

**WURZWEILER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY**

**PALLIATIVE CARE: SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH SERIOUS ILLNESS
SWK 6825/SWK 8825
SPRING 2024**

**Dr. Gary Stein
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Office Hours: TBA**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide a comprehensive study of issues related to palliative and end-of-life care. Pa [ap)10 (pr)7 (oac)4 (h)10 (t)2 (o c)14 (ar)7 (i)6 (ng f)12 (or)6.9 ()]J-0.002 Tc 0.004 Tv

- Express an appreciation for the vital roles of family caregivers in caring for family members facing serious illness and the end-of-life.
- List reasons for the importance of advance care planning and advance directives in the provision of palliative care.
- Discuss how cultural perspectives impact the provision of hospice and palliative care.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Sumser, B., Leimena, M.L., & Altilio, T. (2019). Palliative care: A guide for health social workers. New York: Oxford.

List: \$55.00 ISBN-10: 0190669608

Byock, I. (2012). *The best care possible: A physician's quest to transform care through the end of life*. New York: Avery/Penguin Group.
List: \$16.00 ISBN-10: 1583335129

Didon, J. (2007). *The year of magical thinking*. New York: Knopf. (Available on e-reserves)
List: \$14.95 ISBN-10: 1400078431

Hitchens, C. (2012). *Mortality*. New York: Twelve.
List: \$22.99 ISBN-10: 9781455502752

Kastenbaum, R.J. (2018). *Death, society, and human experience*. 12th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
List: \$128.00 ISBN-10: 1138292400

Levine, C., & Murray, T.H. (2007). *The cultures of caregiving: Conflict and common ground among families, health professionals, and policy makers*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
List: \$25.00 ISBN-10: 0801887712

McPhee, S.J., Winkler, M.A., Rabow, M.W., Pantilat, S.Z., & Markowitz, A.J. (eds.) (2011). *JAMA evidence: Care at the Close of life: Evidence and experience*. New York: McGraw Hill Medical.
List: \$70.00 ISBN-10: 0071637958

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Lecture, discussion and interactive exercises will be used as the principle means of learning. Students are expected to attend class, do the assigned reading prior to class, participate in class discussion, and hand in their assigned materials on time. Students will integrate material from field practice into their class discussions and assignments. Guest faculty may be invited to provide a broad interdisciplinary perspective.

GRADING:

Grades will be computed on the following basis:

Mid-term paper – 30%

Final paper – 50%

Meaningful class participation – 20%

Participation will be judged on the quality of a student's involvement in the classroom,

characterized by attention to the learning process, contributions to the learning climate, questions asked, opinions stated and how defended, sensitivity to the feelings of others, an awareness of his/her unique input within the classroom setting, and classroom presentations. This is a cumulative assessment based on the entire period of the course.

More than two absences may result in a lower grade for the class.

Students with disabilities should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that any needed special considerations can be made to accommodate the student.

need(s) do they meet on the part of the bereaved? On the part of society? What effect do they have on the reader? On society as a whole? Should the practice be encouraged or discouraged? Why?

b. Widows – Discuss the realities of the plight of widows around the world. Begin your research by looking at the subjective experience of a widow you know well or to whom you have ready access. Think about the customs, statistics, and relevant laws effecting

FINAL ASSIGNMENT: Due at Session 12

Select one of the below topics for in-depth analysis. At least five scholarly references, in addition to your texts, should be used; websites may be used, but they do not count towards the five scholarly references. The paper must be in APA format.

Page length: 8-10 pages

Topics:

- a. Cultural Perspectives – Select a culture or community with which you are unfamiliar. Discuss the cultural meaning of illness and death, including the culture's rituals surrounding death and the mourning process. You may be creative, but discuss your ideas with your professor.

- b. Alzheimer's Care – Explore the ethical issues faced by families/surrogates making end-of-

COURSE OUTLINE

Download from: https://reportcard.capc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CAPC_State-by-State-Report-Card_051120.pdf

Glajchen, M., Berkman, C., Otis-Green, S., Stein, G.L., Sedgwick, T., Bern-Klug, M., Christ, G., Csikai, E., Downed, D., Gerbino, S., Head, B., Parker-Oliver, D., Waldrop, D., & Portenoy, R.K. (2018). Defining core competencies for generalist-level palliative social work. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 56(6), 886-892.

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (2023). NHPCO: Fact and figures, 2023 Edition. Download from: <https://www.nhpc.org/wp-content/uploads/NHPCO-Facts-Figures-2023.pdf>

Recommended:

Harper, B.C. (2011). Palliative social work: An historical perspective. In Altilio, T. & Otis Greene, S. (Eds). *Oxford textbook of palliative social work*. 11-20.

Session 5 – Pain and Symptom Care

- Medical terminology
- Major symptoms and treatment
- Life-sustaining/life-prolonging interventions
- Behavioral symptoms, including anxiety and depression
- Issues of specific populations (children, substance users, HIV, oncology)

Required readings:

From Sumser:

Altilio, T., & Leimena, M.L., Ch. 3: Physical aspects of care, pp. 52-70.

Lynn, J., Harrold, J., & Lynch Schuster, J. (2011). *Handbook for mortals: Guidance for people facing serious illness*. Second edition. New York: Oxford University Press, Chapters 7, 8, and 9; pp. 87-149.

Lamas, D.J. (February 6, 2022). Who are we caring for in the I.C.U.? *New York Times*. Download at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/06/opinion/intensive-care-patient-hospital.html?searchResultPosition=8> (Links to an external site.)

Van Pelt, J. (2012). Pain care advocacy in an era of opioid abuse. *Social Work Today*, 12(5), 16.

Recommended:

Viewing:

The Farewell (2019). Director, Lulu Wang.

