PSY 443.01E Death and Dying
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2019; Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00-9:15am. BA221

**Instructor:** Kelly J. Martin  
**Office Location:** Binnion 211A  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment  
**University Email Address:** kelly.martin@tamuc.edu  
kmartin29@leomail.tamuc.edu

*Preferred Form of Communication:* Email  
*Communication Response Time:* Within 24-48 hours, with the exception of weekends/holidays.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Optional Texts:**
This course will be based on materials from the following textbooks, none of which are required. Additional readings/videos will be provided to supplement class discussions as well.

  - Paperback (ISBN: 9781259826849)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will examine concepts and attitudes concerning death and dying from a psychological perspective; current research on death and dying; development of insights and understanding to prepare the student to interact effectively with people who are terminally ill and their family members. NOTE: Given the nature of this course, we may discuss issues that some students find uncomfortable and course materials (e.g., textbooks/readings, slides, video, etc.) may at times be perceived as controversial. Students are encouraged to discuss concerns with your instructor; however, please take this into consideration when enrolling in this course.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
1. Show understanding and engagement in the psychology of death, grief, and mortality.  
2. Engage with scholarly material and communicate your ideas of the science of death.  
3. Understand psychology’s role in the larger, social function of death and dying.  
4. Understand how death is constructed culturally to help us understand life.  
5. Understand how you, as a future psychologist, have a role in the dialogues of death and dying in regards to conflicts, politics, or religion.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Minimal Technical Skills Needed:**
The ability to use word-processing software (e.g., Microsoft Word), presentation software (e.g., Microsoft PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) and internet-based course management system (D2L) to complete course successfully.

**Instructional Methods:**
In-class presentations and discussions will be used to highlight and elaborate information presented in the text. Although some information presented in class will cover information in the text, not all presentation information will be in the text. During the semester, in-class exercises and other presentation media (e.g., pictures, videos) will be used to augment in-class discussions and presentations.

**Student Responsibilities:**
1. Attend all classes.
2. Read assigned readings, PowerPoints, and student presentations.
3. Complete assignments thoroughly and on time.
4. Actively participate in class discussions.
5. Take notes.
6. Check you email/D2L for course updates.
7. Ask for assistance.
8. Be considerate & respectful.

**Course Grading**

Final grades will be based on the following scale:

- **A** = 90%-100%
- **B** = 80%-89%
- **C** = 70%-79%
- **D** = 60%-69%
- **F** = 59% or Below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2 worth 100 pts. each)</td>
<td>200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (10 worth 5 pts. each)</td>
<td>50 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>150 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>400 points</strong></td>
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**Grades:**
- **A** = 360-400 pts.
- **B** = 320-359 pts.
- **C** = 280-319 pts.
- **D** = 240-279 pts.
- **F** = 239 pts. & Below

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
Questions about Grades: Any questions about a grade for a particular assignment or exam should be brought to instructors’ attention within a week of the particular grade being posted.

Assessments

Exams (2 @ 100 points each):
Students will complete TWO exams, a MIDTERM and a FINAL. The FINAL exam will be given during finals week, but will not be comprehensive or weighted more heavily. Exams will be 100 multiple-choice questions, designed to test comprehension and application of concepts. Material for exams will be drawn from the lectures, in-class experiences, videos (as assigned), and student presentations. Exams will be available on D2L and are to be completed by 11:59pm on the dates specified in the schedule. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Quizzes (10 @ 5 points each):
Students will complete TEN short (5 question) quizzes over material covered in class, which will act as Exam Study Guides. (A certain % of Exam questions will be pulled directly from quizzes.) Quizzes will be available on D2L and are to be completed by 11:59pm on the dates specified in the schedule. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Presentation (1 @ 150 points):
Students will complete ONE presentation based on an assigned article, in one of the following formats: PowerPoint slides (no more than 10 slides), Prezi presentation, or video presentation (3-5 minutes), and create TWO high quality multiple-choice questions. Students will need to read the assigned article and at least two of the Internet resources listed (unless otherwise noted on your assigned article). Presentations will be posted as a Discussion Topic in D2L. In the presentation, students are expected to:
1. Summarize the readings.
2. Answer at least one of the critical thinking questions posed.
3. Include two multiple-choice questions, with the correct answer highlighted, explaining why the answer is correct.
4. Include an APA Style Reference for your article.
Each presentation should be posted on D2L by 11:59pm on the dates specified in the schedule. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Extra Credit:
1. Attendance will be randomly taken throughout the semester 10 times. For each day present, students will receive ONE extra credit point (up to TEN points total) to be added to your final course grade. NOTE: Since these are extra credit points, excused absences will NOT be given points. Students must be present to receive points.
2. EC Assignment: Volunteer with an assisted living facility/memory care facility/hospice directly with older adult (55+) patients/residents (may NOT be a relative) AND write a 1-2 page paper about your experiences. Facility MUST be approved by instructor in advance, and volunteer hours will be verified. Points earned on EC Assignment will replace the lowest Exam grade. Grades will be determined by the following criteria:

