

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**HSCI 3307 - 32945 – Death, Dying, and Bereavement
Summer, 2016**

Instructor: Dr. Guillermina Gina Nunez-Mchiri
Office: UTEP's Liberal Arts 233
Office Hours: By appointment. Phone and/or Skype Meetings can be arranged Monday to Friday between 1pm to 4 pm MT.
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Course Description: Concepts, attitudes, ethics and lifestyle management related to dying, death, grief, and bereavement. The course provides in-depth knowledge of the medical, financial, physical, legal, and social implications of death and dying as related to health promotion and wellness.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Describe cultural and historical perspectives death.
2. Define bioethics, euthanasia, and physician-assisted suicide.
3. Identify terminal diseases, conditions, and processes of dying.
4. Describe end-of-life issues.
5. Explain grief and the grief process.
6. Discuss the funeral business and disposal of the body.
7. Differentiate between how adults, adolescents, and children view death.
8. Identify the risk factors and prevention strategies for suicide.

Required Text: Dennis, D.D. (2009). *Living, Dying, Grieving*. Boston, MA: Jones and Bartlett.

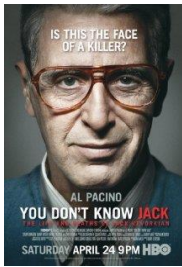
Required Media: You will be required to watch the following movies in order to complete assignments throughout the semester. These movies may be available via Amazon.com, Netflix, etc. Please make arrangements to screen these videos in advance. Do not assume that all these movies will stream live. One additional film is currently available in movie theaters for you to view and analyze for course credit.

Films:

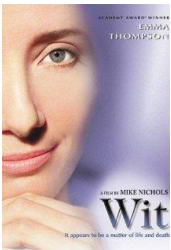
- ***My Girl*** (1991). Columbia Pictures.



- ***You Don't Know Jack*** (2010). HBO.



- ***Wit*** (2001). HBO.



(2016) New Release in theaters this summer.

Assessment Methods: The following methods will be used to examine the field of death, dying and bereavement:

- ✓ Quizzes
- ✓ Online journals
- ✓ Assigned readings in text
- ✓ Films/Videos
- ✓ Individual Assignments/Activities

Activities and Grading Plan

- **Assignments** - Individual exercises/activities will be assigned throughout the semester. Detailed instructions for each assignment are available in the “Assignment” link on Blackboard. Assignments/activities are due on the assigned date. No make-up assignments will be permitted (8 assignments X 20 points = 160 points).
- **Journal** – Students will be administered reflection questions, questionnaires, and other survey instruments regarding their own attitudes and perceptions about a variety of issues related to death, dying, and bereavement. Students will write a 150- word reflection summarizing their thoughts, feelings, and conclusions regarding the topic. These journal entrees will be completed and submitted to the instructor weekly (8 journal entrees X 10 points = 80 points).
- **Quizzes** – Objective open book and open note quizzes will be administered weekly. **Quizzes will be released from Weds. 10 am to Friday 5pm.** The quizzes will cover the assigned readings. Students are to work independently. No “group” quiz taking is permitted (8 quizzes X 25 points = 200 points).

	Points
⇒ Assignments (8x20)	160
⇒ Journal (8x10)	80
⇒ Quizzes (8x25)	200
TOTAL	440

Grading Scale

440 – 394 Pts	A
393– 352 Pts	B
351 – 308 Pts	C
307 – 264 Pts.	D
263 Pts. or below	F

Guidelines/Recommendations

- Students are responsible for studying assigned readings or handouts for each class session.
- Individual assignments must be turned in on time. Absolutely **NO** late assignments will be accepted.
- Individual activities must be completed on the assigned date. Individual activities may **NOT** be made up at a later date.
- Remember, students earn grades; professors do not give grades.

Computer Requirements

First, let's make sure your computer has the necessary plug-ins you will need to access all the content in this course.

Software Requirements

You will need the following software on your computers to efficiently work in this course. In some cases your computer may already have some of these programs installed. Adobe Acrobat Reader. You can get the program by going to <http://www.adobe.com> and then clicking on the icon on the center of the screen that says "Get Adobe Reader". Follow instructions to install the reader.

Adobe Flash Player. You can get the player by going to <http://www.adobe.com> and then clicking on "Get Adobe Flash Player". Follow instructions to install the player.

Apple QuickTime Player. You can get this player by going to <http://www.apple.com>. Once there, click on the "Downloads" tab on the top of the page and then click on QuickTime "Download" and follow instructions.

