

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	v
<i>Series</i>	vi
<i>Correlation Guide</i>	xii
<i>Topic Guide</i>	xiii
<i>Internet References</i>	xvii



UNIT 1 Issues in Dying and Death

Unit Overview	xxii
---------------	------

- 1. The Dead, the Living, and Those Yet to Come**, Charles Lemert, *Contexts*, 10(4), Fall 2011
A prominent social theorist draws on classic sociological texts to explore what he calls the **Society of the Dead**—the one group we must all inevitably join. 2
- 2. The Cycle of Death**, Vince Beiser, *Pacific Standard*, May/June, 2012
Some 40 years ago, Americans' moral qualms almost ended the **death penalty**. Now we are abandoning **capital punishment** again, but not because we object to executions, according to Beiser. 6
- 3. How We Bury the War Dead**, Yochi J. Dreazen and Gary Fields, *The Wall Street Journal*, May 29, 2010
To bring home the **war dead** for burial has not always been the case for the U.S. military. This article traces the **history** of war dead body disposition and gives the current situation. 8
- 4. Grief in the Age of Facebook**, Elizabeth Stone, *The Chronicle Review*, March 5, 2010
Technology gives us a new way to express **grief** following a death: Facebook. 11
- 5. Brain Death Guidelines Vary at Top US Neurological Hospitals**, Susan Jeffrey, *Medscape Medical News*, 2008
A recent survey reveals widespread **brain death** guidelines in U.S. hospitals. 13
- 6. Criteria for a Good Death**, Edwin Shneidman, *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 37(3), 2007
The late Edwin Shneidman outlines ten criteria for a **good death**. 15
- 7. The Emergence of Thanatology and Current Practice in Death Education**, Luciana M. Fonseca and Ines Testoni, *Omega*, 64(2), 2011–2012
A **history** and evolution of **thanatology** in Western society is outlined. 17



UNIT 2 Dying and Death Across the Life Cycle

Unit Overview	24
---------------	----

- 8. Teaching Children about Death and Grief: Children Can Learn about Grief and Dying from Teachable Moments**, Kirsti A. Dyer, Help a Child Cope with Loss or Death, Suite101.com
Presents **teachable** moments regarding **children** and death. 26

The concepts in bold italics are developed in the article. For further expansion, please refer to the Topic Guide.

9. **Death in Disney Films: Implications for Children’s Understanding of Death**, Meredith Cox, Erin Garrett, and James A. Graham, *Omega*, 50(4), 2004–2005
Examines the potential influence of Disney films on **children’s concepts of death**, using a **content analysis** of Disney animated films. 28
10. **Death and Dying in the Curriculum of Public Schools: Is there a place?**, Ethel L. King-McKenzie, *Journal of Emerging Knowledge on Emerging Markets*, 3, 2011
Dying and death have traditionally been somewhat **taboo topics** in American culture. Should such a topic be addressed with **children** in **public schools**? 35
11. **Needs of Elderly Patients in Palliative Care**, Helle Wijk and Agneta Grimby, *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, 29(2), April/May 2008
A **pilot study** of **elderly patients’** end-of-life needs in a **Swedish geriatric palliative care** unit concluded that elimination of **physical pain** was a primary need of the patients. 40
12. **Good Mourning**, George Dickinson, *College of Charleston Magazine*, 15(2), Spring 2011
The article discusses the role of a **veterinarian** in the **death of a pet** and also the seriousness that should be given by everyone to the death of a **child’s companion animal**. 45
13. **Through the Touch of God: Child Death and Spiritual Sustenance in a Hutterian Colony**, Joanne Cacciatore and Rebecca Ong, *Omega*, 64(3), 2011–2012
This **ethnographic study** of Hutterites in South Dakota uses **participant observation** and **interviews** in focusing on the **death of children**. 47
14. **End-of-Life Concerns and Care Preferences: Congruence Among Terminally Ill Elders and their Family Caregivers**, Daniel S. Gardner and Betty J. Kramer, *Omega*, 60(3), 2009–2010
An examination of **end-of-life** issues and care preferences of **terminally ill older persons** and their **caregivers**. 56



