



Chaminade University

School of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Psychology

PSY 463 Psychology of Death & Dying

Online (Asynchronous)

Credits: 3 Term: Flex 10-Week

Instructor Information

Instructor: Darren Iwamoto, EdD, LMHC

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Office Location: Behavioral Sciences 105A

Office Hours: MW 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

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Virtual Office Hours: MW 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

School & Department Information

School of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Office Location: Behavioral Sciences 105

Phone: (808) 735-4751

Course Description & Materials

Catalog Course Description

The scope of this course is an exploration into the domain of death and dying. The focus of the course will be a psychological, philosophical, theological, ethical, biological, social and scientific inquiry to the nature of death. Topics to be examined include nature of death, life after death, assisted suicide, right to die, suicide, bereavement, death system, death counseling, death in society, Eastern approaches to death, and issues of death and dying within the context of nursing. Our focus on death will be guided by concepts derived from evolutionary theory, the stress response and stress management. (EN 102, COM 101, PSY 101)

Time Allocation

This is a three-credit hour course requiring 135 clock hours of student engagement, per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy (as shown above). Students enrolled in this course are anticipated to spend on average of 9 hours per week engaged in this course. This includes 24 hours studying for your mid-term and final exams, 1 hour and 15 minutes to complete your mid-

term exam, 2 hours to complete your final exam, 8 hours to complete your essay assignment, 28 hours to research and complete your capstone paper, 14 hours researching and writing your discussion responses, and approximately 58+ hours of additional class engagement (e.g., assigned readings and videos). A disaggregated breakdown of class engagement can be found in your Canvas classroom under Modules.

Required Materials

Kastenbaum, R. & Moreman, C. M. (2018). *Death, Society, and Human Experience* (12th Ed.). New York: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group

Recommended Items

(For NUR students) Norlander, L. (2019). *To comfort always* (2nd ed). Indianapolis, IN: Sigma Theta Tau International

Canvas (<https://chaminade.instructure.com>)

The Canvas classroom will contain your gradebook, course assignments, exams, and resources.

Learning Outcomes

Psychology Minor Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

- 1. Identify some of the key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology.**
- 2. Apply the scientific method and critical thinking to evaluate psychological research.**
- 3. Exhibit effective writing skills within the context of the field of psychology.**

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon completion of PSY 463, students will:

1. Identify key concepts, principles, and overarching themes pertaining to death and dying. (PSY - PLO1).
2. Design an interdisciplinary approach (psychology, religion, philosophy, science, etc.) to death and dying in the context of a helping profession (e.g., Nursing, Counseling). (PSY - PLO 1).
3. Recognize the cross-cultural approaches to death and dying. (PSY - PLO 1).
4. Identify the differences between perceptions and experiences regarding death, dying, grief, and bereavement, from the context of life span development. (PSY - PLO 1).

Marianist Values

This class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles and you should take every opportunity possible to reflect upon the role of these characteristics in your education and development:

1. Education for formation in faith.
2. Provide an integral, quality education.
3. Educate in family spirit.
4. Educate for service, justice and peace, and integrity of creation.
5. Educate for adaptation and change.

Native Hawaiian Values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture. Both recognize the transformative effect of a well-rounded, value-centered education on society, particularly in seeking justice for the marginalized, the forgotten, and the oppressed, always with an eye toward God (Ke Akua). This is reflected in the ‘Olelo No’eau (Hawaiian proverbs) and Marianist core beliefs:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana) E ola au i ke akua (‘Olelo No’eau 364) May I live by God.
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na’auao) Lawe i ka ma’alea a kū’ono’ono (‘Olelo No’eau 1957) Acquire skill and make it deep.
3. Educate in Family Spirit (‘Ohana) ‘Ike aku, ‘ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana ‘ohana (‘Olelo No’eau 1200) Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship.
4. Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha) Ka lama kū o ka no’eau (‘Olelo No’eau 1430) Education is the standing torch of wisdom.
5. Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina) ‘A’ohe pau ka ‘ike i ka hālau ho’okahi (‘Olelo No’eau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school

Course Activities

Milestone 1

Important Information

Your **Discussion Response for Chapter 1** assignment serves as Milestone 1 for this course and documents your attendance.

According to Chaminade University's Flex program policy, students who do not complete this assignment by the deadline will be administratively withdrawn from the course.

Deadline: Sunday of Week 1 by 11:59 PM (7th day of class)

You are encouraged to complete this assignment promptly to maintain your enrollment status.

Milestone 2

Important Information

Your **Mid-Term Exam** serves as Milestone 2 for this course and documents your activity in this course.

