Course Syllabus

Department: Social Science

Date: December 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: SOC 209

   Course Name: Our Cultural Approach to Death

   Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

   Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites –

   An interdisciplinary examination of our culture’s attitudes, beliefs and rituals as they relate to
dead and dying. Coping techniques, the process of bereavement for individuals and
communities, ethical, spiritual and moral issues related to death will be examined. Cross
cultural variation will also be considered. Prerequisite: none.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum including SUNY Gen Ed
designation if applicable:

Course is a social science general elective and is a 200 level course option in the Liberal Arts
A. A. degree sociology advisement area.

II. Course Student Learning Outcomes:

   Students will:

   - Be able to describe contemporary and historical understandings of death and dying in the
     United States.
   - Demonstrate an understanding of coping mechanisms in relation to death and dying.
   - Identify contemporary medical and health care trends as they relate to death and dying.
   - Identify cultural and cross cultural differences as they apply to social practices related to
     death and dying.
   - Discuss and assess how death and dying are understood across various stages in human
     development.
   - Discuss and analyze spiritual, ethical and moral issues as they relate to death and dying.
College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course: (check each College Learning Outcome addressed by the Student Learning Outcomes)

- writing
- oral communications
- reading
- mathematics
- critical thinking
- computer literacy
- ethics/values
- citizenship
- global concerns
- information resources

III. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed): For each identified outcome checked, please provide the specific assessment measure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List identified College Learning Outcomes(s)</th>
<th>Specific assessment measure(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Content Based Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>Quizzes and exams reflective/journal writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics and Values</td>
<td>Quizzes and exams reflective/journal writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Concerns</td>
<td>Embedded multiple choice and/or essay questions in quizzes and examinations or their equivalent in online sections.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Embedded multiple choice and/or essay questions in quizzes and examinations and/or reflective/journal writing on assigned readings.</td>
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IV. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Required readings and ancillaries as assigned (handouts, podcasts, readers, etc.)
Methods of Instruction

May include: Lecture, discussion, small group collaborative learning activities, videos/podcasts/lecture capture, discussion activities, active learning and online activities.

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

Learning about death – interdisciplinary perspectives
American and cross cultural understandings of death
The dying process
Coping and bereavement
Developmental (life span) perspectives
Legal, ethical and spiritual issues
Medical and health care issues
Emerging challenges in contemporary society

*Note that historical and cross-cultural perspectives will be embedded throughout the course.