

## **Sociology 115**

### ***Sociology of Death and Dying***

*3 units; 3 hours lecture*

*Recommended Preparation: Sociology 101 AND eligibility for English 1A*

*Degree applicable Transfer CSU*

This course is a sociological approach to investigating death, dying, and bereavement processes in contemporary society. Students will compare the concept of death historically, socially, psychologically, and cross-culturally. Current legal, medical, and ethical issues related to death and dying, hospice, palliative care, end-of-life issues, violent deaths, and mass killings are also discussed.

#### **Course Objectives:**

1. Compare the concept of death historically, socially, and cross-culturally.  
Reading reports
2. Assess the impact of changing demographics on death and dying.  
Quizzes
3. Identify key legal, medical, and ethical issues related to death and dying.  
Quizzes
4. Identify and discuss social factors relating to changing patterns of mortality.  
Term or other papers
5. Analyze and compare the functions of death and bereavement rituals in America and cross-culturally.  
Written homework
6. Recognize current social attitudes toward death.  
Term or other papers
7. Discuss personal beliefs, values, and attitudes toward death, dying, and bereavement.  
Class Performance
8. Provide an overview of the stages of dying and grief processes.  
Essay exams
9. Articulate the relationship between social institutions and death, dying, and bereavement processes.  
Class Performance
10. Recognize the role of individuals, groups, and communities in dealing with death and grieving.  
Written homework
11. Assess the role of death throughout the life-course perspective.  
Quizzes
12. Evaluate current legal, medical, and ethical issues related to death and dying.  
Quizzes
13. Examine health care issues regarding hospice, palliative care, transplants, insurance, and caregiving.  
Reading reports
14. Reflect on current social movement trends regarding dying with dignity, rights, and euthanasia.  
Class Performance
15. Discuss theoretical and empirical approaches to death, dying, and bereavement.  
Class Performance
16. Evaluate risk factors, theoretical explanations, and current social attitudes toward suicide.  
Reading reports
17. Recognize how violent deaths, mass killings, and suicide bombers impact socio-cultural understandings of death, dying and bereavement.  
Reading reports

#### **Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

1. Theoretical Perspectives

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of theoretical perspectives and apply sociological perspectives such as functionalism, conflict theory, and interactionism to issues regarding death, dying, and bereavement.

2. Sociological Concepts

Students will define and demonstrate an understanding of sociological concepts, such as socialization, cultural norms, social institutions, deviance, globalization, and the sociological imagination by applying them to death, dying, and bereavement processes.

**ADA Statement:**

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center.

**Student Code of Conduct**

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/2019-policies/AP%205500%20Student%20Conduct%20.pdf>

**Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530**

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205530%20STUDENT%20%20RIGHTS%20AND%20GRIEVANCES.pdf>