Due to the Mid-Term Exam being a Milestone assignment, no extension to the due date will be made regardless of reason. If you do not complete this assignment by the due date, you will receive a zero (0).

Deadline: Sunday of Week 5 by 11:59 PM

You are encouraged to complete this assignment promptly to maintain your enrollment status.

Discussions

Discussion Question Response - Based on the video, your readings, and your thoughts on the subject, please respond to the discussion question in no less than **200 words** in length. Post your discussion response directly to Canvas. **Do not post as an attachment.** This will make it easier for everyone to see your response. List your sources at the bottom of your post using APA formatting.

In addition, you will ask at least one (1) question based on the respective chapter(s), videos, and/or readings, for your peers to respond to after responding to the respective discussion question.

Following are guidelines for weekly discussion grades:

- *Excellent* = The posting and comments are accurate, original, relevant, well supported, teaches us something new or offers a new perspective, and is **well written**. Grade of 10 indicate substantial learning presence to the course and the stimulation of additional thought about the issue under discussion. *At least one (1) question was written for your peers to respond to.*
- *Above Average* = The posting and comments lack at least one of the above qualities but is above average in quality. Grade of 8 here indicate that the

comments make reasonable contributions to our understanding of the issue being discussed. At least one (1) question was written for your peers to respond to.

- *Average* = The posting and comments lack 2 or 3 of the required qualities. Comments which are based upon personal opinion or personal experience often fall within this category. These comments typically receive a grade of 5. (Note: some discussion postings will specifically ask for personal opinion or experience and, thus, do not fall into this category). These postings may not fully address the discussion question at hand. No question was submitted for your peers to respond to.
- *Minimal* = The posting and comments present little or no new information or does not contribute to the overall discussion board. Postings may not be complete and/or are poorly written. However, grade of 3 here indicate that the comments may provide some social presence to a collegial atmosphere. No question was submitted for your peers to respond to.
- *Unacceptable* = The posting or comments add no value or meaningless value to the discussion, are poorly written, or do not address the question at hand. Grade of 1 will be provided. No question was submitted for your peers to respond to.

Exams

You will be given a mid-term and a final exam. The final exam will be a comprehensive exam covering the entire text.

The Final Exam will include questions pertaining to the Marianist Educational Values.

Please note that Canvas will shut down the Mid-Term and Final Exam at 11:59 pm on the due date as specified in Canvas, regardless of how far you are into the exam. Subsequently, please plan ahead and give yourself ample time so this does not become an issue for you.

Essays

Your Last Lecture Essay

What would you say if you had the opportunity to deliver a final lecture to the people who meant the most to you, especially if you knew that you had only months to live? Randy Pausch, former Carnegie Mellon University professor, gave such a talk titled, “Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams” because he wanted to leave this legacy for his young children. While you may never have to face such a situation as Randy Pausch did, the numerous themes (life lessons) throughout the lecture (and book) are overarching and universal.

For this essay, you will practice the Characteristics of a Marianist Education Core Value of Family Spirit by composing your own “last lecture” that imparts at least three (3) life lessons that you have learned and the ones you want to “leave” to those that you care most about. This essay will focus on the life lessons that you have learned so far and how you have demonstrated resiliency, determination, and empathy despite the obstacles you may have encountered. If you have not encountered any obstacles and/or hardships, think about the ones you may potentially face moving forward in your educational and professional journey. Make sure you are comfortable with sharing about the issues that you write about. Use Randy Pausch’s lecture as a model of what words of wisdom you could leave for others.

To help you get started, here are four (4) life lessons that Randy Pausch highlighted in his lecture (you are NOT restricted to these):

- Carpe diem – seize the day, live in and for the moment.
- Remember, when going through life, never to lose the wonder of childhood.
- Never let brick walls or obstacles enclose or confine you.
- Reach beyond the known and stretch out of the comfort zone.

Your paper will follow the following format:

- Title Page (Title of the assignment, class, and your name)
- Introduction
 - A brief introduction of yourself
 - Answer the question, how has your perceptions and experiences regarding death, dying, grief, and bereavement change over the course of your life span development (e.g., child, adolescent, young adult, etc...)?
- Life Lessons
 - Life Lesson 1
 - Life Lesson 2
 - Life Lesson 3
- Conclusion (Concluding reflection/thoughts)
- Reference page (if applicable)

This is not a formal paper, so writing in first person is fine. If you use any resources, you should cite them using APA style. Your “last lecture” should be a minimum of 4 full pages using 12 pt font with 1” margins. You must include a title page and a reference page, if applicable. Your title page and reference page do not count towards the minimum 4 full pages requirement.

