

THE MEANING OF DEATH

Gabriel Moran

E50.1013

Fall, 2006

V90.0703

COURSE PURPOSES:

1. To examine the process of dying; attitudes and patterns of behavior; ethical issues in the care of the dying
2. To study grief and bereavement; resources for people who are experiencing grief
3. To explore philosophical and religious thinking on death and afterlife

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Wed. Sept. 6: Introduction
 2. Mon. Sept. 11: Teaching-Learning on Death (Henig; Neale, Inventory)
 3. Wed. Sept. 13: Historical Scenes (Burt, Gilbert)
 4. Mon. Sept. 18: Approaches to Death (GM chap.1)
 5. Wed. Sept. 20: Religions and Death (Hick, Smith)
 6. Mon. Sept. 25 :The Art of Dying (KR . Preface, chap. 1, 2)
 7. Wed. Sept. 27 :Experience and Dying (KR, chap. 3, 4)
 8. Mon. Oct. 2 :Process of Dying (KR chap. 5,6)(GM chap.2)
 9. Wed. Oct. 4: Final Stages (KR, chap.7)
 10. Wed. Oct. 11: Dying with Dignity (SN, chap.1,,2)(GM, chap 3)
 11. Mon. Oct. 16: Dying with Dignity (SN, chap 3)
 12. Wed. Oct. 18: Hospice [Jane Ashe] (Kuhl, Gentile)
 13. Mon. Oct. 23 : Suicide (SN, chap. 6) (GM chap. 4)
 14. Wed. Oct. 25 : Suicide (SN, chap. 7; Neale, Friend, Kriezer)
 15. Mon. Oct. 30 : Euthanasia (SN, chap. 4) (GM chap. 5) (Quill)
 16. Wed. Nov. 1 : Euthanasia (SN, chap. 5; Burt, Choosing Death)
 17. Mon. Nov. 6: AIDS (SN, chap. 8, 9)
 18. Wed. Nov. 8: Funerals (Newman, Ladner)
 19. Mon. Nov. 13 : Mourning (GM chap. 6; Lindemann, Sheehy)
 20. Wed. Nov. 15 : Jewish Practices of Mourning (GM chap 7)
 21. Mon. Nov. 20: Jewish Belief in Afterlife (Levenson, Lerner)
 22. Mon. Nov. 27 : Christian Practice of Mourning (GM chap 8; Harrison)
 23. Wed. Nov. 29 Christian Belief in Afterlife (Moran, Uniqueness, Sloyan)
 24. Mon. Dec. 4 : Muslim and Hindu Beliefs (Lapidus, Vatuk)
 25. Wed. Dec. 6: Christian, Muslim and Jewish Attitudes (GM chap 9)
 26. Mon. Dec.11: Last Things (Kriezer)
- Exam: Dec. 20

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

READING

I. The three main texts indicated above as

KR: Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, Death and Dying (New York: Macmillan, 1970).

SN: Sherwin Nuland, How We Die (New York: Morrow, 1994).

GM: Gabriel Moran, Talking about Dying (draft). The chapters are on the web site (www.nyu.edu/classes/gmoran).

Supplementary readings are indicated by author and are available on the web site.

A few other readings will be distributed in class.

3. A 13 page bibliography is on the web site

WRITING

I At the beginning of each class there will be a written exercise; it will be on the previous class and the reading for that day. Pick up the paper as you arrive in class and begin immediately. I will read and comment on the paper but will not put a grade on it. I will return the paper the following class. File the 25 written assignments; the final exam will be taken mainly from them.

2. Final Exam: Dec. 20

3. One reflective paper: due Oct. 11

a. An essay of 3-4 pages on Kubler-Ross's stages of dying; her method or approach to studying dying

b. what insights did you find that you might not have seen (or did not see) a few years ago

c. compare her stages to an experience in your own life (fictionalize if you prefer)

Course Procedure:

1. Class participation and familiarity with the assigned reading i
 2. I will try to vary the format with discussion, film clips and guest speakers.
 3. The grade for the course is based on the essay and the final exam;
class contribution including the written exercises might adjust the grade
 4. My office is Kimball Hall, 316; phone 998-5652; E-mail: gm3@nyu.edu
- Best time for appointments is usually Tues. afternoon or Wed. morning

Course Participants:

1. RENEE ALBULARIO
2. MOMO ARAKI
3. NICOLE BERGSTROM
4. CHRISTOS BIRKITT
- 5.
6. JAKE CLEMENTS
7. TERRY CRIST
8. CAMERON CURTIS
9. AISHA DUMO
10. KIMBERLY EHRLICH
- 11.
12. NICK FELICE
13. MAIA GLIKMAN
14. NIKKI GRILLOS
15. CHRISTOPH HOCHHEIM
16. ZACH HOLLWEDEL
17. LUKE HOWARD
18. JOANNE HSIEH
19. JENNA KAGEL
20. SUZANNE KOBE
21. DAN KORENTSTEIN
22. MEL LOWDEN
23. MARYA MCLAUGHLIN
24. CRISSY MCMORROW
- 25.
26. SAM MATHEWS
27. NANCY MELENDEZ
28. NICOLE MEVORAH
29. JESS MILLS
30. MUKHERJEE, JOYA
31. HARRIS NOVICK
- 32.
33. LAUREN SAVIT
34. KATE SAWYER
35. MAGGIE GRAY

