

# Funeral Service Psych/Counsel

MORT - 2330 001

## Required Text or Materials

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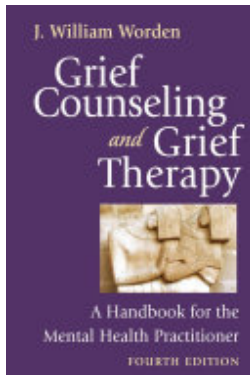
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**Title: Funeral Service Psychology and Counseling**

**ISBN:** 9780964796737

**Authors:** Ralph L. Klicker

**Publication Date:** 2007-01-01



**Title: Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy, Fourth Edition**

**ISBN:** 9780826101211

**Authors:** J. William Worden, PhD, ABPP

**Publisher:** Springer Publishing Company

**Publication Date:** 2008-08-11

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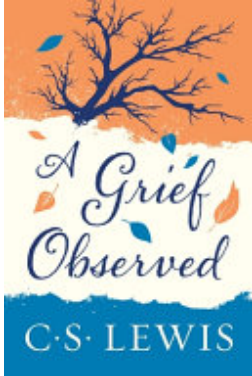
**Title: The Psychosocial Aspects of Death and Dying, 2nd Edition**

**ISBN:** 9780997926156

**Authors:** John D. Canine

**Publication Date:** 2019-05-01

**Title: Grief Observed**



**ISBN:** 9780060652388

**Authors:** C. S. Lewis

**Publisher:** Zondervan

**Publication Date:** 2001-02-06

**Edition:** Most any edition should be fine.

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at [ads@slcc.edu](mailto:ads@slcc.edu).

## Course Student Learning Outcomes

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- Promote the value and purpose of the funeral rite.
- Recognize and differentiate between grief counseling and grief therapy and identify the limitations of the funeral director.
- Explain theories of grief.
- Differentiate and explain the types and styles of bereavement counseling.
- Describe and apply bereavement counseling techniques.
- Recognize and manage reactions and responses experienced during grief.
- Evaluate and explain how grief affects the functioning of the family.
- Analyze issues relating to children and death.
- Identify and apply psychological concepts in funeral service.
- Recognize, and evaluate the pre-need, at-need, and post-need counseling opportunities in the community.
- Compare and assess personal resources for coping with loss.
- Recognize when to make referrals to appropriate community resources.

## Course Content Advisory

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Past or current life experiences, may make material and/or assignments emotionally upsetting. If this is the case, please contact me. Course content includes topics of many manners and causes of death including but not limited to homicide, suicide, traumatic or sudden death, fetal and infant death, etc.

## Attendance and Participation

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You are expected to be in class unless you have a serious illness or an emergency. Notifying the instructor does not mean the absence is excused. The attendance policy is outlined in the Mortuary Science Program Handbook.

## Engagement Plan

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- I will respond to emails within 48 hours, Monday through Friday. The best way to contact me is via the Canvas Inbox.
- Communication with students will take place during class, through Canvas, and assignment feedback. If you do not get personal feedback on an assignment but would like some, please request it.

## Brief Description of Assignments/Exams

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**ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments, due dates, and specific instructions are found on Canvas in the Modules. Spelling, grammatical, and punctuation errors can affect your grade. **Late work is not accepted and will receive zero points.** If there are extenuating circumstances why your work is going to be late, you must let me know BEFORE the assignment is due if possible. It is up to the instructor's discretion to accept late work.

**EXAMS AND QUIZZES:** Quizzes cover the material from the last quiz up through the material being covered the day of the quiz. Students can miss one exam per class per semester and the points from that exam will not factor into their final grade. If they miss additional exams, they will get a zero on that exam. The classroom door will be locked when exams start. Anyone arriving to class late will not be allowed to take the exam. When students are done with an exam or quiz, they can stay at their desk doing something that does not involve using a device (computer, tablet, cell phone, etc.) or they can leave the classroom. If they leave, they cannot come back in until everyone has

finished the exam or quiz so as not to disrupt those still taking the exam. Quiz and exam results will be locked until the class period is over. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. The midterm and final exams are ONLY given on the scheduled days. Questions will be derived from the textbook, lecture, class discussions, and material on Canvas.

