TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC/SPOL 217

Special Topic:

Sociology of Dying & Death

Course Outline

CRN 11381/11382 : 20 POINTS : TRIM 3, 2012

Teaching dates: 19 November – 21 December 2012

COURSE COORDINATOR: DR ALLISON KIRKMAN
Room 1013, Murphy Building
Tel: (04) 463 5676
Email: allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: THURS 1.10PM – 3PM & FRI 10 – 11.50AM: HM LT002

COURSE COORDINATOR Allison Kirkman

Murphy Building, MY 1013

Tel: 04 463 5676

E-mail: allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz

OFFICE HOURS Thursday 11- 12MD or by appointment

LECTURES TIMES Thursday, 1.10 – 3pm

Friday, 10 – 11.50am

WORKSHOP TIMES Thursday, 3.10 – 4pm or Friday, 12 – 12.50,
HM LT002

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Head of School:	Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013
	Tel: 463 5676 E-m: Allison.Kirkman@vuw.ac.nz
International Student Liaison:	Dr Hal Levine MY1023
	Tel: 463 6132 E-m: Hal.Levine@vuw.ac.nz
Maori and Pacific Student Liaison:	Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101
	Tel: 463 5432 E-m: Trevor.Bradley@vuw.ac.nz
Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Trevor Bradley, MY 1101
	Tel: 463 5432 E-m: Trevor.Bradley@vuw.ac.nz
School Manager:	Carol Hogan, MY918
	Tel: 463 6546 E-m: Carol.Hogan@vuw.ac.nz
School Administrators:	Helen Beaglehole, Alison Melling, Suzanne Weaver
	MY921, Tel: 463 5317
	Email: sacs@vuw.ac.nz

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information related to the course will be available on the Blackboard website at http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz. If you have technical problems with Blackboard please contact the ITS service desk, ITS-ServiceDesk@vuw.ac.nz.

The School website can be found at: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

This course will explore sociological perspectives on dying and death. Topics will include: societal and cultural attitudes toward death and dying, the relationship of gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity and age to dying and death, technologies and rituals relating to dying and death. Special attention will be paid to dying and death in New Zealand.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course aims to introduce you to sociological approaches to the study of dying and death.

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. identify societal and cultural attitudes toward death and dying
2. identify sociological perspectives on death and dying
3. critically analyse the influence of gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity and age on dying and death
4. evaluate research methodologies for studying death and dying
5. **apply knowledge of death and dying to New Zealand society.**

COURSE MATERIAL FOR SOSC/SPOL 217

All required reading will be available through Blackboard and is listed below:

Week 1

Dew, Kevin and Allison Kirkman. 2002. Death and Dying. In *Sociology of Health in New Zealand.* Auckland: Oxford University Press, pp. 111-127 (ISBN 0195584546)

Howarth, Glennys. 2007. The Good Death. In *Death and Dying: A Sociological Introduction.* Cambridge: Polity, pp. 40-67 (ISBN 0745625347)

Frith, Hannah, Jayne Raisborough and Orly Klein. 2012. Making death 'good': instructional tales for dying in newspaper accounts of Jade Goody's death, *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 20(10): 1-15.

Didion, Joan. 2005. *The Year of Magical Thinking*. London: Fourth Estate, pp. 3-33 (ISBN 140004314X)

Week 2

Walter, Tony. 2012. Why different countries manage death differently: a comparative analysis of modern urban societies, *The British Journal of Sociology* 63 (1), pp. 123-145 (0007-1315)

Seymour, Jane. 1999. Revisiting medicalisation and 'natural' death. *Social Science and Medicine*, 49, pp. 691- 704 (ISSN: 0277-9536)

Seymour, Jane. 2001. Uncertain deaths: critical care and the modern hospital and A methodological note. In *Critical Moments: Death and Dying in Intensive Care*. Buckingham: Open University Press, pp. 7-32 (ISBN 0-335-20423-6)

Dew, Kevin. 2003. Who Decides Who Lives? In M. Hird and G. Pavlich, eds, *Sociology for the Asking*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 164-179 (ISBN 0195584309)