UNIT 3

The Dying Process

- Unit Overview 68
15. **Dying on the Streets: Homeless Persons’ Concerns and Desires about End-of-Life Care**, John Song et al., *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 22(4), April 2007
In-depth interviews with 53 **homeless** individuals in Minnesota regarding end-of-life care concluded that they worry about dying and **end-of-life care**. 70
16. **Death and Dying across Cultures**, Gihan ElGindy, *MinorityNurse.com*. <http://www.minoritynurse.com>, 2010
Discusses the importance of **nurses’** being sensitive to unique **religious** and **cultural** needs of patients with **terminal illnesses**. 79
17. **The Promise of Presence**, Paul Rousseau, *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care*, 28(6), 2011
A **physician** laments his promising to return to check on a **terminally ill patient**, yet realizes later on that he did not return, only to then find out it was too late. This caring individual warns that if medical doctors **promise presence**, then they must be present. 82

18. **When Death Strikes without Warning**, Jennifer Couzin, *Science*, 321, July 4, 2008
Presents information about the devastating effect of **epilepsy** and **sudden death**. 84
19. **Are They Hallucinations or Are They Real? The Spirituality of Deathbed and Near-Death Visions**, L. Stafford Betty, *Omega*, 53(1–2), 2006
Do the living really **see the dead**? The author looks into this “twilight zone” to determine if this is real or a mere **hallucination**. 87
20. **Beyond Terror and Denial: The Positive Psychology of Death Acceptance**, Paul T.P. Wong and Adrian Tomer, *Death Studies*, 35, 2011.
Death is ubiquitous, yet whether the American society **accepts or denies death** is the question. The authors argue that **psychologists** need to focus more on death acceptance. They discuss **terror management theory** and **meaning management theory**. 94



UNIT 4 Ethical Issues of Dying and Death

- Unit Overview** 98
21. **Ethics and Life’s Ending: An Exchange**, Robert D. Orr and Gilbert Meilaender, *First Things*, August/September 2004
This article provides a point–counterpoint discussion of the quality-of-life arguments for passive euthanasia and the right to die. Knowledge from both points of view challenge the student who is attempting to formulate an understanding of the complex issues surrounding this controversy. 100
22. **Obituary for Jack Kevorkian**, Associated Press. *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*, June 4, 2011
This is the obituary for the famous and controversial Jack Kevorkian, “Dr. Death,” who caused the American public to deal with legal issues related to physician-assisted suicide. The article discusses Kevorkian’s philosophy and social activism to do something about human suffering for terminal patients. 107
23. **At the Bottom of the Slippery Slope**, Wesley J. Smith, *The Weekly Standard*, July 4/July 11, 2011 (in CLS Digital Library held by McGraw-Hill)
Smith argues that once society accepts euthanasia/organ harvesting, we will soon see agitation to pay seriously disabled or dying people for their organs, a policy that Kevorkian advocated. 109
24. **Hospitals Embrace Palliative Care**, Bridget M. Kuehn, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 298(11), 1263–1265, September 19, 2007
This article presents the argument that palliative care is the best form of competent care for patients living with a terminal illness. Providing a new model for palliative care, the article gives special attention to meeting psychological and physical needs of the dying patient. 111
25. **Cannabis Use in Long-Term Care: An Emerging Issue for Nurses**, Roxanne Nelson, *American Journal of Nursing*, 111(4), 19–20, April 2011.
When dealing with patients in end-of-life care and marijuana, many nurses’ protocol is “don’t ask, don’t tell.” 114
26. **I Was a Doctor Accustomed to Death, But Not His**, Marc Agronin, *Salon*, February 5, 2011.
Son tells his story of dealing with his own father as patient. It was a real lesson in caring for the dying. 116



UNIT 5

Funerals

Unit Overview

118

- 27. The Contemporary American Funeral**, Michael R. Leming and George E. Dickinson, *Understanding Dying, Death, and Bereavement*, Wadsworth-Cengage, 2010

This article provides an overview of the present practice of funeralization in American society, including the traditional and alternative funeral arrangements. The functions of funerals relative to the sociological, psychological, and theological needs of adults and children are also discussed.

120

- 28. Building My Father's Coffin**, John Manchester. *Salon*, June 4, 2010

"My body is to be placed in a plain pine box. I would like my children to make the box." William Manchester knows that grief work is best when done as a family.

