COUN 697
BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING
Spring 2013
Mon. 4:30 – 7:10

INSTRUCTOR
Stephen J. Freeman, Ph.D.
Professor
Phone: (903) 886-5613
e-mail: sfreeman@tamu-commerce.edu

OFFICE HOURS
Mon. 2:30 - 4:30 (CCHE)
Wed. 2:30 - 4:30 (TBA)
Thur, 2:30- 4:30 (Bin) 1/14 - 2/15
(MPLX) 2/18 – 3/29
(CCHE) 4/1 - 5/3

CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE
597 Special topics. Three semester hours.

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION
The purpose of this class is to acquaint students with the concept of death as a multifaceted phenomenon, the resulting bereavement and therapeutic facilitation of the grieving process.

COURSE OBJECTIVES include, but are not limited to, the following.
Students will demonstrate understanding of:
1. concepts and process of death and dying
2. end-of-life decision making
3. attachment theory and grieving.
4. what is normal in the context of grieving
5. special types of losses and grief
6. children's experience of loss
7. how coping mechanisms mediate the process
8. family dynamics and its effects on the grieving process
9. the need for self-care

CONTENT AREAS include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. death & dying
2. ethics
3. attachment theory
4. normal bereavement
5. unresolved grief
6. grieving special losses
7. children and loss
8. therapeutic interventions
9. families and grief
10. caring for the care giver

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION
Seminar: Lecture & discussion

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Attendance
2. Students are expected to participate in class discussions

STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES
An "A" grade represents an exceptionally high level of understanding of the material presented in class.
A "B" grade represents an high level of understanding effectiveness.
A "C" grade represents a minimal level of understanding

A 100-90
B 89-80
C 79-70
D 69-60
F 59 & below

TBA

REQUIRED TEXT(S) READING(S)
Freeman, Stephen J. (2005) *Grief & Loss: Understanding the journey.* Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole
Handcock, B (2006) *Riding with the Blue Moth*. SportsPublishing LLC
Callanan, M & Kelly, P. (2008) *Final Gifts.* New York: Bantan Books

TExES COMPETENCIES THAT RELATE TO THIS COURSE *(TExES is the state examination required for school counselor certification.)*
Competency 001 (Human Development)
The school counselor understands processes of human development and applies this knowledge to provide a developmental guidance program, including counseling services, that meets the needs of all students.
Competency 002 (Student Diversity)
The school counselor understands human diversity and applies this knowledge to ensure that the developmental guidance and counseling program is responsive to all students.
Competency 006 (Counseling)
The school counselor understands how to provide effective counseling services to individuals and small groups.
Competency 008 (Collaboration with Families)
The school counselor knows how to communicate effectively with families and establish collaborative relationships that enhance work with students.
Competency 010 (Professionalism)
The school counselor understands and complies with ethical, legal, and professional standards relevant to the profession.

ATTENDANCE
The student is expected to be on time and attend class regularly. Two unexcused absences will result in the student being administratively being dropped from the class. University guidelines regarding attendance policy will be followed.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR 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:

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Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC HONESTY
"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Polices and Procedures, Conduct) "Graduate students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work." (See Section A13.12, Academic Honesty, A&M-Commerce Procedures.)

UNIVERSITY CLOSING DUE TO WEATHER
Check http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/ regarding class cancellations. Also, KETR radio on 88.9 FM and television channels 4, 5, and 8 (channel 7 for Tyler & Longview Area).

Tentative class schedule

1/17 Overview & Introduction.
Reading assignment Final Gifts chapters 1 - 4.

1/24 Its time to get in line
Reading assignment Final Gifts chapters 5 - 9

1/31 Death The experience
Reading assignment Final Gifts chapter 10 - 16.

2/7 Peace
Reading assignment Grief & Loss chapters 1-2

2/14 Death: The journey
Reading assignment Grief & Loss chapters 4 - 5

2/21 Attachment, Grief & Loss
Reading assignment Grief & Loss chapters 6 – 7

2/28 Unresolved Grief & Special Losses
Reading assignment Grief & Loss chapter 8

3/7 Children & Loss
Reading assignment Grief & Loss chapter 9

3/14 Spring Break

3/21 Therapeutic interventions
Reading assignment Grief & Loss chapter 10 - 11

3/28 Families & grief & Caring for the caregiver
Reading assignment TBA

4/4 Ethics & End-of-Life Decision Making
Reading assignment Riding with the Blue Moth chapter 1 - 3

4/11 The Blue Moth
Reading assignment Riding with the Blue Moth chapter 4 - 6

4/18 The Ride
Reading assignment Riding with the Blue Moth chapter 7 - 9

4/25 The End & The beginning

5/2 Epilogue

5/9 TBA