Week 3

Schafer, Cyril. 2007. Dead serious? Funeral Directing in New Zealand. *Sites* 4 (1), pp. 95-121 (ISSN: 1179-0237)

Watson, Bronwyn and Martin Tolich. 1996. Acquainted with Grief: Emotion Management Among Death Workers. *New Zealand Sociology* 11 (1), pp. 321-343 (ISSN 0112-921X)

Roseneil, Sasha. 2001. A moment of moral remaking: The death of Diana, Princess of Wales. In F. Webster, ed., *Culture and Politics in the Information Age: A new politics?* London: Routledge, pp. 96-114 (ISBN 0415246350)

Harper, Douglas. 2002. Talking about pictures: a case for photo elicitation. *Visual Studies* 17(1), pp. 13-26 (ISSN 1472-5878)

Week 4

Rugg, Julie. 2000. Defining the place of death: what makes a cemetery a cemetery? *Mortality* 5 (3), pp. 259-275 (ISSN 1357- 6275)

O'Neill, Kevin. 2012. There is no more room: cemeteries, personhood and bare death. *Ethnography* 13(4), pp. 510–530

Winter, Caroline. 2011. First World War Cemeteries: Insights from Visitor Books. *Tourism Geographies, 13*(3), pp. 462-479. (ISSN 1461-6688)

Buckham, Susan. 2003. Commemoration as an expression of personal relationships and

group identities: a case study of York Cemetery. *Mortality* 8(2), pp. 160-175 (ISSN 1357-6275)

Week 5
No prescribed readings

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

University guidelines stipulate that a 20 point 5 week course at 200-level should require 40 hours per week, including class time, of student work.

<u>Online discussion board</u>

During the course you are encouraged to use the Blackboard discussion board. This could be questions or comments about readings, the assessment or events or issues you have noted in the media. I will use the discussion board to respond to questions I am asked about assessment and other aspects of the course.

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawlsrefunds

LECTURE PROGRAMME

While attendance at lectures is not compulsory, students are expected to regularly attend lectures, and will find this an advantage if they do so.

Week 1	Introduction
22 November	Introduction to the course and information on assessment
22 November	Film: Deadly Business
23 November	How and when we die?
23 November	A 'good' death
Week 2	**Sudden death**
29 November	Sudden death
29 November	Intensive care and death
29 November	Life, death and a living transplant - Documentary
30 November	Organ donation and transplantation

30 November	Cancer and hospice care
30 November	Life, death and a living transplant - Documentary
Week 3	**Dying and death**
6 December	Sudden death (suicide)
6 December	Sudden death (suicide)
6 December	Workshop: The story of the quilt
7 December	Studying cemeteries
7 December	Fieldwork preparation
7 December	Workshop: The story of the quilt
Week 4	**Following death**
13 December	Managing grief and remembering
13 December	Documentary - Only human: life after death.
13 December	Documentary - Inside New Zealand, donated to science
14 December	Burial and Cremation
14 December	Burial and Cremation
14 December	Documentary - Inside New Zealand, donated to science
Week 5	**Culture, Ritual and Memorialisation**
20 December	Memorialisation
20 December	Culture and rituals Documentary – Tangihanga of the `Māori` Queen
20 December	Memorial sites on campus
21 December	Film - Departures
21 December	Film - Departures
21 December	Memorial sites on campus

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is internal and involves three pieces of work. The first is an assignment based on your own experiences, the second is a project based on your own fieldwork and the third is a blog of your reflections on your fieldwork.

All assessment items must be submitted electronically via Blackboard.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT HUMAN ETHICS

For the three items of assessment you must not undertake any research that involves human participants, that is any interviews, surveys, questionnaires or contact with anyone who works in the area of dying and death (e.g., police, hospital workers, hospice workers, funeral industry workers) or who has experienced this personally (e.g., friends and family). For these methods, which involve human participants, you need Human Ethics Committee approval and this has not been sought for the assessment for this course. Failure to comply with this will result in a fail grade.

