This service-learning seminar course combines a real-world hospice volunteer experience with an examination of human death and dying from cross-cultural perspectives. All students will be trained as hospice volunteers and assigned a patient for weekly visits as part of the course. Lectures begin with an overview on how people die: the processes of decline in major illnesses. We will survey funerary traditions from a variety of cultures and compare the social, spiritual, and psychological roles that these rituals play for both the living and the dying. We will critically analyze controversial issues regarding brain death, suicide, and euthanasia. We will examine cultural attitudes towards death; and how the denial and awareness of human mortality can shape social practices and institutions. Finally, we will consider issues regarding the quality of life, the burden of care, and hospice traditions around the world.

Note: This will be a service-learning course with enrollment restricted to 12 students.

Assigned Readings:


* Tolstoy, L. (1981) The Death of Ivan Ilych (0-553-21035-1)

Note: Permissions to use this material must be obtained directly from the author.
Additional Readings on Coursework Reserve.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospice Practicum</td>
<td>Training, patient visits, and journal.</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>10 pages plus class presentation</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>Class, process sessions, and online</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Quizzes</td>
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<td>20%</td>
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Lecture Schedule

Sept 27       Course Introduction and Overview.  
a) Kastenbaum: Chap 3.

Sept 29       Selection Interviews

Oct 4         The Hospice Movement  
a) Kastenbaum: Chap. 6
b) Lawton: Chaps 1 and 2
c) Coursework Reserve: Mor et al (1988)
d) Coursework Reserve: Saunders (1976)

Oct 6         Hospice Training: The Bereavement Process

Oct 8         Palliative Care  
a) Kastenbaum: Chap 5  
b) Lawton: Chaps 4 and 5  

Oct 11        Hospice Training: Pain and Symptom Management

Oct 13        How We Die: The physical process of dying  
a) Nuland: Chaps 1-5.

Oct 18        How We Die: The physical process of dying II  
a) Nuland: Chaps 9-12.

Oct 20        Brain Death  
a) Kastenbaum: Chaps 3 and 7

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Oct 22       Abstract, Outline, and Bibliographies due.

Oct 25       Cryogenics, Transplantation, and Immortality

Oct 27       Why We Die: Theodicy and Mortality
  a) Tolstoy: beginning to end.
  b) Coursework: Kubler-Ross (1997)
  c) Coursework: Aries (1991)

Nov 1         Why We Die: Mortality and Denial
  a) Becker: Chaps 5,7,9
  b) Coursework: Becker (1983)

Nov 3         Funerary Rites and Bereavement I
  a) Justice: Chaps 1-5
  b) Kastenbaum: Chap. 12
  c) Coursework: Gilanshah (1993)

Nov 8         Funerary Rites and Bereavement II
  a) Kastenbaum: Chap 13
  b) Justice: Chaps 6-9
  c) Coursework Bliatout (1993)
  d) Coursework: Mandelbaum (1965)

Nov 11        The Funeral Industry

Nov 12        First Paper Draft Due

Nov 15        Post-Mortem I

Nov 17        Post-Mortem II
  b) Roach (2003): Chaps 6-10

Nov 22        Suicide vs. Euthanasia
  a) Kastenbaum: Chap 10
  d) Coursework: Davies (1989)

Nov 24        The Death of Children
  a) Kastenbaum: Chap 11
  b) Coursework: Ball (1996)
  c) Coursework: Young (1997)

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d) Coursework: Furman (1977)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Course Wrap-Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>Final Paper Due</td>
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