#### **Contents**

Preface	iv
Correlation Guide	)
Topic Guide	x
Internet References	xiv



# **UNIT 1**Issues in Dying and Death

**Unit Overview** 

1.	Grief in the Age of Facebook, Elizabeth Stone, <i>The Chronicle Review</i> , March 5, 2010  Technology gives us a new way to express grief following a death: Facebook.	2
2.	<b>Death, Dying, and the Dead in Popular Culture,</b> Keith F. Durkin, <i>Handbook of Death and Dying,</i> Clifton D. Bryant (ed.), 2003  Addresses the issue of <i>death denial</i> in the United States through an analysis of dying and death as portrayed in the <i>media, music, recreation,</i> and <i>humor.</i>	4
3.	How Much Is More Life Worth?, Dan W. Brock, <i>Hastings Center Report</i> , 36 (3), May/June 2006 A discussion of the high cost of drugs in treating individuals with a <i>terminal illness</i> . Is it really worth the financial <i>cost of medications</i> to keep a person alive for an additional few weeks or months? Where do we draw the line?	10
4.	Brain Death Guidelines Vary at Top US Neurological Hospitals, Susan Jeffrey, <i>Medscape Medical News</i> , 2008 A recent survey reveals widespread <i>brain death</i> guidelines in U.S. hospitals.	12
5.	Criteria for a Good Death, Edwin Shneidman, Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior, 37 (3), 2007 The late Edwin Shneidman, a well-known suicidologist, outlines ten criteria for a good death.	14

xvi



# **UNIT 2**Dying and Death across the Life Cycle

IIIL	Overview	10
6.	Death in Disney Films: Implications for Children's Understanding of Death, Meredith Cox, Erin Garrett, and James A. Graham, <i>Omega</i> , 50 (4), 2004–2005	
	Examines the potential influence of Disney films on <i>children's concepts of death</i> , using <i>a content analysis</i> of Disney animated films.	18
7.	<b>Saying Goodbye</b> , Christina Frank, <i>Parents</i> , April 2008 Gives questions and answers to queries by <i>children</i> regarding dying and death.	25
8.	<b>Helping Military Kids Cope with Traumatic Death</b> , Linda Goldman, <i>TAPS</i> , Fall 2008	
	Practical advice from a prolific author and counselor for dealing with children and the death of a significant other in the military.	27

9.	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.	29
10.	Altered States: What I've Learned about Death & Disability, Carol Levine, Commonweal, September 8, 2006  The author writes about disabilities from brain injuries, particularly that of her husband injured in an automobile accident.	34
Th	VIT 3 e Dying Process	
Unit	Overview	36
11.	Dying on the Streets: Homeless Persons' Concerns and Desires about End-of-Life Care, John Song et al., Journal of General Internal Medicine: Official Journal of the Society for Research and Education in Primary Care 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.	38
12.	End-of-Life Care around the World: Achievements to Date and Challenges Remaining, David Clark, <i>Omega</i> , 56 (1), 2007–2008 British medical sociologist David Clark shares profiles of <i>hospice</i> care around the world from his extensive and pioneering efforts in <i>palliative care</i> .	47
13.	Are They Hallucinations or Are They Real? The Spirituality of Deathbed and Near-Death Visions, L. Strafford Betty, <i>Omega</i> , 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.	52
14.	A Spreading Appreciation for the Benefits of Hospice Care, Kerry Hannon, <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report,</i> December 15/December 22, 2008 Discusses types of <i>hospice</i> programs and the pros and cons of them in today's world.	59
15.	When Death Strikes without Warning, Jennifer Couzin, <i>Science</i> , 321, July 4, 2008 Presents information about the devastating effect of <i>epilepsy</i> and <i>sudden death</i> .	61
	VIT 4 icide	
Unit	Overview	64
16	Suicide Rates in the World: 1950–2004 Ka-vuet Liu Suicide and Life-	



Ullit	Overview	04
16.	Suicide Rates in the World: 1950–2004, Ka-yuet Liu, Suicide and Life- Threatening Behavior, 39 (2), April 2009 Author examines 71 countries with data from WHO Mortality Database and shows	
	the <b>suicide</b> rates over more than half a century.	66
17.	On "Intention" in the Definition of Suicide, Karl Andriessen, Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior, 36 (5), October 2006	
	The author tries to clarify what <b>suicide</b> really is. Was this act an accident or was it a suicide?	74

18.	Ethical, Legal, and Practical Issues in the Control and Regulation of Suicide Promotion and Assistance over the Internet, Brian L. Mishara and David N. Weisstub, <i>Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior,</i> 37 (1), February 2007	
	How much control is needed regarding <b>suicide websites?</b> How far can society go in allowing the <b>Internet</b> to help individuals take their lives via suicide?	78
19.	A Search for Death: How the Internet Is Used as a Suicide Cookbook, Rheana Murray, <i>Chrestomathy</i> , 7, 2008 Through <i>Internet interviews</i> the author examines the role that <i>suicide websites</i> play toward suicides. What methods are recommended for suicide on these cookbookoriented sites?	84
20.	<b>Gender and Suicide Risk: The Role of Wound Site,</b> Steven Stack and Ira Wasserman, <i>Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior,</i> 39 (1), February 2009 In <i>suicide attempts,</i> where on the <i>body</i> does the individual aim to hit, if using a gun? What impact does this intentional aiming have on the outcome of the attempt?	90
UI	NIT 5	



