MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK

COURSE OUTLINE

**PY208- Death, Dying and Bereavement C-3, Cr-3**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course increases personal knowledge about death as an aspect of the life process and assesses the impact of dying and bereavement from psychosocial, cultural, and historical as well as developmental, medical, and legal perspectives. Human roles relating to the distinct needs of dying persons and their friends and families are examined.

Pre-requisite(s)/Co-Requisite(s): PY 101- Introduction to General Psychology

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of this course is to develop a knowledge base concerning death, dying, loss, grief and bereavement. Students examine the roles that shape these human life experiences while clarifying and defining their own views on death and loss.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The student will be able to:

1. Discuss three psychological perspectives that inform thought and attitudes on death, dying and bereavement;
2. Describe the historical changes in death-related attitudes, rituals, beliefs, and practices in Western world;
3. Identify the psychosocial factors influencing one's understanding of the process of dying, loss, grief and bereavement;
4. Specify how technology impacts life, often creating bioethical, psychological, and social controversies;
5. Analyze health care systems, medical management, relationships between patients, caregivers, and loved ones, and the treatment of dying persons;
6. Describe the functions of funeral rites, the needs of the bereaved, and methods of body disposition;
7. Review legislation defining death and that is death-related, including capital punishment, physician-assisted death, advance directives, organ procurement, wills, taxes, and death benefits;
8. Examine the biopsychosocial risks of living in a modern world and encountering deaths due to accidents, natural disasters, war, violence, AIDS, and other emerging diseases, and stress;
9. Compare and contrast views of immortality, life after death, and near death experiences;
10. Use the cognitive and affective insights to develop a conscious compassionate self in our various roles and a range of healthy grief-coping responses that sustain individual well-being.

**MAJOR TOPICS**

1. Death attitudes and psychological perspectives
2. Sociocultural forces
3. Historical perspectives
4. Medical and legal systems
5. End of life decisions
6. The death industry
7. The experience of loss
8. Horrendous deaths
9. Life after death