

Summer 2020

Course Number	SOWK 551.02 S01	Classroom	Online
Course Name	Loss & Grief		
Day(s)	June 29 – August 28, 2020	Time	See class schedule below
Instructors	Dorothy Badry, PhD, RSW Amy Fulton, PhD, RSW	Office Hours/Location	Online in Zoom from 4:30-5:00 pm on July 6, July 20, or by appointment.
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SYLLABUS STATEMENT

Focuses on theory and practice related to social work interventions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The focus of this course is an introduction to social work theory and practice in the area of loss and grief. The course will focus on social work theories and practices, including methods of assessment and intervention that are applicable across the lifespan and with diverse populations. The course will also explore the concept and experience of loss throughout the lifespan from diverse perspectives. A wide array of losses will be considered such as death, bereavement, divorce, unemployment, poverty, disability, abuse, and illness. Through assigned readings, completion of reflective exercises and participation in online classes and discussions students will learn about traditional and contemporary theoretical models for understanding loss and grief.

Student's own experiences of loss and grief, personal considerations, compassion fatigue, and self-care strategies will be integrated into the course assignments.

Consultation from the instructors is available upon request. Students requiring support with mental health issues or emotional distress should seek counseling/support from an appropriate source, such as the University of Calgary Wellness Centre: 403-210-9355.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through successful completion of this course the student will:

- 1. Demonstrate an emerging understanding of the range of losses and grief experienced throughout the life cycle
- 2. Identify issues of diversity in relation to understanding the experience of loss and using appropriate interventions
- 3. Identify a variety of grief interventions and critically examine their applicability to specific contexts
- 4. Critically review theories of grief, mourning and bereavement

- 5. Articulate awareness of personal and professional attitudes and beliefs around loss and grief
- 6. Examine the impact of one's own losses
- 7. Articulate the importance of moving towards a personal integration of losses

LEARNING RESOURCES

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Hooyman, N. R., & Kramer, B. J. (2006 or 2008). *Living through loss: Interventions across the life span.*Columbia University Press.

This textbook is available as an e-book through the University of Calgary library, link provided in D2L. The text is available for purchase from the University of Calgary Bookstore and other retailers. Website: http://calgarybookstore.ca/

Note: The text was first published in 2006. It then went into a second printing in 2008. Either version of the text, 2006 or 2008, will work for the course. The Kindle version is also acceptable.

The textbook is also available as an e-book through the University of Calgary library (log-in required): http://ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=sih&bquery=JN+%26quot%3bLiving+Through+Loss%26quot%3b+AND+DT+20060101&type=1&searchMode=And&site=ehost-live

REQUIRED READINGS

Neimeyer, R.A., Klass, D., & Dennis, M.R. (2014). A social constructionist account of grief: Loss and the narration of meaning. *Death Studies*, *38*(3), 485-498. https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2014.913454

Paxton, B. (2018). The rendezvous. In *At home with grief: Continued bonds with the deceased* (pp. 1-8). Routledge.

This book is available as an e-book through the University of Calgary library, link provided in D2L. Please download the required pages as soon as possible as only one user can access the book at a time.

Strom-Gottfried, K., & Mowbray, N. D. (2006). Who heals the helper? Facilitating the social worker's grief. Families in Society, 87(1), 9-15. https://doi.org/10.1606/1044-3894.3479

Pages 3 -8 of:

Walter, C. M., & McCoyd, J. L. M. (2016). *Grief and loss across the lifespan: A biopsychosocial perspective* (2nd ed.). Springer.

This book is available as an e-book through the University of Calgary library, link provided in D2L.

Worden, W. J. (2018). *Grief counseling and grief therapy: A handbook for the mental health practitioner* (5th ed.). Springer.

This book is available as an e-book through the University of Calgary library, link provided in D2L. Please download the required pages as there is a limit on the number of users that can access the book at one time).

REQUIRED VIDEOS

ABC News. (2008, April 11). The last lecture: A love story for your life [Video].

https://archive.org/details/GabrielRobins-RandyPauschInterviewAboutTheTheLastLecture494 (Length: 40 minutes)

Canadian Virtual Hospice. (2011). Anticipatory mourning [Video]. Youtube.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MwleFkJsQI

(Length: 1.5 minutes)

Polley, S. (Director). (2006, September 11). *Away from her* [Film]. Foundry Films. (Link provided in D2L).

Marx, S. (2007). Remembering: Families talk about death [Film]. Aquarius Health Care Media.

https://video-alexanderstreet-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/watch/remembering

(Length: 24 minutes)

Springer Publishing Company. (2013, October 4). Disenfranchised grief: Dr. Ken Doka [Video].

Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhfxzY65Sml

(Length: 5.5 minutes)

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

A D2L site is set up for the course that contains readings, a discussion boards and other relevant class resources and materials. A laptop, desktop or mobile device with Internet access and speaker/sound is required for D2L access.

Students are expected to fully participate in Zoom sessions. A laptop, desktop or mobile device with Internet access, microphone and speaker is required for Zoom access.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES

SOWK 551 – Loss & Grief is an elective course designed to enhance preparedness to respond to individuals, families and communities who have experienced loss in its diverse forms. It will serve as an adjunct to other practice-focused classes and foundational BSW courses and will be enriched by students' field (SOWK 410/411 and SOWK 412/413), workplace and life experiences. Students are encouraged to apply and integrate knowledge, skills and values learned in other university coursework

CLASS SCHEDULE

This course is delivered entirely online through D2L. All assignments will be submitted to the instructors through the Dropbox in D2L, unless otherwise indicated. Students requiring technical support can call the University of Calgary's IT support at 403-220-5555 or email them at: itsupport@ucalgary.ca

The course will start off with a Welcome & Orientation followed by five units. The schedule is as follows (all times listed are in Mountain Time, the local time in Calgary, Alberta):

Unit & Dates	Topic / Learning Objectives	Readings/Assignments Due
June 29	First day of class	Zoom session (recommended): Welcome, introduction and orientation to the course, June 29, 4:00-6:00 pm Required Reading: Preface & Introduction sections and Chapter 1 –
		Hooyman & Kramer (2006 or 2008)
June 30-July 2 Welcome & Orientation	Course orientation & introduction to key loss and grief topics	Discussion board participation (optional) Required Reading: Strom-Gottfried, K., & Mowbray, N. D. (2006). Who heals the helper? Facilitating the social worker's grief. Families in Society, 87(1), 9-15. Worden, W. J. (2018). The counselor's own grief. In Grief counseling and grief therapy: A handbook for the mental health practitioner (5th ed., pp. 251-259).
July 3-9 Unit 1	Loss & Grief Theories, Compassion Fatigue and Self-Care	No Zoom session during this unit. Review PowerPoint Pre-Recorded lecture. Discussion Board: Post #1 due: July 7; Post #2 due: July 9
		Independent work on reflective journal entry for Unit 1 (do not submit yet).
		Required Reading: Chapter 14 – Hooyman & Kramer (2006 or 2008)
		Paxton, B. (2018). The rendezvous. In At home with grief: Continued bonds with the deceased (pp. 1-8).
		Worden, W. J. (2018). Attachment, loss and the grief experience. In <i>Grief counseling and grief therapy: A handbook for the mental health practitioner</i> (5th ed., pp. 15-38).
		Required Video: Springer Publishing Company. (2013, October 4). Disenfranchised grief: Dr. Ken Doka [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhfxzY65Sml
July 10 – 16: Unit 2	Theoretical Foundations	Required Zoom session: July 13, 4:00 -6:00 pm

		Discussion Board: Post #1 due: July 14; Post #2 due: July 16
		Independent work on reflective journal entry for Unit 2 (do not submit yet).
		Required Reading: Chapters 2 & 3 – Hooyman & Kramer (2006 or 2008)
		Neimeyer, R.A., Klass, D., & Dennis, M.R. (2014). A social constructionist account of grief: Loss and the narration of meaning. <i>Death Studies</i> , <i>38</i> (3), 485-498.
		Pages 3 -8 of: Walter, C. M., & McCoyd, J. L. M. (2016). <i>Grief and loss across the lifespan: A biopsychosocial perspective</i> (2nd ed.).
		Required Video: Canadian Virtual Hospice. (2011). Anticipatory mourning [Video]. Youtube. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MwleFkJsQl
July 17-18		Quiz (online in D2L) Quiz will be available starting at 7:00 am on July 17 until 7:00 pm on July 18
July 17-23: Unit 3	Grief in Childhood & Adolescence	No Zoom session during this unit. Review PowerPoint Pre-Recorded lecture.
		Independent work on reflective journal entry for Unit 3 (do not submit yet).
		Required reading: Chapters 4, 5, 6, & 7 – Hooyman & Kramer (2006 or 2008)
		Required video: Marx, S. (2007). Remembering: Families talk about death [Film]. Aquarius Health Care Media. https://video-alexanderstreet-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/watch/remembering
		No required discussion board posts.
July 24-August 1: Unit 4	Grief in Young & Middle Adulthood	Required Zoom session: July 27, 4:00 -6:00 pm
		Review PowerPoint Pre-Recorded lecture.

