NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus. Summer term courses may be accelerated – please check the Ecampus Schedule of Classes for more information.

SOC 355
DEATH AND DYING

COURSE CREDIT:
(4) This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

PREREQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND ENFORCED PREREQUISITES:
(SOC 204 [D-] or SOC 204H [D-])

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An overview of cross-cultural and historical attitudes and practices around end of life, death and dying. Assessment of contemporary legal, professional, cultural and technological issues surrounding end of life/death and dying.

The student will be introduced to the life course development and the final stages of Death and Dying. Students will compare and contrast historical and modern attitudes toward death and dying found in literature, rituals, religion, philosophy, film, medico-legal issues, and in the process clarify their attitudes and values.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Paula C. Wenell</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th><a href="mailto:wenellp@onid.orst.edu">wenellp@onid.orst.edu</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>(541) 961-4111</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Oregon State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information. For accuracy, please check the ECampus Schedule of Classes to see the most current instructor information. You can search for contact information by name from the OSU Home Page.
LEARNING RESOURCES:


Recommended: *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom  
*Dying Well* by Ira Byock, M.D.  
*The Mourning Handbook* by Helen Fitzgerald  
*On Death and Dying* by Elizabeth Kübler-Ross  
*A Grief Observed* by C. S. Lewis

NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website. Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Students can also click the ‘OSU Beaver Store’ link associated with the course information in the Ecampus schedule of classes for course textbook information and ordering.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Evaluate cultural and historical changes and attitudes toward dying through selected readings and discussions.
2. Critique death and dying issues in literature and film.
3. Review contemporary issues in death and dying including funerals and expenses, rituals, artificial life support, death-with-dignity, advance directives, euthanasia, hospice, and suicide.
4. Define and clarify personal values and beliefs regarding death and dying.
5. Identify professional responsibilities and patient's rights.
6. Become knowledgeable about the funeral/mortuary experience.
7. Learn about near-death experiences and their implications for growth and healing.
8. Upon completion of this class, the student should be familiar with the related terminology.

COURSE CONTENT AND POLICIES:

Course Purpose:
Welcome to this online class dealing with issues that will provoke to contemplate our entire lifespan. This is a one term introductory course to a relatively new and very large discipline. This class is designed to encourage your critical thinking about human behavior and facing our own mortality. We will use terminology, frankness, and honesty with our cognitive and emotional processes. As you read the assigned material, I trust you will find understanding and meaning in the material that we cover.
Individual Considerations:
If you have any type disability or perceptual impairment that needs academic adjustment, please contact me.

Diversity:
Several years ago, The University adopted this simple ethic we will use to shape our time together.

_We are a college community enriched by the diversity of our students and staff. Each individual and group has the potential to contribute in our learning environment. Each has dignity. To diminish one is to diminish the dignity of us all._

Classroom Policies:
I desire to establish a learning environment that is exhilarating and I want to motivate a constructive exchange of ideas. Expectations for participation and conduct are: respect and attentiveness toward the discussion topics;

Please treat each other with respect, and do not use terms that disparage other individuals or groups; this is in keeping with the university Statement on Cultural Diversity.

I maintain a record of attendance is kept through your participation in posting discussion topics. Attendance is taken into account in cases where a student’s final total score is borderline but within a point or two from the cut-off for the next higher grade level.

Instructors post all grades through the university online page, and to receive your grades at the end of the term, you must access the Student Online Services pages.

Course Calendar
Week 1 – Chapter 1: Attitudes Toward Death: A Climate of Change
    Chapter 2: Learning About: The Influence of Socio-Cultural Forces

Week 2 – Chapter 3: Perspectives on Death: Cross-Cultural and Historical
    Chapter 4: Death Systems: Morality and Society

Week 3 – Chapter 5: Health Care: Patients, Staff and Institutions

Week 4 – Chapter 6: End-of Life: Issues and Decisions
    Chapter 7: Facing Death: Living with Life-Threatening Illness

Week 5 – Chapter 8: Last Rites: Funeral and Body Disposition
Chapter 9: Survivors: Understanding the Experience of Loss

Week 6 – Chapter 10: Death in the Lives of Children and Adolescents

Week 7 – Chapter 11: Death in the Lives of Adults

Week 8 – Chapter 12: Suicide

Week 9 - Chapter 13: Threats of Horrendous Death

Week 10 - Chapter 14: Beyond Death/After Life
   Chapter 15: The Path Ahead: Personal and Social Choices

There will be no Final Exam.

Each Chapter will require Terminology definitions and an exam.

Each Chapter will require Discussion in the Discussion Forum.

There will be special papers covering Resources, Thanatology, Cemeteries, and interview someone who deals with death regularly.