# **Animals and Death**

Unit	Overview	96
21.	<b>Treat People Like Dogs</b> , Karen Oberthaler, <i>Newsweek</i> , March 22, 2010 A <i>veterinary oncologist</i> addresses the parallels between decisions regarding prolonging or shortening the life of a <i>human being</i> and that of an <i>animal</i> .	98
22.	When a Cherished Pet Dies, New York-Presbyterian, The University Hospitals of Columbia and Cornell, 2006 Addresses the <i>death of pets</i> among the <i>elderly</i> and how they might react and then cope.	99
23.	Book Profiles Furry Angel of Death: Oscar the Cat, Ray Henry, Associated Press, January 31, 2010 Oscar can supposedly determine approaching death in this Rhode Island nursing home and crawls upon the bed of the resident as death approaches. This is one cat an individual would not want crawling upon her/his bed!	101
24.	Veterinary Hospice: Ways to Nurture Our Pets at the End of Life, Amy Souza, Best Friends Magazine, July/August 2009 Not only are hospice programs developing for humans, but these programs are also cropping up for pets, though somewhat sparingly, around the United States.	103



#### **UNIT 6 Ethical Issues Regarding Dying and Death**

Unit Overview		106
25.	What Living Wills Won't Do: The Limits of Autonomy, Eric Cohen, The Weekly Standard, April 18, 2005 Also inspired by the Terri Schiavo case, this article discusses the limitations of living wills and durable powers of attorney for health care.	108
26.	<b>The Comfort Connection,</b> Joanne Kenen, <i>AARP The Magazine</i> , September/October 2007	
	In this article, we learn about <i>palliative care</i> from the perspective of the family of those living with a terminal illness.	111

106

111

**27. 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.

113

**28.** When Students Kill Themselves, Colleges May Get the Blame, Ann H. Franke, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 24, 2004

Suicide among college students has always been a nightmare for parents; now it has become a risk management issue for college administrators and professors. This article addresses the issue of responsibility for suicides among college students and how and when students are at risk.

119



### UNIT 7 Funerals

Unit Overview 122

**29.** 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.

124

**30.** How Different Religions Pay Their Final Respects, William J. Whalen, *U.S. Catholic*, September 1990

This article discusses the way in which obituaries announce to the world that someone has died. Actually many do not die, they "suddenly" or "peacefully" or "courageously" or "quietly" or "unexpectedly" disappear.

126

**31. Green Graveyards—A Natural Way to Go,** Barbara Basler, *AARP Bulletin,* July/August 2004

This AARP article provides "environmentally friendly" or "green" alternatives to earth burials and cremations. In the words of Billy Campbell, "We put death in its rightful place, as part of the cycle of life. Our burials honor the idea of dust to dust."

129

32. Social Workers' Final Act of Service: Respectful Burial Arrangements for Indigent, Unclaimed, and Unidentified People, Graciela M. Castex, Social Work, vol. 52, no. 4, October 2007

This article provides an overview of societal responses to the need for a final disposition of all people, regardless of social position or status. It discusses demographic and social trends that, if realized, may result in a significant increase in indigent burials. Finally, information is given to assist social workers for planning interventions that will accord respectful and dignified final dispositions for clients.

131



## UNIT 8 Bereavement

Unit Overview 138

33. 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).

140

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

34.	<b>Disenfranchised Grief</b> , Kenneth J. Doka, <i>Disenfranchised Grief:</i> Recognizing Hidden Sorrow, Lexington Books, 1989 Kenneth Doka discusses the unique situation of <b>bereaved survivors</b> whose loss is not, or cannot be, <b>openly acknowledged</b> , publicly mourned, or socially supported.	144
35.	Enhancing the Concept of Disenfranchised Grief, Charles A. Corr, Omega, vol. 38, no. 1, 1998/1999  This article enhances and broadens the concept of disenfranchised grief in significant ways as it indicates that there are aspects of most losses that are indeed disenfranchised.	147
36.	The Increasing Prevalence of Complicated Mourning: The Onslaught Is Just Beginning, Therese A. Rando, <i>Omega</i> , vol. 26, no. 1, 1992/1993  This article operationalizes complicated mourning and identifies its seven high-risk factors. The author argues that the prevalence of complicated mourning is increasing today due to a number of contemporary sociocultural and technological trends, with problems in both the mental health profession and the field of thanatology that are preventing or interfering with requisite treatment. New treatment policies and models are now mandated for intervention in complicated mourning.	156
37.	Counseling with Children in Contemporary Society, Linda Goldman, <i>Journal of Mental Health Counseling,</i> April 2004  This article examines elements related to children's developmental understandings of death, ways to talk to children about death, a broad understanding of the nature of children's grief and bereavement, recognition of the common characteristics of grieving children, and useful interventions of the bereaved child by mental health counselors.	164
38.	A Grim Fight for 'Proper Burial,' Nikki Schwab, <i>U.S. News and World Report</i> , September 17, 2007  This article discusses the fight of September 11, 2001 World Trade Center survivors to provide a more <i>appropriate burial ground</i> for their loved ones.	174
39.	Parents and the Death of a Child, Sangeeta Singg, In C. D. Bryant (Ed.), Handbook of Death and Dying, 2003  This article discusses how the death of a child can change how the surviving family deals with grief and how they interact with each other and others outside their family.	175
40.	Coping with the Loss of Loved Ones, Maurizio Pompili, In C. D. Bryant and D. Peck (Ed.), <i>Encyclopedia of Death, and the Human Experience</i> , 2009 In this article the author deals with the reactions among surviving family members when a loved one dies <i>prematurely</i> . It also discusses how children cope with the death of a family member, as well as <i>postvention</i> , which "consists of activities that reduce the aftereffects of a traumatic event in the lives" of the survivors.	184
	Your-Knowledge Form	186