

MAS 605 - End of Life - 2 cr hr/3 ceu
Mondays & Thursdays – 10-11:30 – Fall 2007

Faculty Member	Rev. Karrin Scapple, Ph.D.
Office Hours	Mondays 1-3 p.m., Tuesdays 3-5 p.m., and by appointment
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Required Texts	Callanan, M. & Kelley, P. (1997). <i>Final gifts: Understanding the special awareness, needs, & communications of the dying</i> . New York: Bantam. Kastenbaum, R.J. (2007). <i>Death, society, and human experience</i> . 9 th ed. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc. Mitchell, K.R. & Anderson, H. (1983). <i>All our losses, all our griefs: Resources for pastoral care</i> . Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox Press. Singh, K.D. (1998). <i>The grace in dying: A message of hope, comfort, and spiritual transformation</i> . San Francisco: Harper Collins.
Other Required Reading	Articles on reserve in the Unity Library.

Course Description

This course addresses issues related to aging, dying, death and bereavement. The focus is on the function of ministry to individuals and family members within such circumstances. Spiritual, medical, ethical and legal considerations are explored. Concerns of diverse religious, cultural, and socio-economic factors are also discussed.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize the various needs and problems of the aged, the dying and their families, and explain how to effectively minister to such persons.
2. Compare and contrast the support services that may be available to the aged, the dying, and their families.
3. Explain how to perform effectual grief and bereavement counseling.
4. Identify self-care techniques in response to helping others.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity:

- MD-1 Develop and demonstrate the pastoral skills necessary for successful ministry.
- MD-4 Demonstrate appropriate knowledge needed for ministry.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

- C-1 Develop and demonstrate the pastoral skills necessary for successful ministry.
- C-2 Demonstrate appropriate knowledge needed for ministry.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:

- MA-2 Acquire and demonstrate the skills needed for advanced academic pursuit.

Class Schedule **NOTE: This schedule is subject to change.**

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Activity due for Today
1a	4 Oct	An introduction to death	Kastenbaum, ch 1	Take inventory #1 & be prepared to discuss your answers in class.
1b	8 Oct	What is death? - biomedical - social - spiritual	Kastenbaum, 39-50; 56-58 Singh, 1-18	Reflection paper: What do you think & feel about death & dying?
2a	11 Oct	The death system	Kastenbaum, 74-86	
2b	15 Oct	Causes of death	Kastenbaum, 97-102	
3a	18 Oct	Legal Issues - Advance Directive	Kastenbaum, 178-188 Caring Conversations	Complete the Caring Conversations questionnaire & be prepared to discuss it in class.
3b	22 Oct	Ethical Issues	Kastenbaum, 269-298	
4a	25 Oct	The Physical Dying Process	Kastenbaum, 111-123; 133-141 Singh, 224-251 Callanan & Kelley, ch 4	Create an annotated list of resources that are available for someone who is dying.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Activity due for Today
4b	29 Oct	The Spiritual Stages of Dying	Singh, 167-214 Lair excerpt	
5a	1 Nov	Unity View of Death & Dying	Callanan & Kelly, ch 8 Others TBD	Reflection paper: When you're working with a person who is dying, which Unity principles/ understandings will you use?
5b	5 Nov	Attentive Listening	Callanan & Kelley, ch 2; 5-7; 11-12; 14; 16	
6a	8 Nov	Children and death	Kastenbaum, ch 10	Create an annotated list of resources that are available for to help children.
6b	12 Nov	Hospice & Palliative Care	Kastenbaum, 151-171	Guest: Rev. Pat Longstroth
7a	15 Nov	Cross-cultural Views of Death	Walsh-Burke, "Cultural & Spiritual Influences"	
7b	19 Nov	Grief & Bereavement	Mitchell & Anderson, ch 4 Kastenbaum, 348-364	Create an annotated list of resources that are available for someone who is grieving.
8a	26 Nov	Characteristics of Grieving	Mitchell & Anderson, ch 5	
8b	29 Nov	Funeral ritual	Kastenbaum, ch 12	TBD
9a	3 Dec	Caring for those who grieve, part I	Mitchell & Anderson, ch 6 Kastenbaum, 364-379	

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Activity due for Today
9b	6 Dec	Caring for those who grieve, part II	Mitchell & Anderson, ch 7 Range article	Reflection paper: When you're working with a person who is grieving, which Unity principles/ understandings will you use?
10a	10 Dec	Self-care	Kastenbaum, 474-478 Wuellner article Walsh-Burke, "Self-Care"	Create a plan for self-care when you are working with people who are dying or grieving.
10b	13 Dec	Concluding Thoughts	None	Final paper due for MDiv & MA students.

Assignments for the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Religious Studies:

- 1) Reading throughout the term.
- 2) Ten assignments throughout the term. Details will be provided the first day of class. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the date due.
- 3) Research paper of 10-12 pages in length on a specific aspect of end of life issues. Details will be provided the first day of class. The paper is due at the beginning of the class on the date due.

Grading

Assignment	Date Due	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
1-10	Dates throughout the term	20 pts each	1-4
Final paper	13 Dec, at the beginning of class	100 pts	1

Final Grade Determination:

- 90-100% A
- 80-89% B
- 70-79% C
- 60-69% D
- 59% or below F

Assignments for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

- 1) Reading throughout the term.
- 2) Ten assignments throughout the term. Details will be provided the first day of class. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the date due.

Grading

Assignment	Date Due	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
1-10	Dates throughout the term	20 pts each	1-4

Final Grade Determination

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% or below	F

Expectations of Students

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material, having completed the required assignments and being prepared to discuss what they learned.

Classroom Protocol

Since students may be sharing personal information about themselves and/or their experiences, it is imperative that confidentiality be maintained. Nothing that is shared in class is to be shared with anyone outside of the classroom environment.

Late Assignment Policy

Assignments are due on the date assigned, at the beginning of class. Late assignments will be assessed a 5% penalty per day (weekends and holidays included).

Attendance Policy

Attendance at all classes is strongly encouraged and seen as key to successful completion of this course and these programs at Unity Institute.

Academic Honesty

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. Students may seek the assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work. For further information about academic honesty, students are directed to review the Unity Institute Catalog and Unity Institute Student Handbook.

Special Concerns

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made.

Selected Bibliography

Albom, M. (1997). *Tuesdays with Morrie: An old man, a young man, and life's greatest lesson*. New York: Doubleday.

Plum, A. (1999). *An interfaith minister's manual*. (2nd ed). Alexander, NC: WorldComm Press.

Turner, M. (2006). *Talking with children and young people about death and dying: A workbook*. 2nd ed. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- NOTE: This publisher has a large selection of books about death & bereavement, especially with the eye towards young people. Check out their catalog at jkp.com