Course Syllabus

INTERSESSION 2016
SPIRITUAL CARE OF THE DYING AND GRIEVING
COUN 0684 PAST 0743 SPIR 0684

JANUARY 4-8, 2016
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTOR: REV. DR. DAVID SHERBINO
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To access your course material, please go to http://classes.tyndale.ca. Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account. For information how to access and forward emails to your personal account, see http://www.tyndale.ca/it/live-at-edu.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the psychological and theological aspects of dying in order to better understand and provide significant pastoral care to those who are dying and to those who grieve.

The material will be presented through lectures, group discussion, case studies and film reviews

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Become familiar with the theological understanding of death from a Christian perspective
2. Explore various psychological responses to death
3. Become familiar with some of the ethical and legal issues that arise when someone is dying
4. Respond in an effective pastoral manner to those who are dying and to those who are grieving their losses.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS


B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

a. 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: Monday Feb. 22, 2016**

b. Each student will submit a typewritten response to the personal reflection questions. (20%) **Due Date: Monday, Jan. 25, 2016**

c. 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: Monday, Feb. 12, 2016**

d. 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: Monday, March 07, 2016**

C. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

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 polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions,
Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at http://tyndale.ca/registrar.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Report</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Reflection Questions</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Million Dollar Baby” Response</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Grieving Practices” Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Grade</td>
<td>100%</td>
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E. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Introduction: A Christian Theology of Death. This is an exploration of the Christian understanding of death and the concept of life after death.

Facing the Reality of Dying. This session explore the resistance to explore the reality of dying. At times there is a code of silence that prevents all parties from honestly talking about the reality that one is dying.

The Grieving Process and the Place of Lament. Grief is a response to loss or potential loss. At times we are expected to cope without an appropriate expression of our grief which is a process that takes time and involves a variety of responses.

Grief and Depression. When we lose someone through death we discover that the laughter and joy has gone. Depression is a response to our loss.
Grief and Family Systems; A Child’s Perspective. Children experience loss as significantly as adults. They may not have all the coping mechanisms adults do but we need to help them process their sadness and grief.

Ethical Decisions and Advanced Planning. In today’s world of advanced medicine there are many options available to the dying that were not present a generation ago. Ethical decisions are much more complex and we will seek to explore some of the current issues such as DNR, physician assisted suicide and SRM.

Coping with Suicide. The taking of one’s life is a drastic step. What are the signs of suicide? What does the church teach about suicide? How can we help survivors cope?

Disenfranchised Grief. There are some aspects of grief that are difficult to talk about simply because there are some deaths that carry a stigma. This session will explore the various types of disenfranchised grief and how to help people process their loss.

Pastoral Interventions. In ministry we walk alongside those who mourn. Here we explore ways of providing pastoral care through the means of grace.

Bringing Closure … Rituals at the End of Life. At the end of life there are ritual that enable one to bring closure to a life lived. We will consider the place of funerals, memorial services and other rituals that are culturally sensitive.