# PSY (Psychology) 493: Issues in Psychology (W)

# Logo, company name Description automatically generatedFinal Conversation: Psycho, socio, cultural perspectives on death,

# dying and bereavement

# Section 001 / Class Nbr 34939 Spring 2024

# Course Information:

**Time/Format:** Mon/Wed 3-4:20pm

01/08 to 4/19/2024

Bessey Hall Rm 105

# Course Personnel:

**Professor**: **Dr. Kandy Patrick** (McKeown) **Ph.D.**

**Email**: mckeow31@msu.edu

**Office:** Psych Bldg. 136A

**Student** **Hours**: See D2L for all student hours

# Course Description

Examines psychological theories, concepts, and research that pertain to the study of death and personal death awareness. Topics include cross-cultural and historical perspectives, medical ethics, grief/loss issues, funerals and body disposition, legal and social issues, death in modern society, suicide and beliefs about life after death.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify, compare and contrast theories and concepts relevant to death and dying.
2. Describe the cultural diversity of death-related rituals and beliefs.
3. Identify the developmental variations in the conception of death and dying.
4. Explain how agents of socialization influence the individual's view of death.
5. Identify the major components of health care systems.
6. Describe the characteristics of the patient/caregiver relationship.
7. Identify psychosocial factors that influence an individual's relationship with a loved one who is dying.
8. Identify the factors influencing the stress levels among health care professionals who care for dying persons.
9. Identify and compare patterns of coping with life-threatening illness, including an understanding of treatment interventions and of the psychological, financial and social costs to the individual.
10. Summarize policies and procedures involved in the disposition of a body in various cultures.
11. Discuss both a conceptual and practical understanding of legal issues pertaining to death and dying.
12. Identify, describe and explain forms of death in modern society, specifically death by war, natural disasters and accidental deaths, suicides and the relationship between dying and risk-taking activities.
13. Compare cross cultural views and personal belief systems.

**You will need to have a laptop, tablet, smartphone with you in EVERY class as any in class activities will require you to log into D2L. Save a tree ☺**

**D2L:** You will turn in assignments, and complete assignments and quizzes on D2L. I will use D2L to communicate with you and post grades and announcements. Please ensure that your contact information is current so that you receive all class-related emails. If you have trouble using D2L, you can contact the helpdesk. If you are unfamiliar with D2L, please complete the online tutorial: from the D2L page, click on help. A new screen will open up: click on Student Quick Start Guide. Please direct all technical questions to the D2L helpdesk at 517.355.2345 or 800.500.1554.

**Grading:** There are 1000 total points that you can receive in this class. These points come from the following categories of assignments: In class discussions, Writing Quizzes and Article Reviews, and assignments.

Attendance

\***IF YOU FEEL SICK, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO CLASS.** Class attendance is not mandatory, **but it is strongly recommended (for those of you who do not feel sick) because your success in this course depends on learning the material that is covered in lectures and class discussions can not be made up**. I will not post videos of the in-class lectures, so you should attend class. If you test positive for COVID, please follow University guidelines regarding quarantine. Do not attend class if you test positive for COVID-19, even if you do not have symptoms. **There is NOT a zoom option for this class.**

Exam Makeups**:**

If you have any technical difficulties when taking an on-line exam, contact D2L support (their number is: 517-432-6200) so they attempt to troubleshoot or at least document the problem. **You may not be able to retake an exam for which you had technical difficulties if you do not document the problem with D2L support at the time it occurs**.

If you cannot take the exam because of a university-scheduled event (e.g., a commitment for a sports team), a religious holiday, or some other acceptable event that you could have foreseen, you must notify the TA **at least one week before the assignment**.

Assignments:

Any assignments will be required to submit to an electronic “drop box” on the course web site. This drop box will record the time that you submitted the assignment.  **do not wait until the last minute to submit.**

Applicable policies, syllabus statements, and resources for students:

* [Spartan Code of Honor](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/spartan-code-of-honor-academic-pledge)
* [Mental Health](https://caps.msu.edu/faculty-staff/Syllabus-Language.html)
* [Religious Observance Policy](https://reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/ReligiousPolicy.aspx)
* [Student Athletes](https://ombud.msu.edu/classroom-policies/#absence-athletics)
* [Pronoun preference](https://lbgtrc.msu.edu/home/resources-for-staff-and-faculty/)

Consistent with MSU’s efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, we use a tool called Turnitin to compare a student’s work with multiple sources. The tool compares each student’s work with an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a ‘similarity score’. The tool does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not. Instead, the instructor must make a complete assessment and judge the originality of the student’s work. All submissions to this course may be checked using this tool.