## Accommodated Testing

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If you have a testing accommodation for double time or minimal distraction from Accessibility and Disability Services, you are required to take all exams in an SLCC Testing Center at the same time the exam is being given in class. Instructions are on the “How to Schedule an Accommodated Testing Appointment” page in the “Getting Started” module of the course.

All exams and quizzes are administered on Canvas. Those with a testing accommodation have the option of taking quizzes in class or in the Testing Center. Quizzes are given at the end of class and have a time limit of 10 minutes. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the Testing Center information and to schedule the appointment with the Testing Center.

## Grading Scale

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FINAL GRADES WILL BE COMPUTED AS FOLLOWS:

100 – 95 = A

94 – 90 = A-

89 – 87 = B+

86 – 83 = B

82 – 80 = B-

79 – 78 = C+

77 – 75 = C

74 – 71 = C-

70 – 67 = D+

66 – 64 = D

63 and below = E

## Academic Integrity

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Plagiarism, which can include the use of generative artificial intelligence, is the writing equivalent of stealing or passing off another's work as your own. Rather than properly citing and documenting a source, the student copies the source word for word or modifies what was written to make it appear as though the work is original to them.

**GENERATIVE AI POLICY:** Generative artificial intelligence (AI) software (e.g., ChatGPT) is a rapidly emerging tool that students may be interested in using. However, I am interested in reading YOUR thoughts and opinions. The use of Generative artificial intelligence is not allowed in this course and is considered a form of academic dishonesty. SLCC students are expected to adhere to the same standards as the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities statement on plagiarism. Presenting generative AI software content as your own violates academic integrity.

Anyone caught cheating will be penalized, possibly receiving an F in the course and/or being dismissed from the Program. If two students turn in the same work for an assignment that was to be completed individually, both will earn a "0" for that assignment. All students are expected to follow the SLCC Student Code of Conduct.

## Civil Learning Environment

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The manner in which we behave and treat others impacts everyone and our learning environment. These policies are intended to benefit each of us.

- Students are to attend class every time we meet and be seated and prepared to participate when class begins. Arriving late disrupts other students, the instructor, and means the person arriving late misses important material.

- Adhere to the Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy in the Mortuary Science Program Student Handbook.
- Respect: One person talks at a time. Side conversations are not allowed. Please raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking. While you are entitled to your own opinion, you need to communicate your viewpoints in a respectful and professional manner. You are expected to respect the opinions, beliefs, and comments of others. This includes avoiding non-verbal signals of disrespect such as eye-rolling. Much can be learned by considering what others have to say and refraining from judgment. We will discuss difficult and sensitive topics. Communicating in a civil manner is especially important during these discussions.
- Confidentiality: Personal stories/experiences shared in this class are to be kept confidential. Do not share these stories or experiences with others without first receiving permission from the person who shared them.
- Food in class: You may bring food to class, but if it becomes a disturbance to anyone, you will need to put it away.
- End of class: Please do not pack your belongings up before class ends. It is disruptive and gives the impression you are done listening.
- As your instructor, I will:
  1. Have assignment material posted on Canvas at least one week before assignments are due.
  2. Respect you and your opinions.
  3. Do what I can to help you succeed in this course.
  4. Check Canvas at least once a day, Monday – Friday.
  5. Respond to your messages within 48 hours Monday – Friday.
  6. Grade your assignments within one week of the assignment due date.
  7. Start class on time.
  8. Give you a five-minute break during class. Please remind me if we have not had a break after 50 minutes.