Assignment 1   *Word Limit: 1500*   *Weighting: 30%*
Due: 4pm, Friday, 30 November

Identify an issue or situation that you have encountered that relates to either dying or death. This may be a personal experience or it may be something you have observed through the media. Describe the situation or issue and then analyse this example using the characteristics of what constitutes a 'good death' in New Zealand society. You should include a full bibliography with this assignment.

Project   *Word Limit 3500*   *Weighting: 50%*
Due: 4pm, Friday, 21 December

For this project you are expected to visit a cemetery or memorial. You should analyse the cemetery from a sociological perspective (this could include analysing it from one or more of the following – gender, age, sexuality, class, status, nature or type of situation). Your final project should contain visual images from the cemetery or memorial (See information on Fieldwork on Blackboard). You can also draw on other sources, such as online data bases associated with the cemetery, newspaper articles, or any other written or electronic sources. A full bibliography should be included.

Blog   *Word Limit 1500*   *Weighting: 20%*
Due: 4pm, Friday, 21 December

For your blog you are required to reflect on your experience of the fieldwork that you undertook for your project. This blog should include some of the following: the strengths and

limitations of the nonintrusive observations you made; and ethical issues you encountered and how you resolved them; and what you might do differently if you undertook this project again.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT

The forms of assessment will assist you to achieve the learning objectives outlined above and to develop skills in dealing with the study of the sociology of dying and death.

Assignment 1: Objectives 1 and 2

Project: Objectives 1,2,3,4,and 5

Blog: Objectives 4 and 5.

USE OF TURNITIN

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine http://www.turnitin.com. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENT

To be eligible to gain a pass in this course, students must:

- ☙ Submit the assignment, project and blog electronically to Blackboard.

PENALTIES FOR LATE SUBMISSION

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy undergraduate courses are subject to a penalty. The exact deduction will be calculated on the basis of one half mark per day late for each 10 marks, i.e. 1 mark will be deducted each day for an assignment worth 20% of the total course mark.

Note: assessment work will not be accepted for marking more than 7 days after the due date or 7 days after an approved extension date. Work must still, however, be submitted to meet the mandatory course requirements.

You are advised to always keep a copy of any work you submit for assessment.

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy , except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Student Learning and Support also run study skills workshops specific to Māori and Pasifika students which students could be referred to for help:

Information for Māori Students:
www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/maoristudents.aspx or
www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index

Information for Pasifika students:
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/pasifikastudents.aspx or
www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

A class representative will be recruited in consultation with the class at the beginning of the course. The class representative's name and contact details will be available to the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA), the course coordinator and the class (on BlackBoard). The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source

- The work of other students or staff

- Information from the internet

- Software programs and other electronic material

- Designs and ideas

- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism

ADDITIONAL READINGS

The following list provides further readings. 3DL refers to those books on 3 day loan.

The following two books provide an introduction to the sociology of dying and death:

Howarth, G. (2007). *Death and Dying: A Sociological Introduction*. Cambridge, Polity Press. 3DL

Seale, C. (1998). *Constructing Death: The Sociology of Dying and Bereavement*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. 3DL

General

Many introductory texts on sociology have a section on death and dying. Three are listed here. The first (Furze et al. is an Australasian text).

Furze, B., Savy, P., Brym, R. J., and Lie, J. (2008) *Sociology in today's world*. South Melbourne, Vic.,Cengage Learning Australia.3DL

Bilton, T.[et al.] with J. Stanyer and P. Stephens. (2002) *Introductory sociology.* New York, Palgrave.3DL

Macionis, J.J., and Plummer, K. (2002) *Sociology :a global introduction.* New York, Pearson Education.3DL

Classics in the Sociology of Dying and Death

Durkheim, E. (1951). *Suicide, a study in sociology*. Glencoe, Ill.,Free Press.

Glaser, B. G. and A. L. Strauss (1965). *Awareness of dying*. Chicago, Aldine.

