I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Course: REL 334WI
Course Title: Death and Dying
EPN: 22320452
Term: Spring I
Location: Online
Course Dates: 1/9, 3/3/2017
Course Days and Times: N/A
Prerequisites: None.

Blackboard:
Blackboard is a web-based learning management system licensed by CMU. Within Blackboard, a course website, also known as a shell, is automatically created for every CMU course. Face-to-face courses may or may not incorporate Blackboard, whereas Blackboard course shells are always used for online courses and will be available to you prior to the course start date. Seeing the course shell listed in Blackboard with unavailable adjacent to its title is an indication that your instructor has not made it available and is in no way indicative of registration status. To access Blackboard, open a web browser and enter https://blackboard.cmich.edu/webapps/login/. After the site loads, enter your CMU Global ID and password in the respective spaces provided. Click the "login" button to enter Blackboard and then the link to the appropriate course to enter the course's Blackboard shell. If you need assistance, contact the IT Helpdesk at 989-774-3662 / 800-950-1144 x. 3662. Self-guided student tutorial resources are also available at https://blackboard.cmich.edu/webapps/login/.

Instructor: Bradley Onishi
Primary Phone Number: 7148334345
Secondary Phone Number: N/A
E-Mail Address: onish1bb@cmich.edu
Availability: 9-11pm Sunday
Academic Biography:

PhD University of California Santa Barbara--Religious Studies
MPhil University of Oxford--Theology
BA Azusa Pacific University--Philosophy and Social Science

II. TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Order books from MBS at http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/cmu.htm

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Title: Last Dance: Encountering Death and Dying (E-book Available)
Author: Despelder
Edition: 10th
Publisher: McGraw-Hill
Required: Yes

Title: REL 334 Course Reserve available through CMU Blackboard
Author: CMU
Edition: 1st
III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Religious and cultural explanations of death and responses to dying, death and mourning; religious, ethical, bio-medical ethical and legal issues e.g., health care, suicide, abortion, euthanasia. This course is approved for offering in a distance learning format. (University Program Group I-A: Human Events and Ideas.) May be offered as Writing Intensive

IV. COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

After taking this course, students will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast some religious and other theoretical understandings of death and the meaning of human mortality;
2. Examine death and dying in particular settings in order to explain how cultural context in general, and religion and other significant institutions in particular, influence resources, interpretations and individual and communal responses to death and dying;
3. Identify and analyze destructive and constructive ways of coming to terms with death and grief at various life stages and in various cultural contexts;
4. Explain the role of ritual in responding to death, including various ways that the care taking and disposal of the body are constructed and given meaning.
5. Analyze some important current religious and ethical issues connected with death and dying, using concepts from this course;
6. Explain steps that can improve critical reading, writing, and thinking skills and demonstrate the ability to use them.

If WI:
In addition to the objectives above, students who successfully complete this WI course will be able to demonstrate their ability to:

1. Use writing to check their understanding of reading materials, identify points of confusion, and develop their own ideas in response to readings and assignments.
2. Solicit and use feedback to help in the revision of a draft to improve a writing assignment prior to grading.
3. Use appropriate standards of evaluation to identify problems in initial writing so that they can revise to improve their own work before submitting it for a grade.

V. METHODOLOGY

- Since this REL 334WI: Death & Dying class is designed as a student writing-intensive course and is presented in an electronic "ONLINE" format, it is predominantly the student's own responsibility to be constantly up-to-date on the readings for each week, the weekly online response assignment(s) in Blackboard at the end of each course week, the timely completion of the exams during the assigned exam periods, and the completion of all Writing Assignments.
- The course extends over eight weeks and will cover two chapters of the textbook in each of the first seven weeks and one chapter during the final week. A detailed schedule follows below.
- Students have to read attentively and analyze critically each chapter of the textbook along the lines of some guiding questions posed each week. Specific questions will need to be answered via submission to an electronic response (discussion) board. Individual student contributions are collected by the instructor and will be evaluated and graded as a part of the final course grade.

