

SYLLABUS

Psychology 418/518

Spring, 2009

Dr. Norman J. Stanhope

M 7:20-10:00 PM, B 224

Office: Thompson 131

Office Hours: M 6:00-7:00

Phone: 703-658-6045

e-mail: nstanhope@cox.net

Suggested text: *The Last Dance*, DeSpelder, L. A. & Strickland, A. L., 7th ed.

January 26—Introduction

February 2—The Compassionate Friends Mary and John Bell

February 9—Hospice

February 16—Alzheimer's—Rob Cox, begin presentations

February 23—Organ Donors—Karen Brown

March 9—Spring break—no class

May 11 Final Exam++

Each undergraduate will prepare a 12 page paper and present it orally to the class; each graduate will prepare a 20 page paper and present it orally to the class. The papers will be prepared according to the APA Publication Manual. The subjects will be on any area of Death, Dying or Grieving. The presentation will consist of 10% of the grade; the paper will be 40%; after the presentations start there will be a short quiz at the end of class; five of the several grades will comprise 10% of the final grade; the final will be 40% of the grade.

Grades: A 94+ A- 90-93 B+ 87-89 B 84-86 B-80-83 C+ 77-79 C 70-76 D 69—

The Mason Honor code is to be observed.

Suggested subjects for the papers may be:

Ways of dying: accidental death; sudden natural causes (heart attack, stroke, etc.); long terminal illnesses; crib death (SIDS); mass death; murder; war; execution.

Age specific death: still birth; miscarriage; malformed infants; abortion; childhood accidents; childhood diseases; childhood suicide; teenage accidents; teenage diseases; teenage suicides; young adult accidents; young adult disease; child birth, suicide; middle years accidents; middle years disease/heart attacks; suicide; old age suicide; old age diseases, cancer, Alzheimer's.

Social Problems: coping with classmates' deaths—childhood and adolescent: funerals; euthanasia;

Life after Death; infertility; divorce.

Legal Problems: What is death? Who decides when to “pull the plug?” Who decides who pulls the plug? Living wills; powers of attorney.

Care of the dying: Hospital versus hospice; home versus institution: attitudes toward the dying; attitudes toward the family; who tells whom? Should the patient know? Should the family be told? Should the doctor tell? Should the family tell? Why do doctors have a hard time dealing with death?

Children and Death: what is death to a child? What do we tell a child? How to tell the dying child? Or do we tell? These are but suggestions.