



TYNDALE
Seminary

**Course Syllabus
Fall 2012**

**SPIR 0684 / COUN 0684 / PAST 0743
Spiritual Care of the Dying and Grieving**

**Mondays 8:30 – 11:20 am
Sept. 10 – Dec. 3, 2012**

Instructor: Rev. Dr. David Sherbino
Professor of Pastoral Ministries and Spiritual Formation
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Office Hours: tba

To access your course materials at the start of the course, please go to
<https://www.mytyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the ministry of pastoral care in times of grief and loss. We will seek to understand a biblical and theological approach to death and dying as well as the psychological dynamics of the grief process. In addition various ethical issues such as living wills and end of life care, will be explored to help the student become more conversant with the issues that pastors must regularly address.

The material will be presented through lectures, group discussion, film reviews and field trips.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To become familiar with the theological understanding of death from a Christian perspective
2. To explore various psychological responses to death
3. To become familiar with some of the ethical and legal issues that arise when someone is dying

4. To be able to respond in an effective manner to those who are dying and to those who are grieving their losses.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Lewis, C.S. *A Grief Observed*. San Francisco: Harper, 1961.

Neimeyer Robert. *Lessons of Loss: A Guide to Coping*. Melbourne: Centre for Grief Education, 2000.

Swinton, John and Payne Richard, eds. *Living Well and Dying Faithfully. Christian Practices for End-of-Life Care*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2009.

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Attendance –Participation

Attendance is required at all classes. It is also expected that each student will participate in all the practical exercises. If you miss more than 20% of the classes you are not eligible for a pass in the course.

2. Required Reading and Reports

From the assigned texts, each student is to submit a one page report of each text. Choose one key issue and interact with it. (30%) Due Date” Nov. 5, 2012

Lewis, C.S. *A Grief Observed*

Neimeyer Robert. *Lessons of Loss: A Guide to Coping*

Swinton, John and Payne Richard. *Living Well Dying Faithfully*

3. Written Papers:

a. Each student will submit a typewritten response to the personal reflection questions. (20%) Due Date: Oct. 1, 2012

b. View the movie “[Million Dollar Baby](#),” and respond pastorally to the questions raised in the case study. It is essential that you substantiate your responses. (25%) Due Date: Nov. 12, 2012.

c. Write a research paper on the grieving practices of a particular cultural or people group. The paper is to be approximately 10 pages in length. (25%) Due Date: Dec. 03, 2012

C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

1. Late Papers

There is a 10% penalty per week for all late papers. Requests for extensions are granted only in cases of illness, which require a medical certificate, or death in the family. All extensions must be requested in writing and in advance of the due date. For further information on late paper policy please consult the student handbook.

2. Writing Style

All papers must follow the writing guidelines as established by the seminary and printed in the student handbook.

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.46 to 10.51](#) and [14.253 to 14.254](#).

3. Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic policies on Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at <http://tyndale.ca/registrar>.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Required Reading	30 %
Reflection Paper	20 %
Case Study	25 %
Research Paper	25 %
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT

Sept. 10 Introduction: A Christian Theology of Death

Sept. 17 Facing the Reality of Dying

Sept. 24 The Grieving Process and the Place of Lament

Oct. 01 Grief and Depression

Oct. 15 Grief and Family Systems; A Child's Perspective

Oct. 22 Funeral Practices

Oct. 29 Field Trip

Nov. 05 Ethical Decisions and Advanced Planning

Nov. 12 Coping with Suicide

Nov. 19 Disenfranchised Grief

Nov. 26 Pastoral Interventions

Dec. 03 Bringing Closure ... Rituals at the End of Life

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

(available from the professor)