

SOC-2110: DEATH AND DYING

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: SOC-2110 : Death and Dying

Board of Trustees:

MARCH 2023

Academic Term:

Fall 2023

Subject Code

SOC - Sociology

Course Number:

2110

Title:

Death and Dying

Catalog Description:

Examination of death and dying through a multi-disciplinary approach to understand connection of death and dying in various contexts: sociological, ethical, medical, legal, psychological, and religious.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-1010 College Composition I, or ENG-101H Honors College Composition I.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze the process of death and dying from the sociological perspective.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

- a. Compare and contrast psychological, medical, and sociological theories on grief.
- b. Discuss the effects of society and culture on our attitudes about death and dying.
- c. Discuss the sociological perspective of death and dying.
- d. Analyze the effect of institutions (nursing homes, hospitals, hospice, etc.) on the behavior of the dying individual and his/her family.
- e. Analyze morbidity and mortality statistics across different populations (sex, race, age, socioeconomic status, etc.)

Course Outcome(s):

Examine the concepts of death, dying, grief, and mourning as social constructs.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):

- a. Explain the following concepts: medical death, legal death, social death, advanced directive, living wills, and medically assisted death.
- b. Identify the patterns of causes of death across populations.
- c. Explain the ways our understanding of death, dying, grief, and mourning have changed over time and across cultures.
- d. Explain the ways grief and mourning can be understood as a social role.

Course Outcome(s):

Examine ethical issues relating to death and dying in society.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

- a. Discuss death in various contexts (medical, legal, religious, psychological, metaphysical, etc.).
- b. Analyze key issues in bioethics around medically assisted death, removing life support, and end of life decision-making.
- c. Examine the availability of, access to, and cost of healthcare as a variable in end-of-life decision-making.

Methods of Evaluation:

- a. Examinations and quizzes
- b. Group discussions
- c. Small and large group activities
- d. Critical thinking exercises, written and oral
- e. Analysis of death and dying issues
- f. Research activities
- g. Journals

Course Content Outline:

- a. Death
 - i. Definition of death
 - ii. What death means
- b. Attitudes toward death
 - i. Beliefs
 - ii. Feelings
 - iii. Death anxiety
 - iv. Bereavement, coping, grief and mourning
- c. Death systems
 - i. Healthcare aspects
 - ii. Funeral practices and memorial ceremonies
- d. Process of dying
 - i. Social death
 - ii. Biological death
- e. Terminal care institutions
 - i. Hospice
 - ii. Nursing homes
 - iii. Health care facilities
- f. Social Issues
 - i. Legal issues
 - ii. Ethical issues
 - iii. Medical issues
 - iv. Religious issues
- g. Various types of death
 - i. Suicide
 - ii. Violence

- iii. Disease
- iv. Accidents
 - v. Medically assisted
- vi. Death penalty
- h. Children and death
 - i. Talking to children about death
 - ii. Loss of a child

Resources

Leming, M. R., & Dickinson, G. E. (2021) *Understanding dying, death, and bereavement, 9th ed.*, Cengage Learning.

Doughty, C. (2017) *From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death*, W.W. Norton & Company.

Gawande. A. (2017) *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, London: Picador.

Kellehear, A. (2008) Dying as a social relationship: a sociological review of debates on the determination of death. *Social Science & Medicine*, 66(7).

OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying. <https://journals.sagepub.com/description/OME>

Social Forces, <https://academic.oup.com/sf>

The Gerontologist, <https://academic.oup.com/gerontologist>

Quill, T.E and Sussman, B. . (2015) Physician-Assisted Death. <https://www.thehastingscenter.org/briefingbook/physician-assisted-death/>

Journal of Medical Ethics. <https://jme.bmj.com/>

New England Journal of Medicine, <https://www.nejm.org/>

Sociology Quarterly, <https://www.themss.org/the-sociological-quarterly>

Journal of Applied Gerontology, <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/jag>

Resources Other

- a. Field trips
- b. Guest speakers
- c. Videos
- d. World Wide Web sites

Instructional Services

OAN Number:

Ohio Transfer 36 TMSBS

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