PHI/PSY 251 Perspectives on Death & Dying

Course Master Syllabus

Catalog Description: This course provides an approach to death and dying in the context of life and living. Students develop their personal perspectives with respect to their own dying and death and that of the people around them.

Prerequisite(s): None

Corequisite(s): None

Credits: 3

Hours: 3

Required Text(s): MindTap Psychology for Corr/Corr/Doka's Death & Dying, Life & Living

Supplemental Materials:

Instructor Information:

Office Hours:

Program Goals:

1. Explain key concepts, theories, and empirical findings in major areas of social science including biological, cognitive, developmental, and social psychology.
2. Examine scientific research and primary sources to understand key concepts in psychological and sociological theories.
3. Discuss recent advances in behavioral genetics, brain development, and cross-cultural approaches, with an emphasis on lifespan development.
4. Investigate human behavior, mental health, and social factors using cognitive, moral, and sociocultural perspectives.
5. Explore the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness, using the DSM framework and various assessment instruments.
6. Compare sociological theories and perspectives on racial and ethnic group interactions and dominant-minority relations in the United States.

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CORE COMPETENCIES: The following core competencies are embedded in this curriculum: Communicate effectively in both speech and writing; Use scientific method of inquiry, through the acquisition of scientific knowledge; Use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals; Use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens; Understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance; Understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples; Understand ethical issues and situations; Address an information need by locating, evaluating and effectively using information.	
LEARNING ASSESSMENT	
Student Learning Outcomes:	***Suggested Means of Assessment:***
Describe the influence of sociocultural aspects and cross-cultural, historical forces of death	Brief papers analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information from a variety of primary and secondary sources
Evaluate fundamental theoretical aspects of death and dying	Class/group discussions on current and historical trends of death and dying
Discuss death as it pertains to the lifespan taking into consideration how one can assist in a "good" death situation	Discussion questions, reflective paper
Describe hospice care and describe end of life decisions inclusive on topics of abortion, euthanasia and right to life	Create own advanced directive, exam & quiz questions
Explain what is involved with grief, mourning, and the funeral process in basic terminology as well as from a multicultural perspective	Mid-Term, Final exam, Discussion questions
Identify how people cope with violent deaths, as in murder, war, terrorism, suicide, accidents, and disasters	Reaction (research paper) regarding current events in media on global event
GRADING SYSTEM:	C+ = 77 < 80
A = 90 < 100	C = 70 < 77
B+ = 87 < 90	D = 60< 70
B = 80 < 87	F = Below 60

Disability Services

https://www.warren.edu/admissions/disability-services/

Statement and Policy on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Conduct

https://www.warren.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Policy-304-304.3-Student-Rights-Responsibilites-and-Academic-Conduct.pdf

Students are required to perform all the work specified by the instructor and are responsible for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted. A violation of academic integrity will occur if a student: (1) knowingly represents work of others as one's own, (2) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in any academic work, (3) gives fraudulent assistance to another student, or (4) furnishes false information or other misuse of college documents.

Unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is prohibited unless the instructor explicitly permits it in the syllabus or assignments. If tools such as ChatGPT are permitted by an instructor to be used for an assignment, they should be used with caution and with proper citation. In all such cases, you may only use the specific tools identified as acceptable and you must adhere to the College's standards for attribution, validation, and transparency.

In cases of suspected violation of academic integrity, the incident is to be reported to the Office of Academics. A student found guilty of violating the rule of academic integrity by the Vice President of Academics will be considered to have failed in personal obligation to the College; such failure will be subject to disciplinary action by the College. Unless otherwise notified, the instructor will allow students who are pending disciplinary action to attend class.

Tutoring and Testing at the Instructional Support Center (ISC)

https://www.warren.edu/academics/tutoring-and-testing/

WCCC Library Services

https://warren.libguides.com/library/WCCCStudents

Citation Styles and Formatting

Work submitted for any Warren County Community College course must conform to the required formatting and citation style that are specified by the instructor. The Library and Instructional Support Center can assist students with formatting and citations for assignments and papers.

WCCC Attendance Expectations

The College expects students to attend and participate in all classes. This involves sharing discussions and lectures in class, as well as interacting with other students. Grades are based on the quality of work students complete in meeting the requirements for a particular course, as stated in the course syllabus and catalog description. Attendance, among other factors, may be an additional criterion for assigning grades. Students should

realize that they are responsible for all class meetings and that work missed because of absences may affect their grades. Attendance in online classes is determined by the completion of assignments/ tests. Students who have not completed any assignments or tests will be considered non-attending and receive an NF grade in online classes.

Class Attendance Expectations

Topical Outline

- Attitudes Toward Death
- Learning Death: The Influence of Sociocultural Forces
- Perspectives on Death: Cross Cultural and Historical
- Health Care Systems
- Death Systems: Matters of Public Policy
- Living With Life-Threatening Illness
- End-of-Life Issues and Decisions
- Survivors: Understanding the Experience of Loss
- Funerals and Body Disposition
- Death in the Lives of Children and Adolescents
- Death in the Lives of Adults
- Suicide
- Risks of Death in the Modern World
- Beyond Death/After Life

Grading Methods

Itinerary