		Discussion Board: Post #1 due: July 29; Post #2 due: August 1 Independent work on reflective journal entry for Unit 4 (assignment due on August 2) Required reading: Chapters 8, 9, 10 & 11 – Hooyman & Kramer (2006 or 2008) Required video: ABC News. (2008, April 11). 'The last lecture: A love story for your life. [Video]. https://archive.org/details/GabrielRobins-RandyPauschInterviewAboutTheTheLastLecture494 (approx. 40 minutes)
August 2		Reflective Journal Assignment due
August 2-12: Unit 5	Grief in Older Adulthood	Required Zoom session: August 10, 4:00 – 6:00 pm Review PowerPoint Pre-Recorded lecture. Discussion Board: Post #1 due: August 9; Post #2 due: August 12 Required reading: Chapters 12 & 13 – Hooyman & Kramer (2006 or 2008) Required video: Polley, S. (Director). (2006, September 11). Away from her [Film]. Foundry Films. (Link provided in D2L).
August 12		Last day to post in discussion board for credit
August 13		Student self-assessment of participation due (submit to Dropbox in D2L).

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND RELATED INFORMATION

Online learning in university requires students to be self-directed adult learners. Class assignments and activities are designed to provide diverse and meaningful learning opportunities that are rooted in the context of the student's lived experience. As this course deals with potentially sensitive issues an open and mutually respectful learning environment is mandatory.

USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Students are to refrain from accessing websites that may be distracting for other learners (e.g., personal emails, Facebook, YouTube) during class time.

CLASS RECORDINGS

Media recording for assessment of student learning

The instructors may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions and presentations that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Zoom recordings of online classes

The instructors will record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructors initiate a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS					
Assessment Method	Assessment Description & Criteria	Due Date July 18 at	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome 1, 2, 3, 4	
Quiz	The quiz will be based on required readings and pre-recorded lectures for Units 1 and 2. It will consist of 30-40 multiple choice or true/false. Purpose: The purpose of the quiz is to assess student's level of comprehension of the content from the first two units of the course. Format: Quizzes will be available from 7:00 am on July 17 to 7:00 pm on July 18. The quiz is open book; however, there is an enforced time limit of 90 minutes once the quiz has been started by the student. The quiz may only be attempted once. Delivery: The quiz will be delivered in D2L.	7:00 pm (tip: you are encouraged to start the quiz by 5:30 pm on July 18 at the latest to ensure you have a full 90 minutes to complete it)	23/0	1, 2, 3, 4	

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Reflective	<u>Purpose:</u> The reflective journal provides	August 2 at	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Journal	the student with the opportunity to	11:59 pm		
	explore, describe, integrate and critically			
	analyze thoughts, reflections, and			
	learning, both theoretical and personal,			
	completed in the first four units of the			
	course. The journal is intended to be a			
	tool for students to use in their personal			
	and professional growth. It provides the			
	student the opportunity to be more			
	personal than they may desire to be in the			
	online class discussions. It is important			
	that reference to specific course materials			
	be clearly integrated into the journal.			
	Format: Students are expected to write in			
	their journal independently during each			
	unit (one journal entry per unit for units 1,			
	2, 3 and 4). Students should indicate the			
	date on which each journal entry was			
	written. The journal must adhere to the			
	citation and referencing standards put			
	forth in the <i>Publication Manual of the</i>			
	American Psychological Association (7th			
	ed.). References to course materials			
	should be made and a reference list			
	should be included at the end of the			
	document. Submissions should have an			
	APA style title page, page numbers and			
	running head. The journal will include 4			
	entries (one for each of units 1, 2, 3 and 4)			
	of 2-3 pages in length (minimum length is			
	8-pages and maximum length is 11-pages,			
	minimum and maximum length do not			
	include the title page and reference list).			
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	<u>Topic Suggestions:</u> The instructors will			
	make suggestions on journal topics to			
	students regularly throughout the term in			
	the form of writing prompts posted to			
	D2L.			
	<u>Criteria:</u> Journal submissions should			
	demonstrate the following (for further			
	details see the grading rubric in D2L):			
	Mastery of course content			
	Evidence of reflection and critical			
	thinking/analysis			
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	 Quality of writing, mechanics and referencing Depth of reflection, standard of writing and integration of course materials and other resources will be factors in grading student's work. 			
D2L Discussion Board and Participation in the Learning Community	The D2L Discussion Board and Participation in the Learning Community grade rewards students for their ongoing active engagement in the learning process in two formats: a) The required Zoom sessions* (dates: July 13, July 27, August 10); and b) The asynchronous online discussions in the discussion board throughout the term The class will work together through the course material through asynchronous online discussions. Course materials will also be supplemented by Zoom sessions. Participation in the Zoom sessions and online discussions is a key part of the learning in this course. As such, participation in the learning community is be graded. For any required Zoom session missed, the student will be required to review the recording of the Zoom session and submit a 1-2 page reflection paper within 5 days from the date of the required Zoom session that was missed. A grading rubric is posted in D2L. *Please note that the June 29 Zoom session is highly recommended but participation is not required as it is not reflected in the participation grade. As such, the reflection paper will not be required for missing the June 29 session, however students who miss the session will be expected to review the recording of the session in order to familiarize themselves with any missed material. Discussion Board Postings: Evidence of participation in asynchronous online discussions through posting in the discussion boards in D2L on or before the due dates (see course schedule above for due dates) is a course expectation. Quality of posts will be determined based on depth and relevance of the contributions,	Refer to the course schedule (pp. 4-6) for discussion board posting due dates. Student self-assessment due date: August 13	student self- assessment = 10% + instructor assessment = 25%, total value = 35%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7

