**CARLETON UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

SOCI 2810B/ANTH 2815B

**WINTER 2024**

**DEATH AND DYING**

**Instructor:** Mehrnaz Golestaneh

**Email:** [mehrnazgolestaneh@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:mehrnazgolestaneh@cmail.carleton.ca)

**Method of Delivery:** In-person

**Course Description:**

Do you believe in the right to die? Do you wonder how participants at a funeral are encouraged to raise a glass and cheerfully talk about a departed mother or partner? Do you question how a person decides to participate in a dark tour? Do you remember the movies or cartoons that shaped your feelings about end-of-life experiences? Have you ever received caregiving and death education?

This course explores a range of contemporary, historical, cross-cultural, and interdisciplinary perspectives on the sociology and anthropology of death and dying.

Death is a universal and unavoidable experience, meanwhile, we usually think about it as a deeply personal and private experience. No wonder this topic is normally absent in day-to-day conversations.

To fill the gap, this course is an invitation to think critically and analytically about social aspects of mortality. Dying and Death research in Canada demonstrates that on one hand how we live influences how we die, and our socio/cultural view has a deep effect on how we behave when confronted with dying and death. On the other hand, the end of life is a profound social component that colors our experience of everyday life as social beings.

In this course, we seek to answer questions such as:

How death and dying have been viewed throughout history.

What is the impact of death and dying during different life stages, by different means, and within different cultures?

How contemporary controversial issues such as physician-assisted death will change the future?

How has the COVID-19 pandemic changed the worldview on death?

We will address these and other questions by reading textbooks and articles, through class discussions and debates, watching films, and collecting information using the Internet.

**Reading (s)/Textbook (s):**

**Textbook #1**

1. Northcott, H.C., & Wilson, D.M. (2021). Dying and death in Canada (4th ed.) University of Toronto Press.

(Reserved on Carleton library)

2. Any additional readings will be posted onto the BS.

**Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Attendance and Participation 20%
2. Problem based learning 20%
3. Midterm 30%
4. Presentation 10%
5. Final Assignment 20%