## Course Schedule

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Textbooks:

- FSPC = Funeral Service Psychology and Counseling - Klicker
- GCGT = Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy - Worden
- PADD = The Psychosocial Aspects of Death and Dying - Canine

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lesson # - Quiz/Exam</b>	<b>Material Covered</b>
Aug 26	1	Review syllabus and assignments; Course overview; Personal experiences
Aug 28	2	Overview of basic psychology – Part I
Sep 2	3	Overview of basic psychology – Part II
Sep 4	4	Funeral Service Psychology and Counseling; Needs of the Bereaved (FSPC Chaps 1 & 2)
Sep 9	5 - Quiz #1	Purposes and Value of the Funeral; Theories of Grief; Comparing and Contrasting Reactions to Loss; Manifestations of Grief (FSPC 3 & 4; PADD 8 & 12)
Sep 11	6	Normal Grief Reactions; Attachment, Loss and the Experience of Grief; Understanding the Mourning Process (FSPC 5; GCGT 1 & 2); Video – Beyond Death's Door
Sep 16	7	Determinants of Grief; The Mourning Process: Mediators of Mourning; Circumstantial Factors Influencing Grief (FSPC 6; GCGT 3; PADD 11)
Sep 18	In-class reading	Bring your copy of "A Grief Observed"
Sep 23	In-class reading	Bring your copy of "A Grief Observed"
Sep 25	8 - Quiz #2	Complicated Grief; Abnormal Grief Reactions: Complicated Mourning; Grief Therapy: Resolving Complicated Mourning (FSPC 7; PADD 5 & 6)
Sep 30	9	Abnormal Grief and Why Some People Do Not Grieve; Therapeutic Strategies for the Bereaved (PADD 13 & 14); Review for Midterm

Oct 2	Grief Experience Presentations	<i>Practice your presentation and look at the rubric in advance</i>
Oct 7	10 - Quiz #3	Children and Death; Explaining Death to Children (FSPC 8 & 9)
Oct 9	Guest Speaker from The Sharing Place	<b>Professional Dress Day</b>
Oct 14	11	Grief and Family Systems (FSPC 10; GCGT 8)
Oct 16	<b>Fall Break - No Class</b>	<b>So, don't come to class</b>
Oct 18	Dia de los Muertos Set-up	<b>This is on a Saturday - Extra credit opportunity</b>
Oct 21	Movie Day!	<i>The Bucket List</i>
Oct 23	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>Bring your computer to class</b>
Oct 28	12	Counseling; Essential Interpersonal Skills for the Counselor; Characteristics of a Good Counselor; Grief Counseling: Facilitating Uncomplicated Grief (FSPC 11, 12 & 13; GCGT 4)
Oct 30	13 - Quiz #4	A Rationale for a Multidisciplinary Support System; Counseling Techniques for Helping the Bereaved; Models of Bereavement Aftercare; Aftercare (PADD 18, 19, & 20; FSPC 16)
Nov 4	Guest Speaker: Professional Counselor	<b>Professional Dress Day</b>
Nov 6	14	Grieving Special Types of Losses; Nonstandard Deaths: Grief and Aftercare (GCGT 7; PADD 21)
Nov 7	Dia de los Muertos Take-down	<b>This is on a Friday - Extra credit opportunity</b>
Nov 11	Movie Day!	<i>Rabbit Hole</i> - Look at the assignment on Canvas in advance
Nov 13	15	Topics from "Companioning the Bereaved" by Alan Wolfelt



Nov 18	<b>Funeral Service Psychology and Counseling Vocabulary Exam</b>	<b>Bring your computer to class</b>
Nov 20	The Art of Mourning Presentations	Practice your presentation and look at the rubric in advance
Nov 25	D.E.A.D. Practice	
Nov 27	<b>Thanksgiving - No Classes</b>	<b>Alright you turkeys, don't be showing up for class!</b>
Dec 2	16	Holiday Help
Dec 4	17	Intervention Strategies for Grief Counselors; Crisis Intervention Counseling; Making funeral arrangements – how you can help and keeping their grief in mind (FSPC 14 & 15)
Dec 9	18 - Quiz #5	Funeral Director's Own Grief; Stress and the Funeral Director; Taking Care of the Caregiver; The Counselor's Own Grief (FSPC 17, 18, & 19; GCGT 9)
Dec 11	Research paper presentations; Review for Final Exam	Practice your presentation and look at the rubric in advance
Dec 18	<b>Final Exam 9:10 - 11:10 a.m.</b>	<b>Bring your computer to class</b>

## Instructional Continuity Plan in the Case of College Closure

Instructional delivery, course requirements, deadlines, and grading policies are subject to change in the event of a campus closure that disrupts academic activities. In case of such an event, your instructor will communicate information about course changes as soon as possible via email or Canvas.

