAY**

December 2   Chapter 11 Bereavement, Grief, and Mourning

Dec. 9   **FINAL EXAM** (Ch 12, 7, 9, 11, Guest Speakers)
HOMEWORK / PROJECTS

Five homework assignments/projects are assigned for the class. The assignments given will utilize a variety of techniques for gathering the required information. Assignments must be TYPED. Details will be given in class. **100 points.**

Assignment 1 - **Due: September 9** (10 points)

**EUPHEMISMS:** You will be evaluating SYMPATHY greeting cards. Make a list of the death-denying terminology/language.

Assignment 2 – **Due: September 16** (10 points)

**TELEVISIONED DEATH:** You will be assigned three hours of television to watch and analyze a TV drama, the news, and a cartoon.

Assignment 3 – **Due: October 14** (10 points)

**VARIATIONS IN DEATH, DYING, & BEREAVEMENT:** You will conduct an interview with someone from a different generation, culture, or religion on death attitudes.

Assignment 4 – **Due: November 4** (20 points)

**THE OBITUARY:** You will write your own obituary. **Must include a photo.** Check newspaper for examples.

Assignment 5 – **Due: November 18** (50 points)

**THE DEATH PLAN:** This will be your final project. You will be planning your own funeral. This project will include multiple pages pertaining to what you have learned in class over the semester. Directions and guidelines will be distributed in class.

**NOTE:** Most assignments will be posted on MyGateway.
EXAM 1  ____/100  (midterm)

EXAM 2  ____/100  (final exam)

HOMEWORK/PROJECTS  (100 points)
Assignment 1:  Euphemisms  ____  (10 points)
Assignment 2:  Variations Interview  ____  (10 points)
Assignment 3:  Televised Death  ____  (10 points)
Assignment 4:  Obituary  ____  (20 points)
Assignment 5:  Death Plan  ____  (50 points)

REACTION PAPERS  (150 points – 25 points each)  SUBJECT TO CHANGE
____  Guest Speaker:  CORONER’S OFFICE
____  Guest Speaker:  HOSPICE
____  Guest Speaker:  FUNERAL DIRECTOR
____  Field Trip:
____  Guest Speaker:  POLICE OFFICER
____  Guest Speaker:  ORGAN DONATION

TUESDAY’S WITH MORRIE  (50 points)

EXTRA CREDIT  (10 points)  ____

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE  500  ____  (subject to change)