

NEWSLETTER

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THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF DEATH AND DYING

Anthsci 175 HumBio 106

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This service-learning seminar course combines a real-world hospice volunteer experience with an examination of human death and dying from cross-cultural perspectives. All students will be trained as hospice volunteers and assigned a patient for weekly visits as part of the course. Lectures begin with an overview on how people die: the processes of decline in major illnesses. We will survey funerary traditions from a variety of cultures and compare the social, spiritual, and psychological roles that these rituals play for both the living and the dying. We will critically analyze controversial issues regarding brain death, suicide, and euthanasia. We will examine cultural attitudes towards death; and how the denial and awareness of human mortality can shape social practices and institutions. Finally, we will consider issues regarding the quality of life, the burden of care, and hospice traditions around the world.

Note: This will be a service-learning course with enrollment restricted to 12 students.

Assigned Readings:

* Justice, C. (1997)	Dying the Good Death: The Pilgrimage to Die in India's
Holy City.	
, ,	(0-7914-3262-9)
* Kastenbaum, R. (2002) (0205381936)	Death, Society, and Human Experience (8 th ed.)
* Lawton, J. (2000)	The Dying Process: Patient's Experiences of Palliative
Care.	
	(0-415-22679-1)
* Nuland, S. (1993)	How We Die: Reflections on Life's Final Chapter. (0-679-74244-1)
* Roach, M. (2003)	Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers. (0-393-32482-
6).	
* Tolstoy, L. (1981)	The Death of Ivan Ilvch (0-553-21035-1)

Note: Permissions to use this material must be obtained directly from the author.

Additional Readings on Coursework Reserve.

Grading:

Hospice Practicum	Training, patient visits, and journal.	30%
Research Paper Class Participation Short Quizzes	10 pages plus class presentation Class, process sessions, and online	35% 15% 20%

Lecture Schedule

Sept 27 Course Introduction and Overvie

a) Kastenbaum: Chap 3.

Sept 29 Selection Interviews

Oct 4 The Hospice Movement

a) Kastenbaum: Chap. 6b) Lawton: Chaps 1 and 2

c) Coursework Reserve: Mor et al (1988)d) Coursework Reserve: Saunders (1976)

Oct 6 Hospice Training: The Bereavement Process

Oct 8 Palliative Care

a) Kastenbaum: Chap 5b) Lawton: Chaps 4 and 5

c) Coursework Reserve: Hahn (1997)

Oct 11 Hospice Training: Pain and Symptom Management

Oct 13 How We Die: The physical process of dying

a) Nuland: Chaps 1-5.

Oct 18 How We Die: The physical process of dying II

a) Nuland: Chaps 9-12.

Oct 20 Brain Death

a) Kastenbaum: Chaps 3 and 7

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Oct 22	Abstract, Outline, and Biblographies due.
Oct 25	Cryogenics, Transplantation, and Immortality
Oct 27	Why We Die: Theodicy and Mortalitya) Tolstoy: beginning to end.b) Coursework: Kubler-Ross (1997)c) Coursework: Aries (1991)
Nov 1	Why We Die: Mortality and Denial a) Becker: Chaps 5,7,9 b) Coursework: Becker (1983)
Nov 3	Funerary Rites and Bereavement I a) Justice: Chaps 1-5 b) Kastenbaum: Chap. 12 c) Coursework: Gilanshah (1993)
Nov 8	Funerary Rites and Bereavement II a) Kastenbaum: Chap 13 b) Justice: Chaps 6-9 c) Coursework Bliatout (1993) d) Coursework: Mandelbaum (1965)
Nov 11	The Funeral Industry a) Coursework: Mitford (2000)
Nov 12	First Paper Draft Due
Nov 15	Post-Mortem I a) Roach (2003): Chaps 1-5
Nov 17	Post-Mortem II b) Roach (2003): Chaps 6-10
Nov 22	Suicide vs. Euthanasia a) Kastenbaum: Chap 10 b) Coursework: Osgood (2000) c) Coursework: Firestone (2000) d) Coursework: Davies (1989) e) Coursework: Newman (1989)
Nov 24	The Death of Children a) Kastenbaum: Chap 11 b) Coursework: Ball (1996) c) Coursework: Young (1997)

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d) Coursework: Furman (1977)

Nov 29 Student Presentations

Dec 1 Course Wrap-Up

Dec 6 Final Paper Due

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