

Course: SOCW 0699. Grief and Loss

3 Credits

Instructor: Katherine Walsh, PhD, MSW, LICSW

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Office Hours: Monday 2-4, Tuesday 9-11, 2-4, Thurs 10-12, 2-4

Virtual Office: I check the virtual classroom every day and will return emails within 48 hours M-F.

Required Text: Walsh, Katherine . Grief and loss: Theories and skills for the helping professions (2nd edition) 2012. Allyn & Bacon/ Pearson. Isbn-10: 0205827098. 13: 9780205827091. Paperback

Course Description: This course equips the professional practitioner to respond effectively to individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities that have experienced both symbolic and tangible losses and accompanying grief reactions. The topics covered in the course include theories of normal and complicated grief, grief reactions and the factors that influence them at different stages of the life span, cultural and spiritual influences, vicarious trauma and the impact of loss and working in close contact with grief on professionals, and skills and strategies that address therapeutic needs of vulnerable and resilient populations experiencing grief.

Course Objectives:

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| 1. Identify one's own personal philosophy and values regarding death and loss and how these may impact on your work with individuals and families experiencing loss |
| 2. Identify and understand normal grief and factors that contribute to unresolved loss and complicated bereavement |
| 3. Describe the impact of different types of losses at different stages of the life cycle. |
| 4. Demonstrate sensitivity to, and awareness of, social and cultural attitudes and practices related to death and loss and describe how these influence coping with grief. |
| 5. Complete comprehensive assessments of normal and complicated grief and educate client systems about the therapeutic implications of each |
| 6. Describe diverse therapeutic interventions, including individual grief therapy and bereavement counseling as well as support groups and select and apply them according to the circumstances in which they may be used effectively |
| 7. Demonstrate increased comfort as well as knowledge about death, loss and grief |

Asynchronous: Students may complete weekly assignments at their own pace and in their own time, within the weekly assignment time frames.

Attendance/Participation Policy: Students are required to complete all activities and assignments including viewing videos, entering discussion responses and submitting journals in the week that they are assigned. These weekly activities constitute the

attendance and participation in this online course and grading is based on participation in these activities as well as satisfactory completion of all assignments.

Assignments: All activities will be posted in the weekly activities and assignments folders. Written assignments include weekly team/teacher discussion entries, reflective journal submissions, experiential exercises and Final Exam.

Methods of Instruction: The distance learning format of this course enables the student to view power point presentations and videos, listen to audiotapes and podcasts and utilize interactive internet-based resources at your home or office. A variety of videos and tapes are suggested which can be rented through video rental suppliers, including Netflix, or through your local public or WSU library. Videos with an asterick (*) next to them are those recommended for the module/week they appear under. (Only a few of these videos are available in streamed format through WSU's library or the Plato classroom so it is wise to plan ahead). Because not all videos may be obtainable from distant locations, more than one option is listed for each week. You may choose from the lists provided for each module and use your selection for online discussions and/or journal assignments.

Grading: Grading is based on the Department of Social Work grading criteria and policies. (See student handbook)

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| A | 93-100 | B | 83-86 | C | 73-76 | D | 60-66 |
| A- | 90-92 | B- | 80-82 | C- | 70-72 | F | 0-59 |
| B+ | 87-89 | C+ | 77-79 | D+ | 67-69 | | |

Students with disabilities: If you have a documented physical, learning, or psychological disability on record with Student Support Services, you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations to help you succeed in this course. It is your responsibility to request such accommodations in advance to provide appropriate documentation to the Director of Student Support Services. Please let us know of your request as soon as possible, so that we can work with you and the Director to arrange for reasonable accommodations.

Please note: The official course syllabus will be available to you once the course begins. The syllabus will further describe all weekly assignments, grading and methods of interaction among students and professor.

I look forward to learning with you!