## Keys for Success (how to succeed in the course)

Do NOT put things off until the day assignments are due. Look at they course schedule so you are aware of required readings and homework, quizzes, exams, and when professional dress is required.

Turn homework in on time.

## Pregnancy

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SLCC values inclusive learning environments and strives to make all aspects of the College accessible to our students. If you have a disability and believe you need accommodations to improve access to learning materials or the learning environment, please contact Access and Disability Services. Although pregnancy is not a disability, our ADS advisors are trained to assist with pregnancy related accommodations in addition to disability related accommodations. We strongly recommend any student who is pregnant or becomes pregnant while in the program notify the ADS. This will allow preventative measures to be taken, safety process in place to protect the student and the unborn child and allow for accommodations. Due to risk of fetal exposure to radiation and chemicals while in some programs it is strongly recommended that all pregnant students work closely with the ADS. Phone: 801-957-4659. Email: [ads@slcc.edu](mailto:ads@slcc.edu). Website: [www.slcc.edu/drc](http://www.slcc.edu/drc)

## Learning Support and Tutoring Services

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We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

## How to Navigate to Canvas

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## Advising and Counseling Support Services

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At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

## Assignment Schedule

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Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	<a href="#">Introduce Yourself</a>	Discussion	0
	<a href="#">Introduce Yourself</a>	Discussion	0
	<a href="#">Miscellaneous Extra Credit</a>	Assignment	0
9/3/25	<a href="#">The Potter's Field (Due by Lesson 4)</a>	Assignment	10
9/9/25	<a href="#">Quiz #1</a>	Quiz	15
9/15/25	<a href="#">Counseling or Psychology Article Summary (Due by Lesson 7)</a>	Assignment	25
9/24/25	<a href="#">A Grief Observed</a>	Assignment	15
9/25/25	<a href="#">Quiz #2</a>	Quiz	10
10/2/25	<a href="#">Grief Experience Presentation</a>	Assignment	15
10/7/25	<a href="#">Quiz #3</a>	Quiz	8
10/22/25	<a href="#">The Bucket List</a>	Assignment	10

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
10/23/25	<a href="#">Midterm Exam</a>	Quiz	100
10/30/25	<a href="#">Quiz #4</a>	Quiz	10
10/30/25	<a href="#">Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Ofrenda</a>	Assignment	5
11/12/25	<a href="#">Rabbit Hole</a>	Assignment	13
11/18/25	<a href="#">Funeral Service Psychology and Counseling Vocabulary Exam</a>	Quiz	80
11/18/25	<a href="#">Set up/Take down Dia de los Muertos altar - Extra credit (up to 10 points)</a>	Assignment	0
11/19/25	<a href="#">Mourning Art</a>	Assignment	10
12/9/25	<a href="#">Quiz #5</a>	Quiz	10
12/9/25	<a href="#">Funeral Service Psychology and Counseling Paper</a>	Assignment	90
12/11/25	<a href="#">Funeral Service Psychology and Counseling Paper Presentation</a>	Assignment	15
12/11/25	<a href="#">Homeless at the End - Extra credit (up to 10 points)</a>	Assignment	0
12/18/25	<a href="#">Final Exam</a>	Quiz	100

## Student Academic Calendar

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As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)

## Institutional Policies

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As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

## College Wide Student Learning Outcomes

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- Acquiring substantive knowledge in the field of their choice
- Developing quantitative literacies
- Developing the knowledge and skills to be civically engaged
- Thinking critically
- Communicating effectively