

Common Course Outline

MORS 151 Thanatology 3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

MORS 151 – 3 Credits – Thanatology provides an understanding of the symbolic and ritualistic aspects of the funeral, which have a significant impact on the emotional experience of the bereaved; covers psychological concepts in the areas of grief, bereavement and mourning, ethics, and communication skills within the funeral service profession.

3 credits; 3 lecture hours per week

Prerequisites: MORS 101, MORS 131, and MORS 141 with a minimum of a C or better.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. understand the application and purpose of sociology in funeral service;
2. understand the cultural requirements and cultural diversities of each family the funeral director is privileged to serve;
3. recognize the family governing systems found in our society;
4. be familiar with the different types of family structure;
5. be aware of the changing social factors, which affect funeral rites and the families that are served by the funeral directors;
6. determine the role of the deceased in the family structure and the affect of the death on that family's structure;
7. recognize the application of general psychology to funeral service;
8. describe the values and purposes of the funeral rite for the family and friends;
9. recognize the typical reaction and responses experienced during the emotion of grief;
10. describe the theories of grief;
11. describe issues relating to children and death;
12. explain how grief affects the functioning family;
13. recognize the difference between grief counseling and grief therapy and identify the limitations for the funeral director;
14. differentiate between the types and styles of counseling;
15. recognize the major goals of counseling as well as the functions of the counselor;
16. utilize the basic counseling skills and techniques and apply them to funeral service;
17. recognize the pre-need, at-need and post funeral counseling opportunities in the community;
18. recognize and understand their personal resources for coping with loss;
19. recognize when to make referrals to the appropriate community resources;

20. define ethics;
21. distinguish between legal and ethical issues;
22. apply a standard of ethical behavior in personal and professional conduct; and
23. demonstrate an understanding of terms associated with ethical issues and practices.

Major Topics

- I. Funeral service sociology
- II. Funeral service psychology
- III. Funeral service counseling
- IV. Communication skills within the funeral service profession
- V. Funeral ethics

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: There will be no extra credit given in any Mortuary Science Class. Final examinations in all Mortuary Science classes will be comprehensive.

Grading Scale: The following is the grading scale used in all mortuary science classes.

A = 92 – 100	Research Paper	20%
B = 85 – 91	Test I	20%
C = 78 – 84	Test II	20%
D = 70 – 77	Test III	20%
F = 0 – 69	Comprehensive Final	<u>20%</u>
		100%

Other Course Information

This course is a requirement for an Associate in Applied Science in the Mortuary Science Curriculum, which, in the State of Maryland, is required to sit for the National Board Examination (NBE). The NBE is implemented by the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards (www.CFSEB.org). The Mortuary Science Program is statewide designated by the Maryland State Board of Higher Education and is nationally accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (www.CFSEB.org).

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Individual faculty members may include additional course objectives, major topics, and other course requirements to the minimum expectations stated in the Common Course Outline.