Psychology 443.001

Psychology of Death and Dying

Fall 2012

Classroom: Business Administration 338

Time: T-Th 11:00 – 12:15

Instructor: Charles W. Keenan, Ph.D.

Email: chuck.keenan@tamuc.edu

Office: Binnion 101

Office Hours: Wednesday afternoon & by appointment

Text: The Last Dance: Encounters with Death & Dying, Despelder (9th Edition) Ebook

Course Objectives: To provide an overview of the cultural, sociological, psychological etc. perspectives upon death, dying and all that entails. Students will be provided the opportunity to present an approved topic of interest to the class and write an APA style research paper of 10 – 15 pages to expand their understanding of the phenomena.

Attendance, Special needs and student conduct.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Halladay Student Services Building

Room 303 A/D

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Cell phones and other electronic devices will be turned off while in class.

Department policy provides for a maximum of three unexcused absences. Students are expected to be in class on time. Those students requesting accommodations for disabilities must submit their requests to the Academic Support Committee. For additional information please contact the Director of Disability Resources and Services, Halladay Student Services Building, Room 303D, (903) 886-5835. Socially appropriate, respectful behavior is expected toward the instructor and other students and the learning environment. See Student's Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.

Class Format:

Team Teaching is the primary format. Small groups (2 students) will prepare and present a presentation to the class covering an area within the vast domain of studies in death and dying using scholarly materials. Power point presentations and other appropriate presentation aids are encouraged to facilitate a dynamic educational experience for all concerned. (A list of suggested topics will be provided by the instructor). The class presentation will account for 25% of the total course grade.

Those students who are prepared to present by mid-September will be awarded a 10 point bonus.

Tests: There will be 2 tests (mid-term and final exam. The final will not be cumulative. Each test will comprise 25% of the final grade. Test format will be multiple - choice, true-false and short answer essay.

Grading:

A = 90 +

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 59

Research Paper:

The research paper will be a 10 – 15 page paper over an approved topic. It is permissible to write over the same topic as your presentation. If 2 students present over a topic together it is required that each student independently writes her own paper. Presentations not papers can be a joint project. Papers will be written in APA style, appropriately referenced (minimum 8 references from scholarly journals, books etc. not Wikipedia or other graffiti). Research papers will be due 1 (one) week before the Final Exam.

Semester Schedule

Aug 28 – Sept 19	Chapters 1 – 3
Sept 26 – Oct 17	Chapters 4 – 6
October 24	First Test
October 25 – Nov 10	Chapters 7 – 9
Nov 17 – Dec 8	Chapters 10 – 13

Final Exam: December 11, 10:30 – 12:30 (Cumulative)

Sources of Extra Credit:

Participation in department sponsored research is encouraged and rewarded thusly: ½ hour of completed research = 1 point extra credit (maximum of 5 points possible).