

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SOCI 3283 **Death, Dying, Aging, and Ability**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): **SOCI 2753 Introduction to Sociology**

Prerequisite(s) or corequisite(s): ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2021-2022

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Explores issues associated with death, dying, ageing and ability. Examines social and environmental factors shaping mortality rates, conceptions of illness, ideas of afterlife, and perceptions and reactions to disabilities. Tracks funerary practices, grief and mourning processes, over time and cross-culturally. Compares contemporary and cross-cultural definitions and responses to disabilities.

B. Additional Information

This course is an elective for the Sociology and Diversity Studies minors.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

C. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss socially constructed notions of death, dying, ageing, and ability.
2. Apply sociological theories to understanding variations in beliefs in and behaviors toward death, dying, ageing, and disabilities.
3. Analyze cultural responses to death, dying, ageing, and disabilities.
4. Evaluate programs and theories designed to assist people in coping with death, dying, ageing, and disabilities.
5. Create presentations that demonstrate equitable and inclusive responses to death, dying, ageing, and disabilities.

D. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze the causes of social problems through research and evaluation of varying sources. Students will assess proposed solutions. Students will represent and interpret statistical information and data in order to draw inferences.

Communication Skills (written and oral): Students will communicate proficiently. Students will compose coherent documents appropriate to the intended audience. Students will effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

Ethical Decision Making: Students will model ethical decision-making processes. In addition to maintaining academic integrity in all of their work, students will be introduced to ethical issues in social research.

Global and Cultural Perspectives: Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze of how culture is both a projection and reflection of social structures. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how sociology impacts or is impacted by different cultures.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Cross cultural conceptions of death.
- B. Cross cultural conceptions of health and well-being
- C. Cross cultural conceptions of and responses to disabilities
- D. Grieving processes and variations