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a. 3 hours of verified, direct patient/resident volunteer time = 80 pts  
b. 6 hours of verified, direct patient/resident volunteer time = 100 pts

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

**People First Language:**
It is important to refer to individuals who have a disability (or DSM Diagnosis) in “people first” language. We do this to focus on the individual first, not the disability or mental/physical health condition. Always refer to the person first, and the condition second. For example, say “a student with ADHD,” **NOT** “an ADHD student.”

**Student Conduct:**
Students are expected to act as professionals at all times in class. This includes being on time and staying for the duration of class. This also includes not allowing the use of electronic devices (e.g., computers or cell phones) to distract from on-going engagement in class. For example, if a student is using their tablet, checking email or social media programs is strongly discouraged. Students are also strongly discouraged from texting in class. If a call needs to be taken due to an emergency, it is allowable for students to excuse themselves to take the call.

Given the nature of this course, we may discuss issues that some of you may find embarrassing, uncomfortable, and/or even “inappropriate.” Students are expected to positively and respectfully engage each other and the instructor at all times, even if disagreeing with a particular viewpoint or assertion. Failure to do so will result in your expulsion from the course. All differing points of view should be based on evidence-based information rather than simply on personal experiences as these experiences may have been singular. Note: discussion of personal experiences can be used as a springboard for broader discussions of issues encountered in mental health practice. Careful reflection is required prior to sharing personal experiences to determine if the context is appropriate for disclosure and professional boundaries are maintained.

*No late work will be accepted without prior approval of the instructor. Students risk being dropped from the course for lack of participation, if assignments are not completed on time.*

**Academic Integrity:**
The work a student produces MUST be his or her own and should result solely from their own efforts. Plagiarism (including non-cited quotes and cut-and-pasting from other materials) or cheating on any assignment/exam is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Students who violate this policy will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

**Syllabus Change Policy**
*The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be discussed in class; however, the instructor retains final decision regarding changes to the syllabus.*

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

### Desktop Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Browser</th>
<th>Supported Browser Version(s)</th>
<th>Maintenance Browser Version(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft® Edge</td>
<td>Latest</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft® Internet Explorer®</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozilla® Firefox®</td>
<td>Latest, ESR</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Google® Chrome™</td>
<td>Latest</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple® Safari®</td>
<td>Latest</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tablet and Mobile Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Operating System</th>
<th>Browser</th>
<th>Supported Browser Version(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Android™</td>
<td>Android 4.4+</td>
<td>Chrome</td>
<td>Latest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>iOS*</td>
<td>Safari, Chrome</td>
<td>The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows</td>
<td>Windows 10</td>
<td>Edge, Chrome, Firefox</td>
<td>Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp

- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.
Pop-ups are allowed.
JavaScript is enabled.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - Adobe Reader  https://get.adobe.com/reader/
  - Adobe Flash Player (version 17 or later)  https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
  - Adobe Shockwave Player  https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

**ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

**Brightspace Support**

**Need Help?**

**Student Support**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

**Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the Live Chat or click on the words “click here” to submit an issue via email.

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System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.
http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette
http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

TAMUC Attendance
For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity
Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf

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ADA Statement

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
Gee Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice
Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement
Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Course schedule will be available 1st day of class.

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