



**Spring 2017
End of Life Issues
Syllabus**

Course Title

End of Life Issues/ HPRS 1303

Instructor:

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Feel free to contact me via Blackboard messages or phone with any questions or concerns.

Textbook

Hard Choices for Loving People, Sixth Edition, Hank Dunn, Publishers.

www.hardchoices.com (ISBN 978-0-997261-20-2)

Course Description

This 3-credit course is an intermediate level course for students preparing for a career in healthcare and healthcare professionals involved in the care of clients. This course is designed to prepare caregivers to function in settings where communications skills are utilized to provide psychosocial support to dying persons and their families. We will discuss grief, loss, and issues related to end of life.

Prerequisites: None. This course should only be considered transferable as an elective.

Technical Requirements:

1. **Technical competence** required of students includes e-mail messaging, Blackboard navigation, downloads, attachments, word processing, and printing capabilities for handouts and other class materials.
2. **Computer hardware and software requirements** for this class includes desktop or laptop computer with capability for word processing (Microsoft Word preferred), internet access, audio and video media playback, and electronic messaging. The GCC library has computer access for students who may be unable to access the required technology.
3. **Alternative procedures for submitting** work in the event of technical breakdowns will require that students contact the professor and request an extension for the assignment deadline. The professor and student will establish a reasonable method for submitting work as needed.

Learning Outcomes (WECM)

The student will be able to:

Describe and discuss the end of life experience; demonstrate appropriate communication skills and concepts of interaction with the dying person and their family; and identify legal issues that impact end of life decisions.

General Course Objectives

The course objectives are based on the idea of “putting knowledge to work.” A sound knowledge base in legal and ethical concepts and healthcare is incorporated with the Workplace Competencies and Foundation Skills identified as essential for good job performance by the Secretary’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS).

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Allocate his/her time through independent completion of unit objectives and assignments.
 - a. SCANS skills: 1a, 6a,b, 7a-f, 8a-e
2. Organize and maintain information through completion of unit objectives and preparation for exams.
 - a. SCANS skills: 3b, 6a,b, 7a-f, 8a-e
3. Interpret and communicate information through research and presentation of Discussion Questions.
 - a. SCANS skills: 3c, 6a,b, 7a-f, 8a-e
4. Engage in independent research on selected Discussion Questions.
 - a. SCANS skills: 3a,d, 6a,b, 7a-f, 8a-e
5. Use computers to process information through completion of Unit Objectives and preparation for exams.
 - a. SCANS skills: 3d, 6a,b, 7a-f, 8a-e
6. Demonstrate self-management by maintaining a schedule which will enable the student to complete the course requirements in a timely manner.
 - a. SCANS skills: 8d, 6a,b, 7a-f, 8a-e
7. Demonstrate integrity and honesty through ethical communication, test-taking and submission of work.
 - a. SCANS skills: 8e, 6a,b, 7a-f, 8a-e

Methods of Instruction

Each unit of study will be defined as to the key terms, concepts & learning objectives. Since this is an Internet course, emphasis is placed on active, independent learning by the student. Students must assume responsibility for the completion of learning objectives in a timely manner.

Guided learning is provided by means of:

1. Online self-study learning modules and quizzes.
2. Online discussion questions and student discussion over subjects..
3. General guidance and support during the course of study.

Evaluation Methods:

<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Percent of Course Grade</u>
Four (4) Exams	50%
Class participation in Discussion Questions See grading rubric	50%

Testing Procedure

All students are expected to take tests within the specified time frame. Tests will be posted within the course and will be available for students until midnight on the due date.

Required Participation in Discussion Question Forums

Students are required to actively participate by communicating with the class. Aside from the designated topics, informal discussions may include subjects related to legal and ethical dilemmas related to end of life issues from the news, professional journals, Internet, etc... The instructor will post the discussion questions and monitor the discussion. The instructor will not provide a response to every student for every post but will intervene in order to facilitate appropriate discussion. See the [Discussion Question Grading Rubric](#) for more specific information.

Students are expected to adhere to proper netiquette and treat each other with dignity and respect. For more information on netiquette, please visit <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/> .

Grading Policy

A standard grading scale based on a maximum of 100% is used to determine the student's final grade:

A	100%	to	89.5%
B	< 89.5%	to	79.5%
C	< 79.5%	to	74.5%
D	< 74.5%	to	64.5%
F	< 64.5%	to	0%

Attendance Policy

This is an Internet-based course. The student is required to complete written assignments and tests according to the course schedule. All class work will be on line.

It is the responsibility of students with any special needs contact the Disability Services Coordinator in the Learning Assistance Center no later than the first week of class. Once appropriate documentation for the disability is received, the Disability Services coordinator will coordinate delivery of approved accommodations with students and their instructors.

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. Any changes in email or phone numbers must be communicated promptly throughout the semester.

Grayson College is not responsible for any illness/injury that occurs during the normal course of classroom activities

Discussion Question Grading Rubric

This rubric is to provide you with guidance as you interact with others in the discussion forums.

Discussion Area	Excellent	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Response to Main Discussion Questions	90 -100pts – Includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 100-250 word response to discussion question. Posting is clear and concise. Well-developed ideas; introduces new ideas; stimulates discussion. 	70 – 89 pts – Depends on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 99-150 word response to discussion question. Posting is clear and concise. Developing ideas; sometimes stimulates discussion. 	69-0pts – Depends on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Confusing comments, poorly developed ideas which do not add to discussion. (“Nice work” or “I agree” don’t count as a response). Minimal response to discussion question. Does not answer at all.
Response to fellow student’s discussions	Includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 50-word minimum per response to others. Response to at least 3 (three) other students’ postings. Student follows netiquette standards and uses appropriate grammar & spelling. 	Depends on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 25-word minimum per response to others. Response to at least 2 (two) other students’ postings. Student follows netiquette standards and may have some problems with grammar & spelling. 	Depends on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Two or more criteria not met. Does not answer at all.

Week	Topics, Readings, Assignment Schedule
1	End of Life Reading, Power Point Slides and Introductions
2	DNR decisions, Power Points, Case Study, Discussion #1
3	Pain and Symptom Management, Readings and Power points, Test 1 (covers weeks 1,2, and 3)
4	CPR, Artificial Hydration and Nutrition. Chapters 1 and 2
5	Cure sometimes, Comfort Always, Chapter 3 and 4 in "Hard Choices". Discussion question #2
6	Advance Directive Readings, Test 2
7	Ethical, Legal Issues, Power Point
8	Cultural Considerations in End of Life , Discussion question # 3
9	Communications, Readings and Power Points
10	Grief, Loss, Bereavement , Readings and Power Points, Test 3
11	Achieving Quality Care at the End of Life, Readings, Power Points
12	Forgoing treatments, Euthanasia, Physician Assisted Suicide Discussion question #4
13	Slides on preparation at the time of death,
14	Read chapter 5 in Hard Choices book: The Journey of Letting Go. Test 4
15	End of Life Decisions for Yourself