Required Readings:

From Sumser:

Colon, Y., Ch. 7: Cultural aspects of care, pp. 148-164.

Koenig, B., & Gates-Williams, J. (1995). Understanding cultural difference in caring for dying patients. *Western Journal of Medicine*, 163(3), 244-249.

Gonzales-Ramos, G. (2007). On loving care and the persistence of memories: Reflections of a grieving daughter. Chapter 2. From C. Levine & T.H. Murray (eds.). *The cultures of caregiving: Conflict and common ground among families, health professionals, and policymakers*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Stein, G. L., Berkman, C., Acquaviva, K., Woody, I., Godfrey, D., Javier, N. M., O'Mahony, S., gonzález-rivera, c., Maingi, S., Candrian, C., & Rosa, W. E. (2023). Project Respect: Experiences of seriously ill LGBTQ+ patients and partners with their health care providers. *Health Affairs Scholar*. 1(4), 1-9.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/haschl/qxad049>

Recommended readings:

Bullock, K. (2006). Promoting advance directives among African Americans: A faith-based model. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 9(1), 183-195.

Leung, P.P.Y. & Chan, C.L.W. (2011). Palliative care in the Chinese context: An integrated framework for culturally respectful practice. In Altilio, T. & Otis-Greene, S. (Eds). *Oxford textbook of palliative social work*. 573-578, Section VI, Chapter 62.

Stein, G.L., Berkman, C.S., O'Mahony, S., Godfrey, D., Javier, N.M., & Maingi, S. (2020). Experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender patients and families in hospice and palliative care: Perspectives of the palliative care team. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 23(6), 817-824. DOI: 10.1089/jpm.2019.0542.

Volandes, A. E., Paasche-Orlow, M., Gillick, M. R., Cook, E. F., Shaykevich, S., Abbo, E. D., & Lehmann, L. (2008). Health literacy not race predicts end-of-life care preferences. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 11(5), 754-762. doi:10.1089/jpm.2007.0224

Session 8-9 – Health Care Decision-Making & Advance Care Planning

- Primary role of communication

Oregon Health Authority/Public Health Division (2023). Oregon Death with Dignity Act: 2022 Data Summary. Download at:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PROVIDERPARTNERRESOURCES/EVALUATIONRESEARCH/DEATHWITHDIGNITYACT/Documents/year25.pdf>

Kozlov, E., et al. (2022). Aggregating 23 years of data on medical aid in dying in the United States, *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 70(10), 3040-3044.

Hartocollis, A. (2009, December 27). Hard choice for a comfortable death: Drug-induced sleep. *The New York Times*. Download at:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/27/health/27sedation.html>

Session 11 – The Critical Role of Family Caregivers

- Appreciating the roles and responsibilities of family caregivers
- Who are family caregivers?
- What family caregivers do
- Cultures and values implicated in home care

Required readings:

From Sumser:

Conceicao, S., & Swenson, G., Ch. 8: Care of patients and families at the end of life, pp.165-191.

Lynn, J., Harrold, J., & Lynch Schuster, J. (2011). *Handbook for mortals: Guidance for people facing serious illness*. Second edition. New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 5, pp. 54-68.

Reinhard, S.C., Young, H.M., Levine, C., & Kelly, K. (2019). Home Alone Revisited: Family caregivers providing complex care. Retrieve from:
<https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/2019/04/home-alone-revisited-family-caregivers-providing-complex-care.pdf>

Surpin, R., & Hanley, E. (2007). The culture of home care: Whose values prevail? Chapter 6. From C. Levine & T.H. Murray (eds.). *The cultures of caregiving: Conflict and common ground among families, health professionals, and policymakers*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Session 12 – Pediatric Palliative Care

- Special needs of children
- Decision-making by minors
- Family approaches
- Innovative service models
- Social work roles

Required readings:

From Sumser:

Attilio, T., et al., Ch. 10: Special issues in children and older adults, pp. 226-252.

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Session 13 – Impact of Covid-19 on Palliative Care

- Intersection of the Covid-19 pandemic and palliative care
- Special need for advance care planning
- New roles for spiritual care
- Grief considerations

Required reading:

In Tosone, C. (ed) (2021). Shared trauma, shared resilience during a pandemic: Social work in the time of COVID-19 (Cham, Switzerland: Springer). Carol Tosone, Ch. 36: Shared trauma: Group reflections on the COVID-19 pandemic, pp. 347-353.

In Tosone, C. (ed) (2021). Shared trauma, shared resilience during a pandemic: Social work in the time of COVID-19 (Cham, Switzerland: Springer). Nicholas Santo, Ch.14: Reflections on the HIV/AIDS crisis, COVID-19, and resilience in gay men: Ghosts of our past, demons of our present, pp. 127-133.

Delisle, S., Heller, F.E., & Blinderman, C.D. (2020). Prolonged critical illness and demoralization: Curative factors in hospice care in the age of Covid-19. *Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing*. 22(6), 428-431.

Wallace, C., Wladkowski, S., Gibson, A., and White, P. (2020). Grief during the covid-19 pandemic: Considerations for palliative care providers. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 60(1), e70-76.

Session 14 – Self-Care for Caring Professionals

- Protecting ourselves against burnout
- Supporting bereaved staff
- Family and professional caregivers

Required readings:

Clark, E. J. (2011). Self-care as best practice in palliative care. In Altilio, T. & Otis-Greene, S. (Eds). *Oxford textbook of palliative social work*. 771-778.

RESOURCES

From Sumser, General Resources, pp. 259-265

Berkman, C. (2023). Resource guide for palliative and end-of-life care. Download from: http://www.palliativecarefordham.com/uploads/9/3/7/2/93725736/resources_for_palliative_social_work_-_6-23-23.pdf