VI. COURSE OUTLINE/ASSIGNMENTS

Pre-Class Assignment:
N/a
Course Outline:

COURSE OUTLINE / ASSIGNMENTS

All Chapters and Page Numbers refer to the Textbook:

The Last Dance: Encountering Death and Dying, 10th edition, 2015, by Lynne Ann DeSpelder and Albert Lee Strickland

Week One:

1. Chapter 1: Attitudes Toward Death: A Climate of Change, pp. 5-47.

Week Two:

1. Chapter 3: Perspectives on Death: Historical and Cultural, pp. 89-137.
2. Chapter 4: Death Systems: Mortality and Society, pp. 139-173.
3. Writing Assignment 1 Due

Week Three:

1. Chapter 5: Health Care: Patients, Staff, and Institutions, pp. 175-211.
3. End of week three: First Exam! (Covering Chapters 1-6)

Week Four:

3. Writing Assignment 2 Due

Week Five:

3. Extra Credit Available

Week Six:

2. Chapter 12: Suicide, pp. 447-487.

**Week Seven:**


2. Chapter 14: Beyond Death/After Life, pp. 531-567.

3. **Writing Assignment 3 Due**

**Week Eight:**


2. **End of week eight: Third Exam! (Covering Chapters 13-15)**

**Assignment Due Dates:**

See above.

**Post-Class Assignment:**

N/a

**Student Involvement Hours:**

In order to have the best possible experience in this online Death and Dying course, I suggest you spend about six to eight hours per chapter for reading, studying, completing the weekly Response (Discussion) Board assignments, and preparing for the exams. Many of the text book chapters are quite technical and may not provide easy access to the subject matter without thorough investigation.

**VII. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION**

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Grading Scale

A 100-94%
A- 93-90%
B+ 89-87%
B 86-83%
B- 82-80%
C+ 79-77%
C 76-73%
C- 72-70%
D+ 69-67%
D 66-63%
D- 62-60%
You must achieve a minimum of 70% (= C minus) for the entire course to receive course credit.

**Grading Scale:**

**Grading Point Distribution:**

- 150 Points: Weekly Submissions to Discussion Board (10 points per chapter), (10%)
- 120 Points: First Exam (end of week 3, covering Chapters 1 - 6), (8%)
- 120 Points: Second Exam (end of week 6, covering Chapters 7 - 12), (8%)
- 60 Points: Third Exam (end of week 8, covering Chapters 13 - 15), (4%)
- 150 Points for Each Writing Assignment (450 total)

900 Possible Points

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**Grade of Incomplete**

The (I) Incomplete is a temporary grade used in cases when a student is unable to complete course requirements because of illness or other justifiable circumstances. An (I) Incomplete is assigned in cases in which the student has completed satisfactorily the major portion (50%) of the course requirements and has the ability to complete the remaining work without re-registering for the course. Further information on (I) Incompletes can be found in the current Bulletin.

**Copies of Assignments**

It is your responsibility to retain a copy of any materials you submit via e-mail, mail, bulletin board submission, or handed-in in any other way to CMU online or the instructor.

**Late Assignments:**

Not accepted.

**Make-ups and Rewrites:**

Accepted only in case of emergency.

**VIII. EXPECTATIONS**

**Attendance and Participation:**

Active online presence and participation in all Response (Discussion) Board forums and Wiki group and individual project submissions is mandatory to complete the course successfully.

All Exams have to be taken online during the scheduled exam periods to complete the course successfully.

**Academic Integrity:**
Because academic integrity is a cornerstone of the University's commitment to the principles of free inquiry, students are responsible for learning and upholding professional standards of research, writing, assessment, and ethics in their areas of study. Written or other work which students submit must be the product of their own efforts and must be consistent with appropriate standards of professional ethics. Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, plagiarism and other forms of dishonest or unethical behavior, is prohibited. A breakdown of behaviors that constitute academic dishonesty is presented in the CMU Bulletin (https://bulletins.cmich.edu/).

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:**

Each member of the Central Michigan University community assumes an obligation regarding self conduct to act in a manner consistent with a respect for the rights of others and with the University's function as an educational institution. As guides for individual and group actions within this community, the University affirms the general principles of conduct described in the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Disciplinary Procedures at https://www.cmich.edu/ess/studentaffairs/Pages/Code-of-Student-Rights.aspx.

