WS 3357F: Feminist Perspectives on Death and Dying

Fall 2016 Tuesday 10:30-12:30

This is blended course, with one additional hour online.

Professor Samantha Brennan
Lawson Hall 3233, sbrennan@uwo.ca,
http://publish.uwo.ca/~sbrennan

This course examines death and dying from a critical feminist perspective. Topics covered may include tending to the dying as women’s work, the commercialization of the funeral industry, the natural death movement, feminist perspectives on assisted suicide, gender and the badness of death for the person whose death it is, and feminist perspectives on grief and mourning.
Office Hours Wednesday 10:30-12:30

All readings available on OWL

Want to get a head start? Readings will definitely include:

- TRIVIA: Voices of Feminism, Issue 13, Fall 2012, "Death"

- The Order of the Good Death website, 

- Samantha Brennan, “Feminist Philosophers Turn Their Thoughts to Death,”


- Mary Gergen et al, Broken Hearts or Broken Bonds, 
  [http://www.swarthmore.edu/Documents/faculty/gergen/broken_hearts.pdf](http://www.swarthmore.edu/Documents/faculty/gergen/broken_hearts.pdf)


**Evaluation**

Online participation, 20%

2 short papers, 40%

Project and presentation, 40%

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:
• Reflect upon and communicate the multiple ways that death and dying are gendered
• Identify different ways of thinking about death and dying through the critical lens of feminist theory
• Consider death and dying in relation to history, class, philosophy, health, society, literature, and popular culture.
• Critically reflect upon the significance of death and dying, in an individual’s life and in society at large.
• Compare and appreciate multiple theoretical and disciplinary perspectives and viewpoints concerning death and dying
• Understand the ethical and political issues concerning how death comes about

In addition, students will develop their written, oral, and critical skills in these ways:

• By posting in on-line discussions through the term, students will develop skills of critical analysis, critical writing, and interactive engagement with others concerning course material.

• By participating weekly in in-class discussions (in both large and small groups), students will become stronger and more confident speakers.

• Through essay assignments and projects designed to promote the synthesizing and consolidating of course material, students will sharpen their critical writing and critical thinking skills.

Policies
Scholastic Offenses: Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. As always, when in doubt ask before doing! Students should submit all work to “Turnitin” before the work is graded. Turnitin login information will be handed out with the essay topics.
Assignment Submission: Please submit your essays electronically only, on OWL. Assignments handed in past the due date are subject to a 2% penalty per day.

Academic Accommodation: Western University is committed to recognizing the dignity and independence of all students and seeks to ensure that persons with disabilities have genuine, open and unhindered access to academic services. We are committed to providing accommodation and equitable access to all course resources and experiences. Securing provisions for academic accommodation are a shared responsibility between the student and the University. Please contact me if you require course materials in an alternative format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (519) 661-2111 ext. 82147.

For more information on Western’s Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities please see: [http://www.uwo.ca/.../appeals/accommodation_disabilities.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/.../appeals/accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Email is the best way to reach me, office hours are the next best, and phone is a distant third.

I encourage the use of electronic devices in the classroom for course related purposes only. Please make sure your devices are on silent. Please do not view material that is likely to disturb or distract students around you.