

McGill University  
EDPC 508

***DEMYSTIFYING DEATH & DYING***

All individuals who work with people will benefit from the opportunity to explore their reactions, thoughts and feelings to death and dying. It is only by examining one's own responses and coming to terms with one's own mortality that one can effectively help and understand another's loss.

**Course Design**

This course will provide a broad, multidisciplinary approach to death and dying. It is intended to assist students to become aware of personal ideas, attitudes and viewpoints in order to better understand the impact on individuals, the family, the community and society.

Lecture and discussion formats will provide the student with information concerning such issues as the dying process, the grief process, violent death, AIDS, legal and ethical issues. Structured learning exercises will provide students with a framework to assist them in exploring and discussing such death-related issues as: life and death symbolisms, cross-cultural influences on death practices, death rituals, children and death, death as a personal experience.

**Course Objectives**

1. To aid students in clarifying their beliefs, feelings, and thoughts about death and dying.
2. To encourage students to explore and exchange their knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes about human mortality.
3. To provide students with the opportunity to share information, clarify values and examine personal coping behavior.
4. To provide relevant data in the field of thanatology.
5. To provide the opportunity for personal growth.

**Dates:** May 2 - June 20, 2007

**Time:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m.

**Instructor:** Dawn Cruchet, BN, MEd, CT

**Contact:** tel.: 514.232.3592  
email: dawncruchet@sympatico.ca

**Required:**

***Textbook:*** DeSpelder, L. & Strickland, A. (2005). The last dance: Encountering death and dying. (7th ed.). Mountain view, CA: Mayfield Publishing.

***Course pack*** EDPC 508