



**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES
VIRTUAL CAMPUS**

Wayland Mission Statement: Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Course Title, Number, and Section: PSYC 4309 VC 01 - Psychology of Death and Dying

Term: Summer 2017 (5/29 – 8/12)

Instructor: Dr. Don Knox

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:

806.292.7021
knox@wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location: Monday – Thursday 8:00 – 6:00 PM Central US time

Class Meeting Time and Location: Blackboard

Catalog Description: American “death system” reflecting contemporary theories of death and dying.

There is no prerequisite for this course

Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Material(s):

TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	ED	YEAR	ISBN#
Death, Society and the Human Experience	Kastenbaum	Routledge	11th	2012	9780205001088

Optional Materials: Instructor will post other materials.

Course Outcome Competencies: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate critical thinking on examinations
- display knowledge of major psychological terms and concepts on examinations
- demonstrate knowledge on examinations of major theories regarding the American Death System
- demonstrate insight into their own views and feelings regarding death by sharing them in class discussions.
- practice personal responsibility and demonstrate commitment to values by being honest and not cheating.

Attendance Requirements:

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

Disability Statement: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria: The student will take three major examinations each of equal weight. These examinations will consist of multiple-choice and essay questions. These exams will be in two parts. The multiple choice part will be timed and the essay portion will not be timed. **The second exam is PROCTORED.**

There will be weekly discussion topics. You are required to post one original response (250 word **MINIMUM**) by Wednesday (23:55 CT) of the discussion week and respond (100 word **MINIMUM**) to at least two of your fellow students original postings by (23:55 CT) of Saturday of that discussion week. Late responses do not count. I realize that the winter semester is when most of us take family vacations for the holidays but that is a choice you make. Vacations are important and I plan on taking one as well but I will still monitor and grade while on vacation. I chose to teach this course over the summer and I am obligated to take my computer with me. I will not tolerate abusive or overly critical comments from any student – please remember to be civil! This is worth 100 points or 20% of your grade.

Method of determining course grade: Each exam is worth 100 points; the complete discussion board is worth 100 points. This gives us a total of 400 points.

360-400 points (90%) for an A
320-359 points (80%) for a B
280-319 points (70%) for a C

240-279 points (60%) for a D
<240 points is an F

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student's control. A grade of "incomplete" is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10 to 15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

Student grade appeals:

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 4 – Test 1 over chapters 1 – 5 (Test is open 6/19 – 6/24)

Week 7 – Test 2 over chapter 6 – 10. Test 2 is Proctored (test is open 7/10 – 7/22)

Week 11 – Test 3 over chapters 11 – 15. (Test is open 8/7 – 8/12)

Additional Information: To take the exams you need to log into Blackboard. You may not open the test before or after the specified time. Once you open the test, you have 40 minutes to take the multiple choice exam. If you go over the allotted time, one point will be deducted from the exam grade for each minute that you are over the allotted time for the first 5 minutes. 5 points will be deducted for each minute over 45 minutes. These exams are closed book and no notes. Additional instructions may be posted before the exam date. If there is an issue with Wayland's Blackboard server, the student will not be penalized. However, there have been very few issues with this server. Again, and I cannot stress this enough, do not wait until the last minute to take quizzes and exams. They will not be reset as a matter of routine. If you try to print the test, use your browser backspace key or try to open a second window – the exam WILL lock up and that is not an issue with Blackboard. If your Internet connection is lost – that is not an issue with Blackboard. Your computer and ISP are your responsibility. Again, there are very few issues with the Blackboard server and I get a message from VC when there is a legitimate problem.

<http://catalog.wbu.edu>