

Course Code: PSY 225**Course Title:** Death and Dying**Department:** Arts, Media, and Social Sciences**Effective Date:** Summer 2026**PCS Code:** 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer**CIP Code:** 45.1101**Repeatability:** 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3**Credit Hour Distribution:**

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Extensive review of thanatology in various cultures: review of current literature and practices in dealing with the dying person; grief and bereavement as it pertains to psychological, medical, religious, and general community.

General Course Objectives

To examine death and dying from a practical, personal, religious, and professional point of view. To decrease the fear of death and denial of death through the study of thanatology. To acknowledge that thanatology is interdisciplinary in nature, joining the affective and cognitive behavioral aspects of our human experience. The learning outcomes listed below are the minimal outcomes required for every section of this course. Any additional learning outcomes are determined by the instructor.

Minimum Placement Levels

English

None

Reading

None

Math

None

Prerequisites

Credit in PSY 101

Methods of Evaluation

10-12 quizzes and discussions, 2 six page writing assignments, a midterm, and a final exam.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

From Here to Eternity, by Doughty, 9780393356281

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Attitudes Toward Death	1. Analyze the concepts of death, cultural denial, and media influence.	3	0	0
History and Cultural Impact	1. Identify and discuss personal attitudes and reactions to death and the grieving process.	3	0	0
Social Meanings	1. Administer a sociological perspective on process and values surrounding death.	3	0	0
Health Care Systems	1. Assess how a health care perspective applies to death and dying.	3	0	0
Facing Death: Living With Life Threatening Illnesses	1. Summarize coping mechanisms.	3	0	0
Medical Ethics	1. Discuss past and present medical ethics relating to death and dying.	3	0	0
Survivors: Understanding the Experience of Loss	1. Describe the coping mechanisms of loss.	3	0	0
Last Rites: Funerals and Body Disposal	1. Discuss the history of and importance of death ceremonies.	3	0	0
Law and Death	1. Identify the legal aspects regarding death.	3	0	0
Children and Youth and Death	1. List the various responses children have to death.	3	0	0
Adults and Death	1. Summarize the various responses adults have to death.	3	0	0
Suicide	1. Describe and discuss suicide myths.	3	0	0
Death in the Modern World	1. Explain how today's diverse cultures respond to death.	3	0	0
Beyond Death	1. Review how different religions deal with death.	3	0	0
The Path Ahead: Personal and Social Choices	1. Examine information that may go into the personal choices that people make about death and dying.	3	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0