



Nursing and Health Professions Division  
1400 Tanyard Road, Sewell, NJ 08080  
856-468-5000

## **SOC 216 Death & Dying**

Syllabus

Lecture Hours/Credits: 3/3

### **Catalog Description**

*Prerequisites SOC 101*

A sociological and psychological exploration of issues surrounding death and bereavement such as grief, funerals, euthanasia, suicide and the dying patient.

### **Textbook and Course Materials**

It is the responsibility of the student to confirm with the bookstore and/or their instructor the textbook, handbook, and any other materials required for their specific course and section.

Click here to see current textbook prices at: [rcgc.bncollege.com](http://rcgc.bncollege.com).

### **Evaluation Assessment**

#### **Online Proctoring**

All courses offered at RCSJ, whether they are web-enhanced, hybrid, or fully online, may include assessments that make use of Online Proctoring. To find out more about Online Proctoring, and to learn about the minimum technical requirements, visit [rcsj.edu/elearning/online-proctoring](http://rcsj.edu/elearning/online-proctoring).

#### **Grading Distribution**

Grading to be determined by individual instructors.

Individual instructors may include the following assessment(s):

- Projects
- Portfolios
- Exams
- Presentations and/or Papers

#### **Grading**

The grading scale for each course and section will be determined by the instructor and distributed the first day of class.

## Rowan College of South Jersey Core Competencies

(Based on the NJCCC General Education Foundation - August 15, 2007; Revised 2011; Adopted 2014)

This comprehensive list reflects the core competencies that are essential for all RCSJ graduates; however, each program varies regarding competencies required for a specific degree. Critical thinking is embedded in all courses, while teamwork and personal skills are embedded in many courses.

1. **Written and Oral Communication:** Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
2. **Quantitative Knowledge and Skills:** Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems
3. **Scientific Knowledge and Reasoning:** Students will use the scientific method of inquiry, through the acquisition of scientific knowledge.
4. **Technological Competency:** Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals
5. **Society and Human Behavior:** Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.
6. **Humanistic Perspective:** Students will analyze works in the fields of art, history, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language
7. **Historical Perspective:** Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.
8. **Global and Cultural Awareness:** Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.
9. **Ethical Reasoning and Action:** Students will understand ethical issues and situations.
10. **Information Literacy:** Students will address an information need by locating, evaluating, and effectively using information.

### SOC 216 Core Competencies

This course focuses on three of RCSJ's Core Competencies:

- Society and Human Behavior
- Historical Perspective
- Global and Cultural Awareness

### Student Learning Outcomes: Death & Dying

Successful completion of SOC 216 will help students:	RCSJ Core Competencies	Evaluation / Assessment (Additional means of evaluation may be included by individual instructors)
Demonstrate clarification of his/her own values relating to death and dying	Society and Human Behavior Historical Perspective Global and Cultural Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects</li> <li>• Portfolios</li> <li>• Exams</li> <li>• Presentations and/or Papers</li> </ul>
Demonstrate an ability in his/her interactional relationships toward a more relaxed and comfortable approach with dying, grieving or terminally ill individuals	Society and Human Behavior Historical Perspective Global and Cultural Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects</li> <li>• Portfolios</li> <li>• Exams</li> <li>• Presentations and/or Papers</li> </ul>
Discuss changing meanings of death and dying	Society and Human Behavior Historical Perspective Global and Cultural Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects</li> <li>• Portfolios</li> <li>• Exams</li> <li>• Presentations and/or Papers</li> </ul>
Describe the personal experience of death in terms of self, a dying individual and a child's view of death	Society and Human Behavior Historical Perspective Global and Cultural Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects</li> <li>• Portfolios</li> <li>• Exams</li> <li>• Presentations and/or Papers</li> </ul>
Identify the psychological, medical and social dimensions of bereavement, widowhood and the funeral in terms of the survivors of death	Society and Human Behavior Historical Perspective Global and Cultural Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects</li> <li>• Portfolios</li> <li>• Exams</li> <li>• Presentations and/or Papers</li> </ul>
Discuss the moral/ethical dilemmas of death raised by such issues as right to life, death with dignity, meanings of suicide, war and the human condition, and the death system	Society and Human Behavior Historical Perspective Global and Cultural Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects</li> <li>• Portfolios</li> <li>• Exams</li> <li>• Presentations and/or Papers</li> </ul>

## Topical Outline

- Studying Dying, Death, and Bereavement
- The American Experience of Death
- Growing Up with Death/Growing Old with Death
- Perspectives on Death and Life after Death
- The Dying Process
- Living with Dying
- Dying in the American Health Care System
- Biomedical Issues and Euthanasia
- Suicide and other Sudden, Unnatural Traumatic Deaths
- Diversity in Death Rituals
- The Business of Dying
- The Legal Aspects of Dying
- Coping with Loss
- Grieving Throughout the Life Cycle

## Affirmative Action Statement

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing a work and academic environment that maintains and promotes affirmative action and equal opportunity for all employees and students without discrimination on the basis of certain enumerated and protected categories. These categories are race, creed (religion), color, national origin, nationality, ancestry, age, sex (including pregnancy and sexual harassment), marital status, domestic partnership or civil union status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, genetic information, liability for military service, or mental or physical disability, including AIDS and HIV related illnesses.

