

***Medicine and the End of Life: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Death and Dying***  
***ENRH-152***

**Course directors:** Nico Campalans, Gina Milano, and Madeleine Marlar, MS2022; Kendra Maple and Zoe Tao, MS2021

**Faculty sponsor:** Dr. Elizabeth Paulk (Department of Internal Medicine-Palliative Care)

**Minimum participants:** 5

**Maximum participants:** 30

**Course description:**

We will all remember the first patient who dies under our care. This course intends to provide an overview of what it means to live, to die, and to mourn in our positions as people who will interact with death both personally and professionally. Topics will cover how we define, approach, and care for both life and death from biomedical, sociological, cultural, religious, artistic, legal and ethical standpoints. We discuss topics ranging from palliative care and acute trauma, to violence and human rights violations, to ethical and religious understandings of the end of life.

**Rationale:**

We aim to empower students to prepare themselves for the emotional, logistical, and professional heavy lifting surrounding death and dying. Importantly, we emphasize that the end of life is not the end of love, care and meaning.

**Format:** one semester, 10 classes, 1.5 hours each. Classes will consist of instructor or guest presentations followed by group discussion of that day's topics.

**Student evaluation:** grades will be pass/fail. Attendance is required to receive credit for the course. To receive transcript acknowledgment, students must attend 10 out of the 15 participants hours and complete the online REDCap course evaluation form.

**Schedule:**

1. **1/7 Trauma and the end of life – Dr. Thomas Shultz, Parkland trauma surgeon**
  - a. Scopes of appropriate intervention at the end of life, perceptions of patient frailty
  - b. Goals of care conversations in surgery
  
2. **1/14 Medicine and the end of life – Dr. Elizabeth Paulk, director of Parkland palliative care**
  - a. Hospice and palliative care in DFW
  - b. Advance directives (DNR/DNI), Life-prolonging measures
  - c. LGBTQ end of life care

3. **1/28 The end of life and racial disparities – Dr. Ramona Rhodes, geriatrician and palliative medicine physician**
  - a. biases in end of life care, defining dignity
4. **2/11 Death and dying in neonatal and pediatric care – Dr. Sunjun Kang, neonatal intensivist**
  - a. Scopes of intervention and neonatal resuscitation
  - b. neonatal end-of-life care
5. **2/25 Bereavement, grief, and mourning – Dr. Flor Leal, Parkland bereavement clinical psychologist**
  - a. Life at the end of life
  - b. Our own perceptions of life, death, and loss
6. **3/3 Neurology and palliative medicine – Dr. Jenny Riecke, UTSW neurology resident**
  - a. Cognitive impairment, difficulty with prognostication, and challenges in neuro palliative care
7. **3/10 Brad Mueller, UTSW clinical tech and former military EMT**
  - a. Dealing with the experience of trauma
8. **3/31 End of life and incarceration, compassionate medical release – Dr. Christopher Berry, medical director for Dallas County Jail**
  - a. Article on prison hospice (discussion)
  - b. Terms of compassionate medical release
9. **4/7 Religion, spirituality, and dying – Eric Markinson, Parkland-trained chaplain**
  - a. Themes from major world religions on death/dying
  - b. Religion and spirituality in the hospital
10. **4/14 A closer look at social death: suicide and physician burnout – Dr. Alyson Nakamura, psychiatrist at UTSW resident wellness center**
  - a. Physician and trainee burnout
  - b. Suicide among health professionals