Microsoft Office. I recommend installing this if you do not have any word processing software or presentation software. As currently enrolled students, there is no cost for you to install and use Office 365 and its components. Your free Office 365 account is automatically setup through your UTEP email account. To obtain more information go to <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=74266> or ask for assistance at The University Help Desk located on the 3rd floor of The UTEP Library room 300 (Phone: 915.747.4357 or Email: helpdesk@utep.edu).

Class Participation

I strongly recommend that you check the course at least three times a week at minimum to keep up. Email messages are sent to your UTEP email address, so you will want to check your UTEP email several times a week. There will be no incompletes offered in this course, unless you have a documented medical condition that merits this. This is a commitment you are making this summer for 8 weeks and will require you have access to the Internet throughout this time.

Being Successful in an Online Class

Online learning is not a spectator sport. It is everyone's responsibility to participate as fully as they can so everyone can get the most from the experience. Here are some simple rules to follow to ensure your participation and engagement in the learning process:

Ask questions: If you don't know the answer, someone else will. The discussion board is the area for asking questions related to content OR any problems (related to the class) you are having. Make sure that you have clearly indicated the subject of your message.

Reach out to others: Offer a fact, article, link, or other item that can help others learn something you can share.

Be appropriate: The online classroom is not the place for insulting or insensitive comments, attacks, or venting. Inappropriate behavior can be subject to disciplinary action, as well.

Be diplomatic: When sending messages on emotionally charged topics, I recommend that you write the message and then walk away for at least an hour before re-reading the message and then sending it. Re-reading emotionally charged messages ensures that they are constructive instead of destructive. Think of the person at the other end.

Stay focused: Stay on topic to increase the efficiency of your learning. Do your readings and take your quizzes when you are most alert and away from distractions and interruptions.

Effective Electronic Communications

It is important to share a word of caution, so we can become wiser about interpersonal distance learning communications. When communicating electronically, many of the feelings or impressions that are transmitted via body language in face-to-face communications are lost. Consequently, interpreting emotions and innuendos is much more difficult. Only what is written, or drawn, carries the message. Often, excitement can be misinterpreted as anger or insult. It is important that we all keep this in mind as we communicate. Words in print may seem harmless, but they could emotionally injure us when working at a distance. Hence, it is vitally important that we are conscious of how we communicate while working at a distance.

For example, avoid the use of caps in your electronic messages, as wording in caps comes across as shouting.

The standard practice ("Netiquette") for participation in networked discussion requires that all participation be focused on the topic at hand, not become personalized, and be substantive in nature. (Translation: you may certainly disagree with others, but you must

do so respectfully; you may express strong beliefs or emotions, but you may not get so carried away that you lose all perspective on the course itself.) More information on Netiquette, the etiquette of Internet communication, can be found at www.albion.com/netiquette.

Time Management

The rule of thumb for time planning for a course is approximately three (3) hours for every credit hour taken. This is a standard figure recommended across the board by American universities. For a 3-credit course, you should expect to spend:
3 hours of class time + 9 hours of study and prep time = 12 hours per week.

Academic Integrity

Honesty and respect for your work and for the work of others are essential to your success in this course and in university life in general. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes cheating on quizzes, plagiarizing readings, and claiming others' work as your own. Use a consistent citation method for your written work. American Psychological Association (APA) format is required for the various assignments. For examples on how to cite using APA, see Purdue's online guide at: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Academic Dishonesty Statement

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Disabled Student Statement

In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the **Center for Accommodation and Support Services** (CASS) at UTEP needs to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or with CASS director or staff members. You may be able to register for services to make necessary accommodations for quizzes, exams, and note takers. Visit the Student Union East, Room 106, 747-5148, via email at cass@utep.edu or online at <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability. Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and CASS at The University of Texas at El Paso. Please speak your professor early in the semester to make arrangements to accommodate your needs.

Additional Student Support Services.

Your mental, emotional, and physical health are critical to your academic success. The **University Counseling Center** is located at 202 Union West, 747-5302, for walk in appointments and career, study skills, and personal worth workshops. The **Student Health Center** is located in the Union Building East, Suite 100, 747-5624.

The **University Writing Center** is located in the UTEP library Room 227 for drop in tutoring and assistance with your writing assignments. I strongly encourage you to seek help with the appropriate service providers if and when you need it throughout the semester.

Technical Assistance

UTEP offers complete technical information and help desk support at: <http://issweb.utep.edu/techsupport/> Use the information and resources offered at this site to make sure your computer meets the requirements to take this online course, as well as to know the number for the Help Desk available 24/7.