

Syllabus for SOC 4332 Death & Dying (2021 Sum2, Simpson)



Dr. Shirley Simpson
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(Use "SOC Death" in subject line)

Campus Office Hours:
Not on campus during the summer

Virtual Contact: BB Forum or Email

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course on the sociological aspects of death and dying, examining such topics as the social and personal meaning of death and dying, grief and bereavement, and the interrelationships between the dying person and family, friends, and professionals.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Last Dance: Encountering Death & Dying, 11e. [Despelder, 2020, ISBN: 9781259870484]

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Computer with MAC or Windows Operating System
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable highly recommended (wireless connections can drop during exams)
- Webcam (esp. for exams)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student Learning Outcome By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	Assignment(s) or activity(ies) best validating outcome achievement:
1. Gaining factual knowledge 2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories 3. Learning to apply course material 4. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing 5. Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems 6. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view	1 & 2 Text, Videos, Articles 3 & 5 Homework, Exams 4 & 6 Learning Modules

DELIVERY METHOD

This course is fully online and has no on-campus contact hours. The course will be delivered via the Blackboard Learning Management System. The course site can be accessed at [ASU's Blackboard Learning Management System](#)

TEACHING STRATEGIES

- Students are encouraged to stay current on the readings and turn assignments in on time. This will benefit them and others as they seek to participate meaningfully in the course.
- Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and experiences with their peers.
- Students are asked to seek help early if they have problems, questions, or concerns during the semester. Every student has something unique to offer to the discourse. If students don’t come to class or refuse to engage others while in class, that decreases the diversity of the dialog for everyone.

GRADING SYSTEM

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes. The following grading scale is in use for this course:

A = 225-250 points
B = 200-224 points
C = 175-199 points
D = 150-174 points
F = 0-149 points (Grades are not rounded up)

EVALUATION AND GRADES

Graded assignments, activities and percent of the overall course grade:

<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Knowledge Exercises ("KE")	60
Writing Assignments ("Papers")	100
<u>Graded Discussions</u>	<u>90</u>
TOTAL COURSE GRADE	250

ASSIGNMENT/ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Learning Modules/Textbook are designed to give you an opportunity to learn, engage, clarify, and grapple with the basic concepts & principles of sociology.

Videos/Articles/PPTs are presented to help clarify and enrich your understanding of sociology and supplement.

"Papers" (including an assignment that requires students to visit and photograph themselves at a cemetery) is designed to make you think critically about how course concepts relate to one another and to you. What forces have shaped who you are, what you believe, and how you live? How might your perspective differ from others? Do you strongly agree or disagree with this or that statement? Explain why you (dis)agree and support your own statements with good data, not just personal experience.

"KE" are designed to test your competence in the essential concepts & principles of sociology AND your ability to apply those concepts & principles to real world situations.

Forums: are designed to allow you to discuss concepts with other students in the course.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE PROFESSOR

In most cases, Dr. Simpson will respond to your email within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written communication via Blackboard: There is a discussion on the forum to ask questions.

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. Please start your subject line with "SOC Death" so your message does not get buried. I can search by that term instead of sifting through 300-400 emails.

Virtual communication: If we really need to "meet" we can use Blackboard's Connect! feature.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY & ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

In this class, you must complete all of your work online through forum entries, Turnitin assignment submissions, or Blackboard tests. It is your responsibility to use a reliable computer (especially for tests) with a reliable connection and give yourself plenty of time to avail yourself of the multiple attempts offered. Since you usually have 2 attempts for tests and plenty of time to make forum entries, issues with technology should not affect your progress in this course. If a technology issue does occur that affects your progress, and you did not wait until the last minute to start a test or assignment, email the professor at shirley.simpson@angelo.edu explaining the issue. Attach a copy of the forum message you are trying to submit and/or a screen capture of any quiz-related error messages received if you have one. The professor is not under any obligation to reset tests.

Testing via Respondus™ Monitor

Access to quizzes and exams will be through Respondus™ Lockdown Browser and will be video recorded via Respondus™ Monitor Use of another electronic device is prohibited.

There are two practice quizzes: a) one is a Webcam test and b) a short 10 question practice quiz over ASU trivia that is not graded. These tools will be available to the student to assure accessibility. Students are highly encouraged to go through these practice quizzes in advance of taking a graded quiz. This process will allow you to become familiar with the technology associated with testing and improve the testing environment. These quizzes, instructional videos, and more information regarding Respondus Monitor can be found under the Respondus Monitor Help tab in your Blackboard course.

As you may know, Respondus Monitor is a companion tool to Respondus LockDown Browser. Monitor is a tool to proctor the online exam. Here is some more information regarding Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor:

<http://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/>

<http://www.respondus.com/products/monitor/index.shtml>

LATE WORK OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

Late work will not be accepted. Missing homework or exams grades will convert to a zero after the deadline. Do not wait until the last minute to upload assignments or take exams. If something goes wrong, I can't help you.

PROBLEM WITH A BLACKBOARD GRADE?

Check your grades regularly. If you do not have a score within a few days of submission or get a score you think is in error, do NOT wait until the end of the session to point it out. Send an email so I can check it for you.

COURSE SCHEDULE

A schedule for this course is included at the end of this syllabus for reference. Note that all assessment measures listed are due at 11:59 pm on the due date (i.e., on the day the module concludes).

SYLLABUS CHANGES

A syllabus is not a contract. It is a plan, like a speech, that one prepares in good faith about how a given class should flow. In the real world, however, plans need to be flexible and adapt to unexpected situations or problems. To that end, Dr. Simpson reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, she will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student's responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

General Policies Related to All Courses at ASU

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)ⁱ
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)ⁱⁱ

Student Responsibility and Attendance

Online: This class is asynchronous, meaning you do not have to be on-line at a certain time. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in individual and group assignments. In order to complete this course successfully, you do have to participate in all course activities i.e. discussion boards, course projects, reflective logs, etc. Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).ⁱⁱⁱ

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).^{iv} The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)^v for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)^{vi} in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).^{vii}

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)^{viii} for more information.

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences. Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator.

SHOULD YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN CONFIDENCE ABOUT AN ISSUE, WITHOUT THEM SHARING THAT INFORMATION WITH OTHERS ON CAMPUS, YOU MAY CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (325-942-2371), THE 24-HOUR CRISIS HELPLINE (325-486-6345), OR THE UNIVERSITY HEALTH CLINIC (325-942-2171). You may also choose to contact the San Angelo Police Department or Police Department where the incident occurred.

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following schedule is included to help students plan ahead during the session.

Week 1

7/12-18

Introduction Death & Dying

- Read Chapters 1-2 (3 is optional)
- Study Learning Module Material
- Complete Graded Discussion and Written Assignment

Week 2

7/19-25

Healthcare Related Issues

- Read Chapters 5-7
- Study Learning Module Material
- Complete Graded Discussion and Written Assignment

- Do Knowledge Exercise 1 (KE1)

Week 3

7/26-8/1

Manner of Death

- Read Chapters 10-13
- Study Learning Module Material
- Complete Graded Discussion and Written Assignment

- Do KE2

Week 4

8/2-8

Last Rites

- Read Chapters 3-4 & 8
- Study Learning Module Material
- Complete Graded Discussion and Written Assignment

- Do KE3

Wrapup

8/9-12

Student Choice Topic

[EC op]*

- Optional – Student Choice Chapter or Topic

*NOTE: No final, just an Extra Credit forum entry on a topic related to the last to chapters in the book.

- i <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>
- ii ~~<https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>~~
- iii <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>
- iv <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>
- v <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>
- vi <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>
- vii https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php
- <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>