Weekly Routine

1. Begin by viewing the weekly PowerPoint presentation (e.g., Week 1, view Chapters 1 and 2). [It is an overview of the content in the chapters assigned for the week].
2. Read the weekly Chapter assignments; look up the terminology in each chapter.
3. You may take the exam two times, and the highest grade will be recorded to be completed any time prior to the Due Date (Sunday at 11:59 pm). You will need to submit a 1-2 page report as to your findings and/or experiences. Work is expected to be submitted on time. Late work will be accepted, but will not receive full point value.
4. Questions will be posted on the Discussion Forum each week. You will need to enter the Discussion Forum at least 4 times, posting documentation with post, each week following the Chapter Topics, (to remain current, so others can enter the discussion), discussing these issues with the Instructor and other students. This has proved to be a very valuable part of the class. 2 Original Posts (meaning you begin the thread) and the reply to 2 student posts. 2+2
5. Check Weekly folders regularly to see assignment due dates.
6. All course content, including exams, are to be completed online.
Online Ground Rules  This cannot effectively happen unless you are prepared for the class. Discussion is the interactive part of this class, a portion of your grade will be based on the “quality” of your participation. Your participation in the Discussion Questions counts toward the active learning component of your overall grade. I read each post in the Discussion Board, I join in and make comments occasionally. I would like to encourage you to log in often to the Discussion Board and make a practice of reading all of the messages so that you know what has been said and you will stay informed to the flow of conversation. My focus will be directed toward the class as a whole; I will direct and comment as there will be occasions for clarity or information. You may cut and paste short references as long as you note the source. You are to explain why you choose the information and how it relates to the chapter or subject we are discussing. The best way to learn is to write about your own personal understanding in your own words.

Academic Honesty:
Under all circumstances, students are expected to be honest in their dealings with faculty and fellow students. Students must submit work that fairly and accurately reflects their accomplishments. Any work that is not a product of the student’s own efforts is considered dishonest. Assignments that are plagiarized will not be accepted.

Classroom Policies:
I desire to establish a learning environment that is exhilarating and I want to motivate a constructive exchange of ideas. Expectations for participation and conduct are: respect and attentiveness toward the discussion topics;

Please treat each other with respect, and do not use terms that disparage other individuals or groups; this is in keeping with the university Statement on Cultural Diversity.

I maintain a record of online activity and it will be a part your grade. Instructors post all grades through the university online page, and to receive your grades at the end of the term, you must go through the Online Student Services pages.

If there are any further questions, please feel free to contact me, either by phone (541) 961-4111 or email, email address. I wish you the best in your study.

Evaluation of Student Performance
A = 90-100% of total possible points. The student must complete all assignment in an exceptional and timely manner.
B = 80-89% of total possible points. The student endeavors to complete all assignments, yet may have lost some points due to lateness or missed points on an assignment.

C = 70-79% of total possible points. Student is engaged in the course, yet the quality of work does not meet exceptional criteria.

D = 60-69% of total possible points. Student misses several assignments and loses points due to quality or lateness.

F = fewer than 59% of total possible points. Unsatisfactory participation by the student; his/her work does not meet acceptable standards in order to pass the class.

I = Incompletes are granted according to College policy. “An instructor may give an “Incomplete” when, in his or her judgment, you have not finished a minor portion of the required class work although you have attended the class regularly.”

Course site login information
Information on how to login to your course site can be found HERE.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities
Oregon State University is committed to student success; however, we do not require students to use accommodations nor will we provide them unless they are requested by the student. The student, as a legal adult, is responsible to request appropriate accommodations. The student must take the lead in applying to Disability Access Services (DAS) and submit requests for accommodations each term through DAS Online. OSU students apply to DAS and request accommodations at our Getting Started with DAS page.

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this course is offered, provides a vendor statement certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct (OSU policy)
Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Intentional acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism may be penalized by imposing an “F” grade in the course.

Student conduct is governed by the universities policies, as explained in the Office of the Dean of Student Life: Student Conduct and Community Standards. In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity, and respect.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g. on discussion boards, email postings, etc.) in compliance with the university’s regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded to themselves. Disrespectful behavior (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors are unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Student Conduct and Community Standards.

For more info on these topics please see:

Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct
Student Conduct and Community Standards - Offenses
Policy On Disruptive Behavior

Plagiarism

You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board, and other communications, and to clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F.”

Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct
Avoiding Academic Dishonesty

Turnitin Plagiarism Prevention

Your instructor may ask you to submit one or more of your writings to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service. Your assignment content will be checked for potential plagiarism against Internet sources, academic journal articles, and the papers of other OSU students, for common or borrowed content. Turnitin generates a report that highlights any potentially unoriginal text in your paper. The report may be submitted directly to your instructor or your instructor may elect to have you submit initial drafts through Turnitin and you will receive the report allowing you the opportunity to make adjustments and ensure that all source material has been properly cited.

Papers you submit through Turnitin for this or any class will be added to the OSU Turnitin database and may be checked against other OSU paper submissions. You will retain all rights to your written work. For further information on Turnitin please click HERE.
Technical Assistance

If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

COURSE DEMO
GETTING STARTED

Tutoring

For information about possible tutoring for this course, please visit our Ecampus NetTutor page. Other resources include:

Writing Center
Online Writing Lab

Student Evaluation of Teaching

The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available in week 9 and close at the end of finals week. Students will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. Students will log in to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted. Course evaluation results are very important and are used to help improve courses and the learning experience of future students. Results from questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and unit heads/supervisors. Unless a comment is “signed,” which will associate a name with a comment, student comments on the open-ended questions are anonymous and forwarded to each instructor. “Signed” comments are forwarded to the unit head/supervisor.

Refund Policy information

Please see the Ecampus website for policy information on refunds and late fees.