For questions concerning discrimination, contact Almarie J. Jones, Special Assistant to the President, Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Compliance, 856-415-2154 or [ajones@rcsj.edu](mailto:ajones@rcsj.edu) or (Cumberland) Nathaniel Alridge, Jr., JD, Director, Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Judicial Affairs, 856-691-8600, ext. 1414 or [nalridge@rcsj.edu](mailto:nalridge@rcsj.edu). For disability issues or any barriers in the learning or physical environment related to a document condition/disability please contact: Gloucester campus – Carol Weinhardt, Director, Department of Special Services, ADA/504 Officer at 856-415-2247 or [cweinhar@rcsj.edu](mailto:cweinhar@rcsj.edu); or Cumberland Campus – Meredith Vicente, Senior Director, Department of Special Services/Project Assist at 856-200-4688 or [mvicent1@rcsj.edu](mailto:mvicent1@rcsj.edu).

## Department of Special Services

The Department of Special Services is committed to providing support services and ensuring equal access to eligible students with documented conditions/disabilities as outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act with Amendments Act (ADAAA).

### (Gloucester Campus Location and Contact)

Location: Instructional Center, room 425A.

Primary Contact: Director, Carol Weinhardt, (email) [cweinhar@rcsj.edu](mailto:cweinhar@rcsj.edu); or (phone) 856-415-2247.

### (Cumberland Campus Location and Contact)

Location: Center for Academic & Student Success (CASS)

Primary Contact: Senior Director, Meredith Vicente, (email) [mvicent1@rcsj.edu](mailto:mvicent1@rcsj.edu); or (phone) 856-200-4688.

**Reporting Allegations of Sexual Assault and Resource Referrals (08/2021)  
Gloucester Campus**

There are multiple safe places for students to report allegations of sexual assault, both on and off campus. Reports of sexual assault can be made to any of the following offices listed in the chart below.

All students are encouraged to report alleged crimes on campus. Crimes that pose a threat to the campus community must be reported to **9-1-1**, Security, the Sheriff's Office or the Deptford Township Police Department. All employees, including Security staff, must report incidents of discrimination, harassment or sexual misconduct to the Title IX Office

<b>Service</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Phone Number/Location/Website</b>
<b>Non-Confidential Reporting</b>  Local Law Enforcement	Gloucester County Sheriff's Office	856-681-2200
	Deptford Township Police Dept.	856-845-2220
	Gloucester Co. Prosecutor's Office	856-384-5500
	Sexual Assault Response Team	856-384-5555
<b>Non-Confidential Reporting 9-1-1 and Campus Security</b>	<b>9-1-1</b> Gloucester County Emergency Management Dispatch  Campus Security <b>Blue Light</b> Emergency Phones <u>or</u> ext. 4444 from any campus desk phone	<b>9-1-1 or push RED button on Campus Blue Light</b> Emergency Phones  856-681-6287
<b>Non-Confidential On-Campus Reporting Support Services</b>	Almarie J. Jones Special Assistant to the President Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Compliance  John F. Ryder Director, Student and Veteran Affairs	856-415-2154 College Center, Room 116 <i>ajones@rcsj.edu</i>  856-468-5000, ext. 6456 College Center, room 202 <i>jryder@rcsj.edu</i>
<b>Confidential On-Campus Counseling and Support Services</b>	Lois Y. Lawson-Bridgell, Ph.D. MSW, LSW, Director Counseling & Wellness Services Center	856-464-5236 <i>llawsonb@rcsj.edu</i> College Center, Room 206
	William Leonard, Ph.D. Intervention Teams Consultant	856-415-2119 <i>wleonard@rcsj.edu</i> College Center, STEM Office C-168
	Crystal Noboa, LSW, MSW Director, The Center for People in Transition (PIT)	856-415-2264 <i>cnoboa@rcsj.edu</i> Career & Technical Education Center, Room 809, 1492 Tanyard Road
	Diane Mussoline, EdS, LMFT Executive Director of Behavioral Services	856-494-5665 <i>dmussoli@rcsj.edu</i> Rowan University Center, Room 200A
<b>Confidential Off-Campus Full-Service Support</b>	Center for Family Services/ Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV)	1-866-295-7378 Camden and Gloucester counties <a href="http://www.centerffs.org/serv">www.centerffs.org/serv</a>
<b>Hospitals with Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners</b>	Inspira Medical Center	700 Mullica Hill Road, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062 856-508-1000
	Jefferson Washington Township Hospital	435 Hurffville-Crosskeys Rd., Turnersville, NJ 856-582-2500