Glaser, B. G. and A. L. Strauss (1968). *Time for dying*. Chicago, Aldine.

Glaser, B. G. and A. L. Strauss (2007). *Time for dying*. New Brunswick, NJ, Aldine. 3DL Transaction.

Sudnow, D. (1967). *Passing On: The Social Organisation of Dying*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall.

Death and Dying

Blackmore, S. J. (1993). *Dying to live: near-death experiences*. Buffalo, N.Y., Prometheus Books.

Carr, D. (2003). "A "Good Death" for Whom? Quality of Spouse's Death and Psychological Distress among Older Widowed Persons." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 44 (June): 215-232.

Charmaz, K., Howarth, G., and Kellehear, A. (eds) (1997) *The unknown country : experiences of death in Australia, Britain, and the USA*. New York, St. Martin's Press. 3DL

Clark, D. (ed) (1993) *The sociology of death: theory, culture, practice.* Oxford, Blackwell Publishers/The Sociological Review.

Davies, D. J. (2005). *A brief history of death*. Malden, MA Blackwell.

DeShazer, M. K. (2005). *Fractured borders: reading women's cancer literature*. Ann Arbor University of Michigan Press.

Dickenson, D. and M. L. Johnson (1993). *Death, dying and bereavement*. London;Newbury Park, Calif., Sage Publications in association with the Open University.

Green, J. W. (2008). *Beyond the good death: the anthropology of modern dying*. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press. 3DL

Hockey, J., Katz, J. and Small, N. (eds) (2001). *Grief, Mourning and Death Ritual*. Buckingham, Open University Press. 3DL

Howarth, G. (2000) Dismantling the boundaries between life and death, *Mortality* 5(2): 127-138.

Kearl, M. C. (1989). *Endings: a sociology of death and dying*. New York, Oxford University Press.

Kellehear, A. (1990). *Dying of cancer: the final year of life*. Chur [Switzerland]; New York,

Harwood Academic Publishers.

Kellehear, A. (2006). *A social history of dying*. New York, Cambridge University Press. 3DL

Timmermans, S. (1998). "Social Death as a Self-Fulfilling Prophecy: David Sudnow's Passing On Revisited." *The Sociological Quarterly* 39(3): 453-472.

Cultural and Ethnic Diversity

Irish, D. P., K. F. Lundquist, et al. (1993). *Ethnic variations in dying, death, and grief: diversity in universality*. Washington, DC Taylor & Francis.

Jackson, C. O. (1977). *Passing: the vision of death in America*. Westport, Conn., Greenwood Press.

Jalland, P. (2006). *Changing ways of death in twentieth-century Australia: war, medicine, and the funeral business*. Sydney, UNSW Press.

Leach, M. M. (2006). *Cultural diversity and suicide: ethnic, religious, gender, and sexual orientation perspectives*. New York, Haworth Press.

Parkes, C. M., Laungani, P. and Young, B. (eds) (1997). *Death and bereavement across cultures*. London, Routledge.

Robben, A. C. G. M. (2004). *Death, mourning, and burial: a cross-cultural reader*. Malden, MA Blackwell. 3DL

Rosenblatt, P. C., Walsh, R. P. and Jackson, D.A. (1976). *Grief and mourning in cross-cultural perspective*. New Haven, Conn., HRAF Press. 3DL

Intensive Care

Baird, R. M., and Rosenbaum, S. E. (eds) (2003) *Caring for the dying: critical issues at the edge of life*. Amherst, N.Y., Prometheus Books.

Hadders, H. (2007) Dealing with the dead patient at the intensive care unit, *Mortality* 12(3): 207-222.

Seymour, J. E., (2001) *Critical Moments – Death and Dying in Intensive Care*. Buckingham, Open University Press. 3DL

Seymour, J. E. (2000) Negotiating natural death in intensive care, *Social Science and Medicine* 51: 1241-1252.

Seymour, J. E. (1999) Revisiting medicalisation and 'natural' death, *Social Science and Medicine* 49: 691-704.

