

**BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS**

I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Number: PSYC1130

Course Title: Death & Dying

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite: None

Division/Discipline: Academic/Psychology

Course Description: This course will provide a broad overview of the theories and data concerning death, grief, and bereavement throughout the lifespan. Topics will include demographic trends in death rates, societal views of death and dying, cultural and religious views on dying, age differences in death experiences and coping, health care practices, and legal issues concerning death.

II. INSTRUCTION INFORMATION

III. CLASSROOM POLICY

Students and faculty of Barton Community College constitute a special community engaged in the process of education. The College assumes that its students and faculty will demonstrate a code of personal honor that is based upon courtesy, integrity, common sense, and respect for others both within and outside the classroom.

The College reserves the right to suspend a student for conduct that is detrimental to the College's educational endeavors as outlined in the College catalog.

Plagiarism on any academic endeavors at Barton Community College will not be tolerated. Learn the rules of, and avoid instances of, intentional or unintentional plagiarism.

Anyone seeking an accommodation under provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act should notify Student Support Services. Additional information about academic integrity can be found at the following link:

<http://academicintegrity.bartonccc.edu/>

COURSE AS VIEWED IN THE TOTAL CURRICULUM

Death & Dying is an appropriate course for the student pursuing an academic emphasis in social sciences or training in the mental/physical health professions. Because death &

coping are intrinsic and democratic aspects to the experience of life, the course has direct application for any student. Similarly, by addressing clinical aspects as well as cultural contexts, a student might better understand his or her beliefs and attitudes toward death and the experience of loss. Though the course is primarily based on the field of psychology, the course will utilize a multidisciplinary approach by presenting perspectives from other fields such as philosophy, sociology, medicine, religion/theology, and anthropology.

Death & dying is an approved general education course at Barton Community College, which can be used to fulfill degree requirements as a behavioral science course in the social/behavioral sciences. In addition, the course transfers credit to all Kansas Regent Universities and may be used to help fulfill a general education requirement at many universities.

General education requirements and the transferability of all college courses will vary among institutions, and perhaps even among departments, colleges, or programs with an institution. Institutional requirements also change without prior notification. Students are responsible to obtain relevant information from intended transfer institutions to insure that the courses the student enrolls in are the most appropriate set of courses for a transfer program.

IV. ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING / COURSE OUTCOMES

Barton Community College is committed to the assessment of student learning and to quality education. Assessment activities provide a means to develop an understanding of how students learn, what they know, and what they can do with their knowledge. Results from these various activities guide Barton, as a learning college, in finding ways to improve student learning.

Course Outcomes, Competencies, and Supplemental Competencies

- A. Identify historical foundations of death studies.
 - 1. Contrast obituary and eulogy.
 - 2. Describe the role of mass media, especially violent media, in influencing views of death.
 - 3. Compare and contrast the family activities associated with the death of family members prior to 1900 and in the modern era.
 - 4. Contrast the top causes of death in 1900 compared to the modern era.
 - 5. Contrast acute causes of death from chronic causes of death.
 - 6. Summarize the contributions of significant individuals such as Kubler-Ross and Mitford to the study of death.

- B. Describe the socialization of death.
 - 1. Identify the characteristics of a mature understanding of death.
 - 2. Describe factors which contribute to a mature understanding of death.
 - 3. Describe what is meant by teachable moments.

- C. Describe the phenomena of contemporary death.
1. Contrast the serial killer and mass killer types of homicide and their characteristics.
 2. Describe the process of creating a military force to engage in combat.
 3. Describe the psychological consequences of military combat.
 4. Describe the phenomena of genocide and its contributing factors.
 5. Describe the psychological elements associated with terrorism.
 6. Describe the origin, symptoms, and progression of HIV and AIDS.
 7. Explain the term pandemic.
- D. Describe the relationship of society and death.
1. Explain Kastenbaum's death system by identifying its parts and functions.
 2. Describe data on the effectiveness of capital punishment.
 3. Contrast the professional requirements of the coroner and medical examiner.
- E. Describe the funeral process.
1. Contrast the psychological uses of funerals and criticisms of funeral practices.
 2. Describe the services provided by funeral directors.
 3. Identify the organization which regulates and supervises the provision of services by funeral homes.
 4. Describe the regulations required of funeral homes regarding burial, caskets, and embalming.
 5. Contrast the types of memorialization methods associated with burial.
 6. Describe the situations which require the process of embalming.
 7. Describe current trends in burial methods.
- F. Describe the psychological process of adjusting to loss.
1. Contrast bereavement, grief, and mourning.
 2. Describe ways in which grief is experienced.
 3. Describe variables which affect the process of grief.
- G. Describe ethical and legal issues regarding death & dying.
1. Define the autonomy principle.
 2. Explain informed consent and the principles guiding its use.
 3. Contrast passive euthanasia, active euthanasia, and assisted death.
 4. Explain the double effect rule.
 5. Describe the type of care provided under palliative situations.
 6. Describe the requirements for organ donation.
 7. Summarize ways in which death is defined.
 8. Identify the components of death as determined by Harvard's Ad hoc committee.
 9. Describe at least two of the famous legal cases which involve the "right to die".
 10. Compare and contrast the roles of testator, executor, and administrator.
 11. Describe the concepts and requirements necessary to amend a will.
 12. Contrast holographic wills and nuncupative wills and their uses.
 13. Describe advanced directives and provide two descriptions of their use.

- H. Describe the phenomena of suicide.
 - 1. Identify statistical trends and issues concerning suicide.
 - 2. Describe theories which attempt to explain suicide phenomena, especially Durkheim's research.
 - 3. Identify risk factors for suicide.
 - 4. Summarize information regarding the suicide prevention and intervention.

- I. Describe the role which religion plays in the understanding of death.
 - 1. Describe beliefs associated with the Christian religion.
 - 2. Describe beliefs and burial practices associated with Hinduism.
 - 3. Describe beliefs and burial practices associated with the Jewish faith.
 - 4. Describe beliefs and burial practices associated with the Muslim faith.
 - 5. Describe characteristics common to a near-death experience.
 - 6. Describe theories which attempt to explain near-death phenomena.

V. INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS IN CLASS

VI. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

VII. REFERENCES

VIII. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION AND EVALUATION

IX. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

X. COURSE OUTLINE