Students should submit papers without identifying information included in the paper (e.g. name or student number), the system will automatically show this info to faculty in your course when viewing the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin. Student submissions will be retained only in the MSU repository hosted by Turnitin.

Course Policies

Students are expected to adhere to the policies of Michigan State University whether noted in this syllabus or not. Instructors have the right to add or adjust policies within limits for the specifics of their courses. While the below may appear at first glance to be common policy boilerplate there may be nuances or course specifics within it that the student must be aware of and adhere to.

**INSTRUCTOR POLICIES**

**Reading**

First and foremost - **YES - you will need the e-book for this class**. Maintaining a constant reading schedule for this course is a must. It is assumed that you will have completed the required weekly readings **before** class each week. This is the only way we will have the ability to conduct a meaningful discussion of the material. If you don’t read, you will not be able to participate in class discussions, assignments, or do well on the exams/quizzes.

**Ground Rules and Expectations**

* It is expected that you will maintain courteous and respectful behavior in class. We will be respectful of one another’s feelings, ideas, and beliefs. Harsh or foul language, racial, ethnic, religious, and/or sexual slurs will not be tolerated. You will be asked to leave class **permanently** if this occurs. Inappropriate or out of context comments/questions will not be tolerated.
* You are expected to be here on time and stay until the end of the designated class period. Do not come to class late or leave early as this is very distracting to not only the instructor, but to the students as well.
* While attendance is not required, failing to attend class will negatively impact your grade
* This is a discussion driven course, and is taught in a “flipped” modality, if you do not read, you will find it difficult to participate in the discussions and group assignments.
* It is expected that you will have assignments completed on the due date indicated in the semester calendar, if you need an extension, please reach out to me. You are more than a student and I understand that.
* **If you miss a quiz, you must reach out ASAP**
* It is expected that you will maintain full academic honesty and integrity for all assignments in this class. **Any form of academic dishonesty will be penalized.**
* If you are absent from class, it is **your**responsibility to find out what you have missed.
* **Do not** email me and ask me “what did I miss in class”. Check your syllabus for what we covered or d2l. All information is located within D2L
* If you happen to experience problems with your personal computer, please make sure that you have a back-up plan. A Computer Lab, a friend’s computer, or even your local library’s computer labs are all options. Even if you experience technical problems with your computer**, you are still expected to complete assignments on time**. You should allow yourself time to deal with the unexpected if it occurs.

**Class Disruptions/Cell Phones/Electronic Devices**

* Faculty understands that electronic devices are a part of today’s culture. However, our time in the classroom is limited and we need to not have these things interfere with it.
* Recording devices **are NOT** allowed in this course.If you need a recording, please let me know
* Doing homework, reading e-mail, surfing the net, wearing headphones, earbuds etc., will result in loss of classroom laptop use.   Laptops are always to be closed during any student or faculty member presentation or video**.**
* The bottom line is that your attention needs to be focused on what is happening in class and not on your electronics.

While I make every effort to follow this syllabus as closely as possible, right to make changes with due notification is reserved.

Commit to Integrity: Academic Honesty

Article 2.III.B.2 of the [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/student-rights-and-responsibilities-at-michigan-state-university/article-2-academic-rights-and-responsibilities) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the [insert name of unit offering course] adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in [General Student Regulations](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/regulations/general-student-regulations) 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the [all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations](https://ombud.msu.edu/academic-integrity/). See [Spartan Life Online](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/) (splife.studentlife.msu.edu) and/or the [MSU Web site](http://www.msu.edu/) (msu.edu) for more.

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the [Academic Integrity webpage](https://ombud.msu.edu/academic-integrity/).)

Limits to Confidentiality

Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it with me:

* Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,
* Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and
* Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling Center.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

[From the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities](https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/get-started/faculty-departmental-resources/model-statements-disability-inclusion) (RCPD): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [rcpd.msu.edu](https://rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem you can:

* Visit the [Distance Learning Services Support Site](https://www.lib.msu.edu/dls/) (lib.msu.edu/dls)
* Visit the [Desire2Learn Help Site](http://help.d2l.msu.edu/) (help.d2l.msu.edu)
* Or call Distance Learning Services: (800) 500-1554 or (517) 355-2345
* To learn D2L use, login with your MSU NetID and password at [d2l.msu.edu](https://d2l.msu.edu/d2l/home), select “Self Registration” from the menu bar, register for and complete the course named “Students - Getting Started with D2L.” Also be aware of the “Help” option on the D2L Home page menu.

