



COURSE OUTLINE: THN101 - THANATOLOGY

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Approved: Rebecca Keown - Dean

Course Code: Title	THN101: THANATOLOGY
Program Number: Name	3401: HONOURS BSCN 3405: BSCN BRIDGE
Department:	BSCN - NURSING
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	<p>This course introduces students to a wide range of theories, research, and issues related to death and dying in Canada. Students will study how perspectives on death and dying have changed through history, how psychosocial and spiritual concepts are integral to understanding death and dying, and how individual responses to death and dying are highly personal and subject to context and circumstance. Students will learn cultural sensitivity by studying variations in beliefs and rituals surrounding death and dying. End-of-life care and related options will be discussed, including palliative care, medical assistance in dying, and the pursuit of a 'good death'. Students will consider models and theories on grief and bereavement and will review the roles and realities of the caregivers involved in death and dying. There is an emphasis on self-reflection and self-care as students learn about these concepts and integrate them into their personal and professional lives.</p>
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	36
Prerequisites:	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	<p>3401 - HONOURS BSCN</p> <p>VLO 4 Contribute to the nursing profession and healthcare through the practice of critical inquiry, self-reflection, and a commitment to professional growth through lifelong learning.</p> <p>3405 - BSCN BRIDGE</p> <p>VLO 4 Contribute to the nursing profession and healthcare through the practice of critical inquiry, self-reflection, and a commitment to professional growth through lifelong learning.</p>
Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	<p>EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.</p> <p>EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.</p> <p>EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.</p> <p>EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.</p>



	EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.
General Education Themes:	Social and Cultural Understanding Personal Understanding
Course Evaluation:	Passing Grade: 50%, A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.
Books and Required Resources:	Dying and Death in Canada by Northcott, Herbert C. & Wilson, Donna M. Publisher: University of Toronto Press Edition: 4th ISBN: 9781487509279

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:	Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1
	1. Describe historical and contemporary perspectives on death and dying in Canada.	1.1 Review literature on death and dying among Indigenous Peoples in Canada in the pre-contact era. 1.2 Describe death and dying in Canada following the arrival the Europeans. 1.3 Analyze death and dying in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries. 1.4 Discuss current mortality rates and causes of death by age in Canada. 1.5 Examine how historical and contemporary perspectives are portrayed in media and popular culture. 1.6 Reflect on personal attitudes and perspectives on death and dying in Canada and the factors that shape them.
	Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
	2. Identify cultural, religious, and spiritual beliefs and traditions related to death and dying.	2.1 Define and differentiate between culture, religion, and spirituality. 2.2 Discuss beliefs and practices about death and dying according to various cultures and religions from around the world. 2.3 Examine Western, Non-Western, and Indigenous Peoples' traditions related to death and dying. 2.4 Review how the legal system in Canada is related to cultural, religious, and/or spiritual practices in death and dying. 2.5 Demonstrate appropriate cultural, religious, and spiritual sensitivity, allowing for individual variability in a multicultural society.
	Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
	3. Analyze end-of-life concepts, practices, and options available in Canada and evaluate their impacts on a `good death` .	3.1 Differentiate between end-of-life care, palliative care, hospice care, and curative care. 3.2 Examine the concept of a `good death` . 3.3 Review the history of palliative care in Canada. 3.4 Evaluate the World Health Organization definition of palliative care and consider how physical, spiritual, and psychosocial components of care can be addressed.

	<p>3.5 Discuss how palliative care can involve a multidisciplinary team of professionals, friends, family, and volunteers.</p> <p>3.6 Describe where end-of-life care can and does take place, including hospices, and how these locations can impact the dying process.</p> <p>3.7 Explain the history and policies associated with Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada and how this may relate to a `good death` for some.</p> <p>3.8 Examine what an advance care plan can entail as well as how and when they are used in Canada.</p>
Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
<p>4. Examine the roles and responses of caregivers in death and dying, including caregiver fatigue and burnout.</p>	<p>4.1 Identify the variety of caregivers in death and dying, both professional and non-professional.</p> <p>4.2 Review credentialing and training in death and dying, including thanatology.</p> <p>4.3 Discuss professional communication best practices including the therapeutic relationship.</p> <p>4.4 Describe the impact of repeated losses on professional death and dying caregivers.</p> <p>4.5 Define caregiver fatigue/burnout and discuss strategies to mitigate it.</p> <p>4.6 Investigate resources and options for caregivers experiencing fatigue and burnout.</p>
Course Outcome 5	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5
<p>5. Describe loss, grief, and bereavement and the conceptual models that have been designed to explain these concepts.</p>	<p>5.1 Distinguish between loss, grief, and bereavement.</p> <p>5.2 Recognize that grief and loss are a normal part of life.</p> <p>5.3 Review models and theories of grief.</p> <p>5.4 Analyze how grief models have changed over time and how they promote or inhibit peoples` unique experiences.</p> <p>5.5 Reflect on communication strategies that would support a grieving individual.</p> <p>5.6 Identify healthy coping strategies and resources available for grieving individuals.</p> <p>5.7 Discuss how and why complicated grief arises and when professional help may be necessary.</p>

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Final Test	25%
Learning Activities	20%
Midterm Test	25%
Reflections	30%

Date: August 14, 2025

Addendum: Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.

