**SOC 275**  
Social, Cultural and Media Studies  
3  
**SOCIOLOGY OF DEATH AND DYING**

### Course Description:

The course provides a critical exploration of topics related to the sociology of death and dying. The course will explore the social construction of death and dying as it occurs through various agents of socialization (e.g., families, religious institutions, schools, peer groups) and other social, economic, and political organizations such as the funeral industry, health care systems, and political lobbies.

Students who have taken SOC 299I cannot take SOC 275 for further credit.

### Prerequisites:

15 university-level credits or SOC 101

### Synonymous Course(s):

- (a) Replaces: SOC 299I
- (b) Cross-listed with: SOC 299I
- (c) Cannot take: SOC 299I for further credit.

### Total Hours Per Term: 45

#### Training Day-Based Instruction:

- Length of course: [ ]
- Hours per day: [ ]

#### Structure of Hours:

- Lectures: 30 Hrs
- Seminar: 15 Hrs
- Laboratory: [ Hrs]
- Field experience: [ Hrs]
- Student directed learning: [ Hrs]
- Other (specify): [ Hrs]

#### Other:

- Maximum enrolment: 36
- Expected frequency of course offerings: Every 3rd year (every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

### Transfer Credit Requested?

- **(Lower-level courses only)**
  - Yes [ ]
  - No [ ]

- **(Upper-level requested by department)**
  - Yes [ ]
  - No [ ]

### Transfer Credit Exists in BCCAT Transfer Guide?

- Yes [ ]
- No [ ]

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**Course designer(s):** Martha Dow  
**Department Head:** Stephen Piper  
**Date approved:** August 23, 2013  
**Campus-Wide Consultation (CWC):**  
**Date of meeting:** August 30, 2013  
**Curriculum Committee chair:** Amanda McCormick  
**Date approved:** September 13, 2013  
**Dean/Associate VP:** Jacqueline Nolte  
**Date approved:** September 13, 2013  
**Undergraduate Education Committee (UCE) approval:**  
**Date of meeting:** September 27, 2013
LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
- Identify and describe key themes and debates central to understanding the topic;
- Assess the scholarly contributions to the area of study;
- Analyze the role played by various agents of socialization and social institutions in the social, political, economic, and cultural engagement with dying and death;
- Effectively apply theories and ideas connected to the sociological study of dying and death.
- Demonstrate research, observation, scholarly-writing, and presentation skills;

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)
Lecture, seminar, classroom discussion. Lectures may include films and guest speakers.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):
- Examination(s)
- Portfolio assessment
- Interview(s)

☑ Other (specify): Examination and/or essay, determined on a case by case basis by the instructor.

☑ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:
[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:
No special supplies.

STUDENT EVALUATION:
[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]
Learning portfolio: 30%
Reflection and participation: 10%
Midterm exam: 30%
Final exam/presentation: 30%

COURSE CONTENT:
[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]
Week 1 Introduction to the Sociology of Dying and Death
Week 2 Introduction to the Historical and Contemporary Context of Dying and Death I
Week 3 Introduction to the Historical and Contemporary Context of Dying and Death II
Week 4 Social and Cultural Constructions of Dying and Death I
Week 5 Social and Cultural Constructions of Dying and Death II
Week 6 Framing Individual Reflections on Dying and Death within a Social Context
Week 7 The Death Industry I
Week 8 The Death Industry II
Week 10 “Gendering” Dying and Death
Week 11 Shared Experiences, Identifiable Differences
Week 12 Social Constructions of “Moving On” I
Week 13 Social Constructions of “Moving On” II