Capstone

This capstone project will integrate concepts and beliefs from the disciplines of Philosophy, Psychology, and Religion, and apply it to a project-based paper that is guided by the Characteristics of a Marianist Education Core Value of Family Spirit.

Scenario: You are a health care provider (e.g., nurse, counselor) and you were asked by the family of a grieving individual to assist with their emotional struggle resulting from the death.

Your paper will consist of the following components.

1. Introduction
 - a. You will select an individual from a movie, book (fiction or non-fiction), or television series, that has experienced a death of someone that person was very close too.
 - i. Introduce the individual who is grieving
 - ii. Provide the “backstory” of the individual that is grieving
 - iii. Explain the relationship the grieving individual had with the person who died.
 - iv. Explain how that person died – Was it sudden? Was it anticipated?
 - v. Explain what the individual is experiencing as a result of the death (e.g., their thoughts, feelings, emotions, and behaviors).
2. Philosophical perspective on death and dying
 - a. Summarize western philosophical perspectives on death and dying
 - b. Summarize eastern philosophical perspectives on death and dying
3. Cultural/Religious perspective on death and dying
 - a. Summarize western cultural/religious perspectives on death and dying
 - b. Summarize eastern cultural/religious perspectives on death and dying
 - c. Summarize atheists’ perspective on death and dying
4. Psychological perspective on death and dying
 - a. Summarize Existential Psychology’s perspective on death and dying
 - b. Summarize the Kubler-Ross Model on the 5-stages of grief
5. Intervention
 - a. Develop an interdisciplinary approach (philosophical, religious, and psychological) to support the individual who is having difficulty with the grieving and bereavement process.
 - b. Your approach will be unique to that individual’s situation, context, and background.
 - c. How would you support that individual’s thoughts, feelings & emotions, and behaviors?
 - i. Use the information you gathered about philosophy, religion, and psychology to support your approach.

This paper will be at least 5 pages of content (excluding title page and reference page) in paragraph form (no outlines or bullet points), double-spaced, 1” margins, utilize headers

(Introduction, Philosophical Perspective, Cultural/Religious Perspective, Psychological Perspective, and Intervention), and should have a cover page.

Your paper will use a minimum of 8 credible sources (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles, credible Internet websites, etc...)

APA formatting is preferred, but I will also accept MLA.

Your paper will be uploaded to Canvas as a .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. I will accept Google Docs, but if you share it with me, ensure that the security on that Google Doc allows me to access it. My email address is diwamoto@chaminade.edu.

Assignment Characteristics:

Pedagogical Method - Project-based learning: Students will be placed in the context of a health care provider (Nurse or Counselor) needing to support an individual suffering emotionally because of the death of another individual.

X Factor Element - Cultural Diversity & Inclusivity: Students will incorporate cultural and religious perspectives, based on their assessment of the individual they are supporting, into their approach that addresses the project-based scenario.

Student Ideas - Interdisciplinary Project: Students will integrate the concepts, theories, and perspectives from three disciplines, Philosophy, Psychology, and Religion to develop their approach that addresses the project-based scenario.

Course Policies

Attendance

Students are expected to actively participate in course room discussions. Students should notify their instructor when illness or circumstances prevents them from actively participating in class for periods longer than one week.

Federal regulations require continued attendance for continuing payment of financial aid. If attendance is not continuous, financial aid may be terminated. When illness or personal reasons necessitate continued absence, the student should officially withdraw from all affected courses. Anyone who stops attending a course without official withdrawal may receive a failing grade.

Late Work

This course utilizes a Flex model, meaning there is a firm deadline for the Milestone 1 assignment, which is due by Sunday of Week 1 by 11:59 PM (7th day of class), and another firm deadline for the Milestone 2 assignment, which is due by Sunday of Week 5 by 11:59 pm. If Milestone 1 is not completed by the due date, you may be dropped from the class. If Milestone 2 is not completed by the due date, you will receive a grade of zero (0) for the assignment. All other assignments can be turned in at your convenience (but no later than 11:59 pm on the last day of the term). Please refer to Self-Service to confirm when your course term ends, as all assignments are due before then.

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be assigned in this course.

Changes to the Syllabus

While the provisions of this syllabus are as accurate and complete as possible, your instructor reserves the right to change any provision herein at any time. Every effort will be made to keep you advised of such changes, and information about such changes will be available from your instructor.

Grades of Incomplete

No incomplete grade will be issued at the end of this course regardless of reason.

