

PCP 626 Dying, Death, and Crisis Counseling

Mark Bradford, D-Min., Psy.D.

Spring 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course assists pastors, chaplains, counselors and other helping professionals develop a practical theology of death related to biblical, cultural, and psychological insights. It encourages coming to grips with one's own mortality to enrich one's life. It helps the student offer care and counseling to the terminally ill, the bereaved, and their families.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objectives of this course are stated behaviorally in terms of learning outcomes. Thus, upon the completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Explain various attitudes, beliefs, and feelings concerning dying and death.
2. Discuss individual grief in a systemic context.
3. Identify normal and abnormal human responses to grief.
4. Describe the various stages persons experience when they are terminally ill.
5. Discuss the processes of counseling terminally ill persons and their family members/close friends in their cultural and religious context.
6. Articulate therapeutic strategies for counseling the bereaved as part of family development.
7. Prepare oneself and others to face bereavement and death.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Lawrenz, Mel. Overcoming Grief and Trauma. Baker, 1996.

REQUIRED NOTEBOOK

In addition to the purchase of the required textbook, all students will be expected to purchase two additional books on the topic of death, dying, grief or crisis work. Each student will also be expected to prepare a special Death, Dying Grief Class Notebook. Students may be requested to participate in purchase of additional photocopied and bound materials distributed during the course of the semester.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Albers, Gregg R., M.D. Counseling the Sick and Terminally Ill, vol. 20 of the Resources for Christian Counseling Series, ed. Gary R. Collins. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1989.

PCP 626 Dying, Death and Crisis Counseling

Page 2

METHODOLOGY: The course will consist of class lecture and discussion led by the professor, student participation in discussion, guest speakers, and the use of the chalkboard, computer projectors, and films. During the semester students will be expected to go on field trips as part of their class training, such as a field trip to a funeral home, hospital, and a cemetery.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading of the textbooks and articles assigned by the instructor. A written statement acknowledging completion of this reading is **due April 5, 2002.**
2. Group participation is a primary requirement for the class, so attendance is expected for all sessions. More than three absences during the semester will reduce the student's grade. Three tardies count as one absence.
3. An early midterm exam and a final exam will be given covering class discussion and the textbooks.
4. Each student is required to participate in a research assignment for the class.
Option 1: Research Paper- The student may choose to write a research paper relating to this course (twelve pages maximum) dealing with a topic approved by the instructor. The paper must be typed and double spaced on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper, using Turabian or APA format. Students are expected to do a thorough job in consulting books, journal articles, periodicals, etc. and must give proper credit for sources utilized by the use of parenthetical reference, footnotes or endnotes. Include a title page, contents outline, introduction, subject headings, or conclusion, summary, and reference list or bibliography. **Option 2: Specialty Paper -** Another option would be a specialty paper on a topic approved by the instructor. *Special Note:* As a help to your fellow students, all papers will be collected, photocopied and distributed as a collection to aid others in the class in their ongoing ministry to the bereaved. Therefore, practical topics and relevant issues are suggested for your papers.
5. Each student will be expected to write two book reviews for the class, using books selected by the student and approved by the instructor.

GRADING PROCEDURE: The course grade will be determined by evaluating class attendance and participation, examination scores, and the term paper. Failure to complete assigned reading or handing assignments in late will result in a grade reduction. Tardies and repeated unexcused absences will also be calculated in to your total overall grade.

Class attendance and participation	10%
Term Paper or Oral Presentation	20%
Mid_term exam	35%
Final exam	35%

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Mark L. Bradford, D-Min, Psy.D., December 21, 2001

PCP 626 Dying, Death and Crisis Counseling
Page 4

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PCP 626 Dying, Death and Crisis Counseling
Page 5

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- Sanders, Catherine M. Grief, The Mourning After: Dealing With Adult Bereavement. New York: Wiley, 1989.
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- Sumrall, Lester. You Can Conquer Grief Before It Conquers You. Nashville: Thomas, 1981.
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PCP 626 Dying, Death and Crisis Counseling
Page 6

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PCP 626 Dying, Death and Crisis Counseling

Page 7

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PCP 626 Dying, Death and Crisis Counseling
Page 8

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PCP 626 Dying, Death and Crisis Counseling
Page 9

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PCP 626 Dying, Death and Crisis Counseling
Page 10

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PCP 626 Dying, Death and Crisis Counseling
Page 11

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PCP 626 Dying, Death and Crisis Counseling
Page 12

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PCP 626 Dying, Death and Crisis Counseling
Page 13

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