

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**HEED-240**

**Death and Dying**

**3 Credits**

## **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Description:**

This course discusses issues of death, dying, and bereavement from the perspectives of psychology, sociology, religion, spirituality, and culture. Topics include attitudes towards death; suicide; euthanasia; hospice movement and end-of-life care; working with people who have terminal illnesses; bereavement counseling; the funeral business; how different religions view and cope with death; and the psychology of death. Students become more aware of the cultural implications of death, dying, and bereavement. Students evaluate and reflect on their own values and attitudes toward life and death. (3 hours weekly) NOTE: Also listed as HMDV-240.

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Define and describe the concept of death in terms of its biological, social, and psychological/emotional aspects in various cultures throughout the world
2. Analyze death and dying awareness throughout the life span
3. Explain different theories on the process of dying
4. Explain different theories of grief and bereavement
5. Compare and contrast dying and grieving across cultures
6. Evaluate the economics of the issues involved with end-of-life conditions, death and dying.
7. Describe the personal and professional implications regarding end of life decisions
8. Evaluate the role of hospice in changing the care of the dying.
9. Evaluate the economics of the issues involved with end-of-life conditions, death and dying.
10. Analyze the ethical concerns with the issues related to death and dying.
11. Describe the evolution of the funeral business in the United States

### **Major Topics**

- I. Conceptions of Death: Biological, Psychological and Sociocultural
- II. Attitudes towards Death
- III. Bereavement and Counseling
- IV. Developmental issues in Death and Dying
- V. Cultural and Religious Views of Death and Dying
- VI. Suicide
- VII. Euthanasia
- VIII. Hospice and End-of-life care
- IX. Ethics of death and dying
- X. Economics of death and dying
- XI. The Funeral Business

## **Course Requirements**

Tests, projects, journals, and class participation. Standards of performance will be established by the instructor and included in the individual class syllabus.

## **Other Course Information**

This course is an Arts and Science and Social Science elective.