Metropolitan State University

PSYC 340 : Understanding Death and Dying

A. Course Description

Credits: 4

Prerequisites: PSYC 100 General Psychology or equivalent with instructor's consent.

Lab Hours/Weeks:

Corequisites: None

Lecture Hours/Week:

MnTC Goals: Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies, Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

This course examines the many meanings death has for individuals. Its goals are to convey information, stimulate thought and promote a deeper awareness of this subject through readings from literature (fiction, poetry and essays) and humanistic psychology. Topics include death as an idea, death anxiety, children and death, the dying process, grief and loss, death metaphors, suicide, and longevity, survival and immortality.

B. Course Effective Dates: 03/14/1996 - 09/05/1999 09/06/1999 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Evaluation of the perspective will be made by analyzing historical work in literature, philosophy and religion
2. Students will evaluate the historical perspective of death and dying as well as social and cultural similarities and differences within these topics
3. Students will learn the approaches to the study of death and dying
4. The psychological perspective will be compared to other approaches to these topics

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies

None

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
4. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

G. Special Information

None