Disruptive Behavior

Article 2.III.B.4 of [Student Rights and Responsibilities](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/student-rights-and-responsibilities-at-michigan-state-university/article-2-academic-rights-and-responsibilities) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 states that "The student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/regulations/general-student-regulations) states: "No student shall . . . obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with the functions, services, or directives of the University, its offices, or its employees (e.g., classes, social, cultural, and athletic events, computing services, registration, housing and food services, governance meetings, and hearings).” Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Judicial Affairs office.

\*\*\*Required\*\*\*Attendance

[University Attendance Policy](https://ombud.msu.edu/classroom-policies/) (in part): Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.

Participation

Students are expected to participate in all in-class and online activities as listed on the course calendar.

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Complete Assignments

Assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through [D2L] unless otherwise instructed**.** Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor before the due date. Extensions will **not** be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

Questions:

If you have a question . FIRST, is it in the syllabus? SECOND… is it in D2L??

**Grade Breakdown**. Your grade will be calculated in the following way. There are 1000 total points available in this class.

To get this grade: You need this percentage: Which is this many points:

4.0 90% 900

3.5 85% 850

3.0 80% 800

2.5 75% 750

2.0 70% 700

1.5 65% 650

1.0 60% 600

0.0 <59% <599

**Your total points (i.e., the actual points you get from exams, homework, participation, etc.) will be rounded to the nearest whole number.**

The D2L site keeps track of your progress throughout the class, including the readings you access, the activities you upload, and the time you spend watching the lectures. If you complete 100% of the activities (including spending the right amount of time watching the lectures) during the week in which they were assigned, and you are 1 point below the cutoff for the next grade, then you can petition to be bumped up to the next grade. This is the only condition under which any grade adjustments will be made, so plan ahead!

\*\*Right to adjust calendar with due notice is retained\*\*

See Next Page for course Calendar

7 Writing Quizzes 70 points

Obituary 50 points

What I hope… 80 points

Tuesdays w Morrie 100 points (50 points attributed to attending class for movie viewing)

2 Peer Reviews 200

2 Research Critiques 300 points

Weekly Class Discussions 200 10pts per day after 1st week

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| Weekly Schedule | Chapters to Read | Assignment | Exams |
| **Unit 1** | | | |
| Week 1 Jan 8/10 | Syllabus/ Theories and Concepts Relevant to Death and Dying – What is Death |  |  |
| NO CLASS JAN 15th  Week 2 Jan 17 | Theories and Concepts Relevant to Death and Dying |  | Writing Quiz 1 Due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| Week 3 Jan 22/24 | Cross Cultural Views and Personal Belief System |  |  |
| Week 4 Jan 29/31 | Cultural Diversity of Death Related Rituals and body disposition |  | Writing Quiz 2 Due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| Week 5 Feb 5/7 | Major Components of Health Care System |  |  |
| **Unit 2** | | | |
| Week 6 Feb 12/14 | Writing Week no in person class peer review |  | Peer Review 1 Due 2/15 @ 11:59 pm  Research Critique 1 Due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| Week 7 Feb 19/21 | Patient Caregiver Relationship / Issues facing caregivers and health care workers |  | Writing Quiz 3 Due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| **SPRING BREAK FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 1** | | | |
| Week 8 Mar 4/6 | Psycho Social Factors Related to Death of a Loved One |  | Writing Quiz 4 Due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| **Unit 3** | | | |
| Week 9 Mar 11/ (13 – This class will be asynchroous online) | Writing Week no in person class peer review |  | Research Critique 2 Due at 11:59pm Saturday  Peer Review Due 3/6 @ 11:59 pm |
| Week 10 Mar 18/20 | Coping with life terminal illness, treatment interventions and psychological/financial and social costs (PAS, AS) |  | Obituary Assignment Due @ 11:59 pm Saturday  Writing Quiz 5 Due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| Week 11 March 25/27 | How Children and Adolescents view Death ; How Adults see death |  | Writing Quiz 6 Due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| **Unit 4** | | | |
| Week 12 April 1/3 | Death in modern Society: war. Pandemic, mass shootings, natural disaster, suicide. |  | What I hope for my life before I die due @ 11:59pm Saturday |
| Week 13 April 8/10 | Legal Issues pertaining to death and Dying : wills , poa, mpoa, probate, estate planning, last wishes |  | Writing Quiz 7 Due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| Week 14 April 15/17 | Personal Belief System revisited – What comes after | Tuesdays With Morrie in class |  |
| Finals | Tuesdays with Morrie Questions due no later than Wed:7:45PM 4/24/2024 |  | submitted on D2L, |