

**University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
Sociology 2310 –T03
Death and Dying in Canada
Fall 2017 (3 Credit)**

Instructor: Susan Miller
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Class Location: 201 Isbister

Course Description/Objectives

We will examine how the social structure and culture of society contribute to social problems and their consequences. We will learn to recognize that solutions cannot be effective if we don't fully understand the causes of a problem and acknowledge that our ultimate goal is not to solve any or all of society's problems in a few weeks. We will learn to appreciate differing points of view. We will accomplish all this through both lectures and group discussions.

Required Text

Northcott, Herbert C. and Donna M. Wilson. (2017). *Dying and Death in Canada*. University of Toronto Press.

Course Requirements

1. *1 Mid-Term Test. Value: 30%* See Course Schedule for date of this test. This test will be some combination of multiple choice questions and/or short answer questions. This test will cover readings from the text (chapters 1 through 4 inclusive), lectures, movies shown, and class discussions. Mid-Term test results will be returned within 7 days, barring any unforeseen circumstances.
2. *1 Final Test. Value: 20%.* Chapters 5 through 8 inclusive. Last day of class. This test will not be returned.
3. *Assignment #1 – My Last Lecture* – details attached. Value: 20% DUE: Oct. 2/17 at 1:30 pm. This assignment will be returned to students within 7-10 days.
4. *Assignment #2 - Presentation and Annotated Bibliography Assignment – Social Causes of Dying and Death in Canada.*
Total Value: 30%. Details to Follow. All students will receive their grades for this assignment on the last day of class, after all presentations have been done.

Letter Grade Assignments

A+	90 and up	B	70 – 75	D	50 – 59
A	80 – 89	C+	66 – 69	F	0 – 49
B+	76 - 79	C	60 - 65		

Course Policies

1. Please note that lap top computers and all other forms of such technology **ARE NOT permitted in class**. Medical documentation considered acceptable to the University of Manitoba may result in an exception to this policy, with specific restrictions. Cell phones are to be turned off during class, and text messaging is strictly prohibited. You will be excused from the class if you refuse to comply with these restrictions.
2. Taking photographs of PP slides is strictly prohibited.
3. The best way to reach me outside of class is to email me. **BUT**, when you email me, your email must use proper English – not the shorthand that is commonplace in chat rooms and text messaging - and you must identify in which class you are registered in the subject line. Further, do not assume I have received or read your email until I respond to it.
4. **Don't ask!** There is no provision in this course for extra credit assignments, rewriting a test, or any other such creative idea you might have to improve your grade.
5. The penalty for late assignments is 10% for every 15 minutes, or portion thereof.
6. You will be expected to use **APA format for all papers and assignments in this course**.
7. Missed tests cannot be taken at a later date, unless a valid medical certificate is provided within 1 week of the scheduled test. I also expect you will email me before the test if you are unable to make it. Any approved make-up test will be written on a date and time and in a location chosen by the instructor. The date/time of the make-up test is not negotiable. Only those students with valid medical notes or other appropriate documentation will be allowed to write the make-up test.
8. Students are responsible for all material presented in class and in the text.
9. Students cheating on a test will receive a "0" for the test and the Dept. Head will be notified to determine if further action is warranted.
10. If a student wishes to withdraw from the course, it is their responsibility to do so. The deadline for **Voluntary Withdrawal is November 17, 2017**.
11. Although the chapters on the Course Schedule will be covered in the order that they appear, I may exceed, restrict, or omit individual sections to facilitate smoother course delivery.
12. Students with special needs (e.g., learning, testing, hearing, sight, or physical) should discuss with me how I might make the learning environment more comfortable.
13. The university (and I) recognize and respect the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. With

instructor discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. Please notify me 3 weeks in advance of any such intended absence where special arrangements are sought.

14. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, ("Personation at Examinations" (Section 5.2.9) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (Section 8.1)) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at: http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilites_integrity.html. Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them. The Faculty of Arts reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.
15. Disruptions due to excessive talking and late arrival or early departure from the classroom are especially distracting. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.
16. Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

Course Schedule

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Sept. 8	Intro to Course	
Sept. 11	Why Study Death and Dying?	
Sept. 18	The History of Dying and Death in Canada	Chapter 1
Sept. 25	Dying and Death in Canada Today	Chapter 2
	Dying and Death in the Context of Canadian Social Institutions	Chapter 3
Sept. 29	Presentations Organized – Attendance is Mandatory	
Oct. 2	Assignment #1 Due	
Oct. 2	Secularization and Professionalization of Dying and Death, Medicalization and Bureaucratization of Dying and Death	Chapter 4
Oct. 5, 6	Fall Term Break	
Oct. 9	Thanksgiving Day Holiday – no classes	
Oct. 11, 16	Making Sense of Death, Different Types of Death, Social Stigma of Death, The Social Construction of Dying and Death, Shameful Death, Social Rituals and Cultural Constructions of Dying and Death	Chapter 4
Oct. 23	Mid Term Test – VALUE: 30%	
Oct. 25, 30	Individual and Survivor Perspectives on Dying and Death	Chapter 5-6
Nov. 6	Caring for the Dying	Chapter 7
Nov. 13	Remembrance Day – University Closed	
Nov. 17	Last Day for Voluntary Withdrawal	
Nov. 20	Caring for the Caregivers	Chapter 8
Nov. 22 to Dec. 6	<u>PRESENTATIONS</u>	
Dec. 8	Final Test - VALUE: 20%	

Sociology 2310
Assignment #1
Value: 20%

DUE: October 2, 2017 at 1:30 PM

MY LAST LECTURE

Either read Randy Pausch's *The Last Lecture* or watch it on Youtube to get a true sense of what I am looking for here – in a shorter version.

With your own original idea, write a 2-3 page last lecture of your own.

I am looking for you to demonstrate that you put some serious effort and thought into this. Remember, be original!

All papers should be double-spaced, with one inch margins, on one side of the page only and should include a title page.

NOTE: For this, and all written assignments, spelling, grammar, and punctuation will have an impact on your grade, as will originality, creativity, and analytical skills.

ALSO NOTE that I may choose several of these papers to be read aloud in class.