

Topics in Population and Health: Death and Dying

SOCY 3042 CU Spring 2006

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Readings

The Death of Ivan Illych and Other Stories, Tolstoy, Leo. New American Library, New York, New York. 1960 (stories written between 1859 and 1895).

Death in the Midst of Life: Social and Cultural Influences on Death, Grief & Mourning. Kamerman, Jack B. Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 1988.

Reading Assignments on Reserve at Norlin: Nine articles/excerpts from books: Gorer, Childress, Durkheim, Lifton, Milgram, Ochberg, Osis and Haroldsson, Rachels, and Veatch

Reading assignments are due by the date indicated on the reading schedule.

Course Objectives

This course, taught through the Sociology Department, emphasizes sociological aspects of thanatology. The social meaning of death and its normative treatment in western history and in the contemporary United States are detailed and analyzed. Students will learn in a non-confrontive environment.

Grading

50	Test #1
50	Test #2
20	Paper: Topics chosen
25	Paper: References
25	Paper: Outline
30	Paper: 1 st draft
100	Final Paper
<u>100</u>	Final Exam
400	Total Points Possible

A	360 - 400
B	320 - 359
C	280 - 319
D	240 - 279

The instructor reserves the right to curve the grades at the end of the semester, but will do so only if students benefit from the curve. No student will receive a lower grade as a result of curving the final grades.

Agenda, Assignment, and Testing Schedule

January 17	Introduction
January 19	Death Myths and The Changing Meaning of Death in Western Civilization Reading Due: Chapters 1 and 2
January 24	Changes of Meaning of Death in the Twentieth Century Reading Due: "The Death of Ivan Illych"
January 26	Socialization: Children's Sources of Meaning of Death Children and Bereavement Reading Due: Gorer (on reserve)
January 31	When the Child is Dying When the Child is Grieving Reading Due: Chapters 3 and 11
February 2	Test #1
February 7	The Social Experience of Dying: The Sick Role and Medical Institutions Reading Due: Chapter 4
February 9	Hospice Reading Due: Chapter 5 Select Essay Questions
February 14	Humor and Death Paper Topics Due
February 16	Hospice
February 21	Guest Speaker: Hospice
February 23	Funerals: Functions and Factors
February 28	Funerals: US History and the Development of the Funeral References for Paper Due
March 2	Field Trip (?)
March 7	Grief and Bereavement Reading Due: Chapter 6
March 9	Grief and Bereavement Reading Due: Chapter 7
March 14	Grief and Bereavement Reading Due: Chapter 10
March 16	Medical Ethics Reading Due: Veatch (on reserve) and Rachels (on reserve)

Paper Outlines Due
Select Essay Questions

March 21 Medical Ethics
Reading Due: Childress (on reserve) and Milgram (on reserve)

March 23 **Test #2**

March 28 and 30 Spring Break

April 4 Suicide
Reading Due: Durkheim (on reserve)

April 6 Suicide
First Draft of Papers Due

April 11 Suicide
Reading Due: Chapter 8

April 13 AIDS

April 18 Current Events: Flu Pandemics, Environmental Disasters

April 20 War and its Effects on the Meaning of Death and Dying
Reading Due: Lifton (on reserve) and Ochberg (on reserve)

April 25 Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Death and Dying

April 27 Near-Death Experience as a Social Phenomenon
Reading Due: Osiris and Haroldsson (on reserve)
Papers Due

May 2 Near-Death Experience
Reading Due: Chapter 9

May 4 Last day of class Prep for Final: **Select Essay Questions**

May 6 **Final Exam** Saturday, 1:30 – 4 PM

