

**Course Outline for:** PSYC 1108 Psychology of Death and Dying**A. Course Description**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal 7 – Human Diversity; Goal 9 – Ethical and Civic Responsibility

This course introduces historical and socio-cultural forces which shape our understanding of death and dying. The changing nature of the dying patient's situation, critical issues in end-of-life care, ceremonies and rites enacted at the time of death, legal considerations, bereavement, grief and mourning are introduced with a lifespan and cross-cultural perspective.

**B. Date last reviewed/updated: January 2022****C. Outline of Major Content Areas**

1. Attitudes toward death
2. Cross-cultural and historical perspectives on death
3. Socio-cultural and historical perspectives on death
4. Health care systems
5. Living with life-threatening illness
6. Medical ethics
7. Understanding the experience of loss
8. Understanding grief
9. Funerals and body disposition
10. The law and death
11. Death throughout the lifespan
12. Suicide
13. Risk of death in the modern world
14. Beyond death and afterlife perspectives
15. Personal and social choices

**D. Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the historical and socio-cultural forces which shape understanding of death and dying. (7d, 9d)
2. Apply critical thinking to issues with end-of-life care, ceremonies, and rites at the time of death. (2-a,b,c,d; 7d, 9c)
3. Describe optimal practices in the care giving and grieving processes. (2-d, 7e, 9b)

4. Identify the ethical and legal considerations concerning death and dying. (2-a, 7d, 9c,e)
5. Analyze one's own understanding of the death and dying process. (2-d, 9a,b 7c)
6. Describe the specifics of death itself.(2-a, 7c, 9b)

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning**

Individual instructors may devise their own methods for assessing student performance. Possible methods of evaluation include exams composed of multiple-choice and/or essay questions, written assignments and projects, and group presentations.

**F. Special Information**

None