123

- 29. Dealing with the Dead**, Jennifer Egan, *The New Yorker*, October 11, 2010

It is possible to facilitate our grieving by remembering dead relatives by wearing clothes and jewelry that once belonged to them to their funerals.

125

- 30. Mourning in a Digital Age**, Bruce Feiler, *The New York Times*, January 12, 2012

This article discusses the way in which families can communicate with their potential supporters in the event of a death within their families, and how their friends can use the Internet to provide social support.

126

- 31. 10 Burdens Funeral Directors Carry**, Caleb Wilde,

<http://connectingdirectors.com/articles/35386-10-burdens-funeral-directors-carry> and <http://connectingdirectors.com/articles/35479-10-ways-funeral-directors-cope-caleb-wilde>

128

- 32. Memorial Videos Give Lasting Farewell**, Jeff Strickler, *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*, June 6, 2011,

<http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/relationship/123142533.html?page=all&prepage=1&c=y#continue>

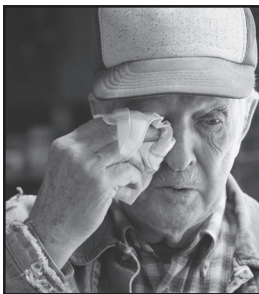
Now you can speak at your own funeral and tell your mourners how you really feel.

130

- 33. Speaking from Beyond the Grave; High-tech Headstones Use QR Codes to Link to Photos and Videos of the Dearly Departed**, Jeff Strickler, *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*, July 15, 2012, <http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/162485776.html>

With high-tech tombstones and QR codes, the deceased can talk back to those who visit their graves.

132



UNIT 6

Bereavement

Unit Overview

134

- 34. The Grieving Process**, Michael R. Leming and George E. Dickinson, *Understanding Dying, Death, and Bereavement*, Wadsworth-Cengage, 2010

This article discusses the seven basic coping strategies related to the bereavement process (shock and denial, disorganization, volatile emotions, guilt, loss and loneliness, relief, and reestablishment) and the four tasks of bereavement (accepting the reality of the loss, experiencing the pain of grief, adjusting to an environment in which the deceased is missing, and the withdrawing of emotional energy and reinvesting it in other relationships).

136

<p>35. The Normal Process of Grieving, Harvard Medical School, <i>Harvard Mental Health Letter</i>, December 2011. This article discusses experiences that are part of the normal spectrum of grieving, lasting from six to twelve months.</p>	<p>140</p>
<p>36. A Guide to Getting Through Grief, Harvard Medical School, <i>Harvard Mental Health Letter</i>, December 2011. Dr. Michael Hirsh, a psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital, offers advice for enabling people who are grieving to work through the bereavement process.</p>	<p>142</p>
<p>37. Disenfranchised Grief, Kenneth J. Doka, <i>Disenfranchised Grief: Recognizing Hidden Sorrow</i>, Lexington Books, 1989 Kenneth Doka discusses the unique situation of bereaved survivors whose loss is not, or cannot be, openly acknowledged, publicly mourned, or socially supported.</p>	<p>144</p>
<p>38. Challenging the Paradigm: New Understandings of Grief, Kenneth J. Doka, 2007 Kenneth Doka discusses five significant ways in which earlier understandings of or paradigms of grief have been challenged. He also discusses three current challenges to the field of thanatology and two others that are likely to occur in the not-too-distant future.</p>	<p>148</p>
<p>39. We've Been Misled about How to Grieve, Nicholas Köhler, <i>Maclean's Magazine</i>, February 21, 2011 This article discusses much of the misinformation most people assume about grieving.</p>	<p>155</p>
<p>40. Shades of Grief: When Does Mourning Become a Mental Illness?, Virginia Hughes, <i>Scientific American</i>, June 7, 2011, http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=shades-of-grief This article discusses the <i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i> (DSM) and how it addresses "Complicated Grief Disorder," also known as traumatic or prolonged grief. The important question addressed is, When does normal grieving become pathological?</p>	<p>158</p>
<p>41. 11 Ways to Comfort Someone Who's Grieving, Harvard Medical School, <i>Health Beat</i>, August 24, 2010 If you find yourself tongue-tied or uncertain of what to do in the face of someone's loss, here are some steps to try.</p>	<p>160</p>
<p><i>Test-Your-Knowledge Form</i></p>	<p>162</p>