

Clayton State University
 PSYC 3800 – Grief and Bereavement
 Fall Semester 2010

Tentative Class Schedule

Please note that this document is not carved in stone and will be readjusted as dictated by class needs. We will not cover all the chapters of the texts, nor will we cover the chapters in the order in which they are printed in the text. Please print out this class schedule and get an revisions if a class has to be missed.

* GRH = Grief Recovery Handbook text

| Date | Topics | Chapter Readings | Assignments for the following week |
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| August 17 | What is Grief? | Worden: Introduction | Reaction Paper #1: Why have grief and loss education? Why NOT have grief and loss education? What comes to your mind when you think of loss? List some of the losses that come to mind. |
| August 24 | What is Grief. . . Continued | Worden: Chapter 1 GRH: Chapter 1 | Reaction Paper #2: What did you learn? What did you take away from the readings? Complete the Loss History exercise in the Worden book on pages 254-255. Complete the sentences as part of your reaction paper. |
| August 31 | Understanding Grief and Mourning | Worden: Chapter 2 GRH: Chapter 2 | Reaction Paper #3: What does “grief” mean to you? Many models of grief have been critiqued and questioned regarding the appropriateness for all grievers for all losses. Compare and contrast the models offered by the authors of our two texts. |
| September 7 | NO CLASS | | Enjoy the Labor Day holiday! |
| September 14 | Social Psychology of Grieving | Worden: Chapter 3 GRH: Chapters 3,4, and 5 | Reaction Paper #4: What are some of the myths, clichés, and other misinformation that you have been taught or that you have heard about a loss event? |
| September 21 | Grief in the Family Context: Roles and relationships, gender and personality | None | Watch the video, Ordinary People, the 1980 Oscar winning movie starring Donald Sutherland and Mary Tyler Moore and directed by Robert Redford. See the Grief and the Movies sheet for instructions on responding to this film. |
| September 28 | Death Across the Life Span: Children, | Worden: Chapter 8 GRH: | Reaction Paper #5: Complete your own Loss History Graph. Instructions are found in Chapter 9 of the Grief Recovery Handbook. Be |

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| | adolescents, adults, the elderly | Chapter 9 | prepared to discuss in class next week. |
| October 5 | Mid-Term Exam | None | Continue to work on your individual presentations on assigned topic, Tuesdays With Morrie paper, and project. |
| October 12 | Multicultural Perspectives on Death and Dying | | Reaction Paper #6: How might different dynamics in families affect the grief of its members? How might the ethnicity of a family complicate the classification of the grieving process? Could there be, for example, families that might be extreme by the definition that Worden gives but would be functional in the context of their culture? |
| October 9 | Midterm – last day to withdraw and receive a W grade | | |
| October 19 | Grief Counseling: Facilitating Uncomplicated Grief | Worden: Chapter 4; <i>Tuesdays with Morrie paper due</i> | No paper! Continue to work on presentation and project. |
| October 26 | Abnormal Grief Reactions: Complicated Mourning | Worden: Chapter 5 | Reaction Paper # 7: Often, metaphoric images of grief are used, such as seeing it as a great weight, a disease, or a devouring monster. What are some metaphoric images you use when thinking of grief? Draw a picture and describe it. |
| November 2 | Resolving Complicated Mourning | Worden: Chapter 6 | Reaction Paper #8: The maintenance of a continuing bond with the deceased is a very common phenomenon. Yet, it makes people very uncomfortable. When, if ever, would you say that it becomes pathological? How would you respond to others who tell you that they have experienced this phenomenon? |
| November 9 | Grieving Special Types of Losses | Worden: Chapter 7 | Reaction Paper #9: To be announced. |
| November 16 | Presentations on Assigned Topics | None | Reaction Paper #10: Respond to the presentations given by your class mates. What did you learn? Did you have an “aha” moment and if so, what was it? |
| November 23 | NO CLASS | None | Enjoy the Thanksgiving Holidays with your families! |

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| November 30 | Legal, Conceptual, and Moral Issues | | Death & Dying Arrangements Project due next week |
| December 7 | FINAL EXAM | | Project due |