as well as writing quality. The posts must adhere to the citation and referencing standards put forth in the *Publication* Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Reviewing and responding to other students' posts is encouraged. Posting in the discussion board during the Welcome & Orientation period (June 30-July 2) is optional, but strongly encouraged. Student Self-Assessment: Students will provide a 1-2 page (single or doublespaced, 12-point font of the student's choice) written self-evaluation of their participation. A title page and referencing is not required but please ensure that your full name is clearly visible on your paper. The student will provide a recommended score for their participation out of a maximum of 10 points. Students are encouraged to refer to the participation rubric in D2L when conducting their self-assessment in order to review the grading criteria for participation and make an accurate and honest self-assessment. The narrative portion of the self-assessment must cover the following: a) Description of the student's quantity and quality of participation, including the discussion boards and Zoom sessions; b) Clear rationale for the student's suggested participation grade; c) Any special considerations that should be taken into account.

ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. These expectations are part of the participation grade, as outlined in the assessment components section above.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Discussion board posts should be posted directly in the discussion board.

The Reflective Journal and Student Self-Assessment of Participation assignments are to be submitted electronically through their respective dropboxes in D2L. Assignments must be submitted in Word format. Assignments should have a file name as follows: "Full student name and assignment name" (e.g., Jane Smith Reflective Journal). Assignments are due before midnight on their due date, with the exception of the quiz. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment (with the exception of the quiz) and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will be accepted only in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion or the instructors. In order to receive an extension, students must contact the instructors by email prior to the assignment due date. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with a grade reduction.

The late submission penalty for the Reflective Journal assignment is 0.5 marks per day late (including weekends and holidays).

Missing the quiz without prior permission from the instructors will result in a score of 0 (zero).

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

All assignments, with the exception of the quiz, will be assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented and referenced in APA format. If you need writing support, please connect with the Student Success Centre, at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

It is expected that all work submitted in assignments is the student's own work, written expressly by the student for this particular course. Students are reminded that academic misconduct, including plagiarism, has serious consequences, as set out in the University Calendar:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

GRADING

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

The University of Calgary **Undergraduate Grading System** and Faculty of Social Work Percentage Conversion will be used.

Grade	Grade	Description	Percentage
	Point		Range
A+	4.0	Outstanding	95 - 100
А	4.0	Excellent – superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter	95 – 100
A-	3.7		90 – 94
B+	3.3		85 – 89
В	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete	80 – 84
B-	2.7		75 – 79
C+	2.3		70 – 74
С	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of subject matter	65 – 69
C-	1.7		60 – 64
D+	1.3		55 – 59
D	1.0	Minimal Pass – marginal performance	50 – 54
F	0.0	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements	Below 50

COURSE EVALUATION

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University and Faculty of Social Work course evaluation forms.

Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructors.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED READINGS

Additional suggested readings for the course will be provided to students in D2L.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

As members of the University community, students and staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html

Students and staff are also expected to demonstrate professional behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. Consistent with the aims of the Social Work Program and the University of Calgary, all students and staff are expected to respect, appreciate, and encourage expression of diverse world views and perspectives; to offer their fellow community members unconditional respect and constructive feedback; and to contribute to building learning communities that promote individual and collective professional and personal growth. While critical thought and debate is valued in response to concepts and opinions shared in class, feedback must always be focused on the ideas or opinions shared and not on the person who has stated them.

Students and staff are expected to model behaviour in class that is consistent with our professional values and ethics, as outlined in the Canadian Association for Social Workers, Code of Ethics (2005) and the Alberta College of Social Work Standards of Practice (2019). Both can be found online at: https://acsw.ab.ca/site/practice-resources?nav=sidebar

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS). SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructors. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

RESEARCH ETHICS

"If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructors and consult the CFREB Ethics Website (http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb) before beginning the assignment.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by professor(s) (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information

https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf

- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk