

SUBJECT CARD

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Field of studies: Medicine

Form of studies: Full-time

Degree: long-cycle Master's program

Specializations: No specialization

Academic year: 2022/2023

THE BIOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF DEATH	
SUBJECT	The biological, social and cultural aspects of death
NUMBER OF ECTS POINTS	1
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION	English
TEACHER(S)	Dariusz Grzonka, MD, PhD Marcin Lipski, MD, PhD
PERSON RESPONSIBLE	Dariusz Grzonka, MD, PhD
NUMBER OF HOURS	
LECTURES	15 h
GENERAL OBJECTIVES	
OBJECTIVE 1	Making the student familiar with basic issues concerning biological aspects of death.
OBJECTIVE 2	Making the student familiar with basic issues associated with the social, cultural, and religious aspects of death.
LEARNING OUTCOMES	
MK1	Knowledge: Student knows the basic psychological mechanisms of human functioning in health and in disease. (DW7)
MK2	Knowledge: Student has knowledge on adjustment to disease as a difficult situation, stages of adaptation to threatening events and patients' needs, dying and mourning process of the family. (DW9)
MK3	Knowledge: Student knows the principles of suspecting and diagnosing brain death. (F.W.15)
MS1	Skills: In the therapeutic process, student takes into account the subjective needs and expectations resulting from patient's socio-cultural background. (D.U1)
MS2	Skills: Student can communicate to a patient or patient's family information on poor prognosis. (D.U8.)
MS3	Skills: Student is aware of the ethical aspects of medical decisions and the difference between factual aspect and standard. (D.U14)

THE BIOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF DEATH	
MC1	Social competency: Establishing and maintaining deep and respectful contact with the patient, as well as showing understanding of ideological and cultural differences. (EUK7_K1)
INTRODUCTORY REQUIREMENTS	
There are no specific prerequisites.	
COURSE PROGRAM	DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC BLOCKS
LECTURE 1	Biological aspects of death - part one (estimated time and cause of death, definition of death).
LECTURE 2	Biological aspects of death - part two.
LECTURE 3	Social aspects of death - introducing into death studies and thanatology.
LECTURE 4	Death in historical context: from <i>ars moriendi</i> to the absence of death in modern society.
LECTURE 5	Conception of death and dying in some religious denominations.
LECTURE 6	Place of death in modern culture (patterns of loss and bereavement, disposal from corpse to donator).
LECTURE 7	Theorizing death anthropological perspectives.
LECTURE 8	End - of -life decision making.
DIDACTIC METHODS (APPLIED)	
	Lecture methods; Group discussion; Self directed learning (SDL); Power Point presentation.
STUDENTS WORKLOAD	
NUMBER OF HOURS UNDER SUPERVISION	15 hours
NUMBER OF PREPARATION HOURS	Preparation for classes: 10 hours Preparation of report, presentation, medical history: 5 hours
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS FOR THE COURSE	30 hours
CONDITIONS FOR COURSE COMPLETION	
	Attendance of lectures is obligatory. Essey.
METHODS OF ASSESMENT	
IN TERMS OF KNOWLEDGE	Essey

THE BIOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF DEATH

IN TERMS OF SKILLS	Essey, class activity
IN TERMS OF SOCIAL COMPETENCY	Group Discussion
FORMATIVE	Not applicable.
SUMMATIVE (I & II terms)	500-word scholarship essay

GRADING SCALE

3,0 (SATISFACTORY)	Elementary knowledge about biological and social aspects of death
3,5 (SATISFACTORY PLUS)	Student knows the main definitions and conceptions associated with death studies, class activity
4,0 (GOOD)	Student knows not only the basic definitions of death, has ability to talk about social aspects of dying in their cultural and religious backgrounds
4,5 (GOOD PLUS)	Student has a good knowledge about biological, social, and cultural aspects of death. Knows the main religious conceptions of death, class activity
5,0 (VERY GOOD)	Student has a very good knowledge about topic presented during the classes, knows hidden dimension of social aspects of death society (religious, individual, historical etc. aspects of death), class activity

BASIC LITERATURE

- [1] Michael C. Kearl — Endings: A Sociology of Death and Dying, New York-Oxford, 1989, Oxford University, Press, USA;
 [2] Religion, Death, and Dying — Lucy Bregman (red.) , Praeger: Santa Barbara, California - Denver, Colorado- Oxford, England, 2010 [3 Vol. Set];
 [3] Handbook of Death and Dying — Clifton D. Bryant (red.) , SAGE Publications: London: London, 2003 [2 Vol. Set].

SUPPLEMENTARY LITERATURE

- [1] Lindsay Prior — The Social Organisation of Death: Medical Discourse and Social Practices in Belfast, Basingstoke, 1989, MacMillan;
 [2] Margaret Lock — Twice dead : organ transplants and the reinvention of death, Berkeley [etc.], 2002, University of California Press;
 [3] Mary Bradbury — Representations of Death: A Social Psychological Perspective, London, 1999, Routledge;
 [4] Stephen W. Smith, End-of-Life Decisions in Medical Care, Cambridge, 2003, Cambridge University Press.