**IX. SUPPORT SERVICES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

**Library Research and Instruction Services**

As a CMU student you have full access to the services and resources of the CMU Library. Reference librarians will help you find information on your research topic and answer other questions related to the library. The library's Documents on Demand office will obtain copies of the books and journal articles for you. Check out the library's website at https://library.cmich.edu for more information.

**Reference librarian contact information:**

1. By email: libref@cmich.edu
2. By online form: http://libguides.cmich.edu/askalibrarianform
3. By phone: (989) 774-3470.

**Documents on Demand office contact information:**

1. By email: docreq@cmich.edu
2. By online form: https://illiad.cmich.edu/
3. By phone: (989) 774-3022.

**Writing Center**

The CMU Writing Center is a free online service for all CMU students, providing help with grammar, citations, bibliographies, drafts, and editing of academic papers. Suggestions and feedback are typically provided within two business days. For additional information and to submit work, visit https://www.cmich.edu/global/writingcenter/Pages/default.aspx

**Mathematics Assistance Center**

The CMU Mathematics Assistance Center provides free tutoring in mathematics and statistics to students enrolled in select courses. Tutoring is available online and via telephone. To see what courses qualify and to register with the Math Assistance Center, visit http://global.cmich.edu/mathcenter/tutoring-request.aspx.

**ADA**

CMU provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should contact Student Disability Services at (800) 950-1144, extension 3018 or email sds@cmich.edu, at least 4 weeks prior to registering for class. Students may find additional ADA information and forms at https://www.cmich.edu/ess/studentaffairs/SDS/Pages/default.aspx

Note to faculty: CMU Administration will notify you if applicable; otherwise, the student will provide a "Notification Letter to the Instructor" outlining the accommodations the student is approved to receive.
X. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Textbook: DeSpelder, Lynne Ann and Strickland, Albert Lee: *The Last Dance: Encountering Death and Dying*

Edition: 2015, 10th

ISBN: 9780078035463

Publisher: McGraw-Hill

Even though the Online Syllabus makes it appear as if the textbook were available via course reserve, IT IS NOT and will have to be purchased via the MBS Bookservice with whom CMU Online contracts for its online course offerings.

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Additional required articles listed below will be available in the Blackboard course shell as PDF files (under the Course Reserve menu button) and via CMU's off-campus library services (OCLS):


1. "How We Bury the War Dead," Dreazen & Fields, pp. 8-10.
Center Information

Student & Enrollment Services for CMU Online Courses
(800) 688-4268 or (989) 774-1129 or cmuonline@cmich.edu

Drop & Withdrawal Policy for Online Courses
http://global.cmich.edu/courses/drop-withdraw.aspx

Academic Calendar and
Credit/No Credit Deadlines for Online Courses
https://www.cmich.edu/global/calendar/Pages/default.aspx

Office of Information Technology Help Desk
https://www.cmich.edu/office_provost/OIT/help/help_desk/Pages/default.aspx

Pre-Class Checklist for Online Courses
http://www.global.cmich.edu/cmuonline/checklist.aspx

Online Learning Resource Center
http://www.global.cmich.edu/cmuonline/about/

Certified Testing Center & Proctoring Information
https://www.cmich.edu/global/cmuonline/proctoring/Pages/default.aspx

Harassment and discrimination: You have a right to feel safe and supported while pursuing your degree at CMU. If any professor, student, or staff member makes you feel that you have been discriminated against, disrespected or stuck in a hostile environment, the Office of Civil Rights and Institutional Equity (OCRIE) is here to help: Bovee UC 306, (989) 774-3253. For resources and more information, please see https://www.cmich.edu/office_president/OCRIE/

Sexual misconduct policy: With the exception of the confidential resources named explicitly within the Sexual Misconduct Policy, all CMU staff and faculty are responsible employees and are required to report any information they know about possible sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator in OCRIE at (989) 774-3253. This means that any information you may divulge about such an incident in the classroom or with a faculty member cannot be confidential. Reports to OCRIE are intended to provide options and resources to survivors. Please keep these reporting obligations in mind as you seek support from staff and faculty you trust, and know that there are also support centers on campus that will maintain confidentiality, which include Sexual Aggression Peer Advocates (989-774-2255) and the CMU Counseling Center (989-774-3381). For resources and more information, please see https://www.cmich.edu/office_president/OCRIE/