

PTED5/712: AGEING WELL AND THE END OF LIFE

Rev. Dr. Martin Brokenleg, OSBCn

Spring Term 2010

Jan.15-16; Feb.5-6; Mar.12-13

Fri.18:00-21:00; Sat.09:00-16:00

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DESCRIPTION

The general population of North America is aging rapidly with visible minority populations making up a significant proportion. Our youth oriented culture does not value the old and we do not talk about death especially our own. Ministry involves connecting with people at changing times in their lives and supporting them in crisis. Aging and dying people are usually open to spiritual guidance and support. This course explores basic themes in aging, dying, and grieving as ministry opportunities. Caregivers' self-explorations and understandings provide important connections with those who are aging and dying. Students will read a resource bibliography, dialogue with others on a variety of topics related to aging, dying, and grieving and present to the class on a topic of personal interest in this field.

OBJECTIVES

1. Exploration of one's personal response to growing older and dying.
2. Researching ministry to aging persons.
3. Investigating preparation for dying, death, and grieving.
4. Developing theologies of aging, dying, death and grieving.
5. Understanding ethnic variations in dying, death, and grieving.

ACTIVITIES

1. Completion of basic reading assignments before class sessions.
2. Personal and intellectual participation in class discussions.
3. Maintaining a journal of response to course activities between sessions.
4. Investigation of specific area of aging or end of life.
5. Reporting to class findings in area of special study.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Fisher, Kathleen. (1998). *Winter Grace: Spirituality and Aging*. Nashville: Upper Room Books.

Saussy, Carroll (1998). *The Art of Growing Old*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress.

Chittister, Joan D. (2008). *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully*. New York: Bluebridge.

Halifax, Joan. (2008). *Being with Dying: Cultivating Compassion and Fearlessness in the Presence of Death*. Boston: Shamballa.

Irish, Donald P., Lundquist, Kathleen F., and Nelsen, Vivian Jenkins., Eds. (1993). *Ethnic Variations in Dying, Death, and Grief*. Philadelphia: Taylor and Francis.

CALENDAR

January 15-16 Session- Growing Older

1. Orientation to subject area and other students
2. Complete Fischer; Complete Saussy.
3. Be prepared to discuss aging of self and others.
4. Begin journal of your responses to readings and class

February 5-6 Session- Dying and Death

1. Complete Chittister; Complete Halifax.
2. Be prepared to discuss death of self and others.
3. Continue journal.
4. Define and research a topic of your interest.

March 12-13 Session- Topics in Aging, Dying, and Grieving

1. Complete Irish, et.al.
2. Be prepared to discuss ministering to diverse persons.
3. Present findings on your research project.
4. Turn in response journal and any documentation of learning for project.