Hospice Care

Broom, A. and J. Cavenagh (2010). "Masculinity, moralities and being cared for: An exploration of experiences of living and dying in a hospice" *Social Science and Medicine*, 71 (5): 869-876.

Broom, A. and J. Cavenagh (2011). "On the meanings and experiences of living and dying in an Australian hospice" *Health* 15(1): 96-111.

Eschenbruch, N. (2006). *Nursing stories: life and death in a German hospice.* New York, Berghahn Books.

Froggatt, K. (1997) Rite of passage and hospice culture, *Mortality* 2 (2): 123-136.

Kubler-Ross, E. (1970). *On death and dying*. London, Tavistock.

Lawton, J. (1998) Contemporary Hospice Care: The Sequestration of the Unbounded Body and 'Dirty Dying', *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 20 (2): 121-143.

McNamara, B. (2004) Good enough death: autonomy and choice in Australian palliative care, Social Science and Medicine 58(5): 929-938.

Saunders, C. (1990). *Hospice and palliative care: an interdisciplinary approach*. Sevenoaks : Edward Arnold.

Remembering

Fowler, B. (2007) *The obituary as collective memory*. New York, Routledge.

Hallam, E and Hockey, J. (2001) *Death, memory and material culture*. Oxford, Berg. 3DL

Starck, N. (2006) *Life after death: the art of the obituary*. Carlton, Vic., Australia, Melbourne University Press.

Vanderstraeten. R. (2009) Modes of Individualisation at Cemeteries. *Sociological Research Online*, 14 (4): <http://www.socresonline.org.uk/14/4/10.html>.

Burial and Cremation

Davies, D. J. and L. H. Mates (2005). *Encyclopedia of cremation*. Aldershot, England Ashgate.

Grainger, H. J. (2005). *Death redesigned :British crematoria, history, architecture and landscape*. Reading Spire Books.

Prothero, S. R. (2001). *Purified by fire: a history of cremation in America*. Berkeley University of California Press.

End of Life Issues

Birnbacher, D. and E. Dahl, Eds. (2008). *Giving death a helping hand: physician-assisted suicide and public policy. An international perspective*. Dordrecht, Springer.

Hillyard, D. and Dombrink, J. (2001). *Dying right: the death with dignity movement*. New York Routledge.

Radley, A. and Payne, S. (2009) A sociological commentary on the refusal of treatment by patients with cancer, *Mortality* 14(4): 309-324.

Warnock, M. and E. Macdonald (2008). *Easeful death: is there a case for assisted dying?* Oxford, Oxford University Press. 3DL

Young, R. (2007). *Medically assisted death*. Cambridge Cambridge University Press.

Yount, L. (2007). *Right to die and euthanasia*. New York NY Facts on File.

New Zealand

Budge, P. (1988). *Te Omanga Hospice : the genesis*. Lower Hutt, P. Budge.

Davey, J. (1998) 'Death' in *Tracking Social Change in New Zealand*. Wellington, Institute of Policy Studies, 219-234.

Schafer, C. (2007) Post-mortem personalization: pastoral power and the New Zealand funeral director, *Mortality* 12(1): 4-21.

Schwass, M (2005). *Last words : approaches to death in New Zealand's cultures and faiths*. Wellington, Bridget Williams Books with the Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand.

Wood, S., P. Fox, et al. (2006). *Dying: a New Zealand guide for the journey*. Auckland Calico Pub.

Journals

Useful journals in the VUW Library are:

Sociology of Health and Illness
Social Science and Medicine
Journal of Near-Death Studies
Death Studies
Mortality

School of Social and Cultural Studies

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
CRIMINOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY

Assignment Cover Sheet

(please write legibly)

Full Name: _____
(Last name)   *(First name)*

Student ID:_____ **Course (eg ANTH101):** _____

Tutorial Day: _____ **Tutorial Time:** _____

Tutor's name:_____

Assignment Due Date: _____

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY
I certify that this paper submitted for assessment is the result of my own work, except where otherwise acknowledged.

Signed: _____ Date: _____