Final Grades

Final grades are submitted to [Self-Service](#):

Assessment

Assignments:

Final Examination (CLO 1)
Mid-Term Examination (CLO 1)
Your Last Lecture Essay (CLO 4)
Capstone Paper (CLO 2, 3)
Discussion Question Responses (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4)

Total Possible Points

Points:

200 points
100 points
25 points
75 points
140 points
540 points

Grading Scale

A = 486 (90%) - 540 (100%)
B = 432 (80%) - 485 (89%)
C = 378 (70%) - 431 (79%)
D = 324 (60%) - 377 (69%)
F = 323 (59%) and below

The instructor will determine the final grade for all students based on the above Grading Scale. The instructor will enforce the following class policies:

All assignments will be due in Canvas by 11:59 pm on the due date as specified in this syllabus.

Important Information

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism, in addition to more obvious dishonesty.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic School and may include an “F” grade for the work in question, an “F” grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

For the most up to date information, please refer to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) on the Chaminade University Catalog website.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator.

Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination

Chaminade University of Honolulu does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the University’s Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found at the [Chaminade University Title IX](#)

[Office Contact Information and Confidential Resources website](#). On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found here at [CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES](#).

The University's Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at: <https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the [Campus Incident Report form](#).

Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. The NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION can be found here: [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).

CUH Alert Emergency Notification

To get the latest emergency communication from Chaminade University, students' cell numbers will be connected to Chaminade's emergency notification text system. When you log in to the Chaminade portal, you will be asked to provide some emergency contact information. If you provide a cellphone number, you will receive a text from our emergency notification system asking you to confirm your number. You must respond to that message to complete your registration and get emergency notifications on your phone.

Assessment for Student Work

With the goal of continuing to improve the quality of educational services offered to students, Chaminade University conducts assessments of student achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. Student work is used anonymously as the basis of these assessments, and the work you do in this course may be used in these assessment efforts.

Student with Disabilities Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for all actively enrolled students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008).

Students are responsible for contacting Kokua Ike: Center for Student Learning to schedule an appointment. Verification of their disability will be requested through appropriate documentation and once received it will take up to approximately 2–3 weeks to review them. Appropriate paperwork will be completed by the student before notification will be sent out to their instructors. Accommodation paperwork will not be automatically sent out to instructors each semester, as the student is responsible to notify Kokua Ike via email at ada@chaminade.edu each semester if changes or notifications are needed.

Kōkua ‘Ike: Tutoring & Learning Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students.

Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua ‘Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check [Kōkua ‘Ike’s](#) website for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click on Account > TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua ‘Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

Course Schedule

Date	Class Activity	Readings Due:	Assignments Due in Canvas:
Week 1:	Welcome Review Syllabus Chapter 1 As We Think About Death Chapter 2 What Is Death?	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	Discussion Response for Chapter 1 (Milestone 1)
Week 2:	Chapter 3 The Death System Chapter 4 Dying	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	Discussion Response for Chapter 3 Discussion Response for Chapter 4
Week 3:	Chapter 5 Hospice and Palliative Care Chapter 6 End-of-Life Issues and Decisions	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	Discussion Responses for Chapter 5 Discussion Response for Chapter 6
Week 4:	Chapter 7 Suicide Chapter 8 Violent Death: Murder, Terrorism, Genocide, Disaster, and Accident	Chapter 7 Chapter 8	Discussion Responses for Chapter 7 Discussion Response for Chapter 8
Week 5:	Mid-Term Exam (Chapters 1 – 8) Work on Your Last Lecture Essay	Chapters 1 – 8	Your Last Lecture Essay Mid-Term Exam (Milestone 2)
Week 6:	Chapter 9 Euthanasia, Assisted Death, Abortion, and the Right to Die Chapter 10 Death in the World of Childhood	Chapter 9 Chapter 10	Discussion Responses for Chapter 9

			Discussion Response for Chapter 10
Week 7:	Chapter 11 Bereavement, Grief, and Mourning Chapter 12 The Funeral Process	Chapter 11 Chapter 12	Discussion Responses for Chapter 11 Discussion Response for Chapter 12
Week 8:	Chapter 13 Do We Survive Death? Chapter 14 How Can We Help?	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	Discussion Response for Chapter 13 Discussion Response for Chapter 14
Week 9:	Chapter 15 Good Life, Good Death? Work on Capstone Paper	Chapter 15	Discussion Response for Chapter 15 Capstone Paper
Week 10:	Final Exam (Chapters 1 through 13)		Final Exam