Managing Death and Dying in Comparative Perspective:
Dutch Mosaic Spring 2022

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SOCI 230/HEST elective *or* field experience: **Managing Death and Dying in Cross-Cultural Perspective**. This one-course Mosaic focuses on Health Care and End-of-Life Decision-Making in comparative perspective. We will examine the philosophical, ethical, cultural, policy, organizational, and economic aspects of palliative and hospice care in both the U.S. and the Netherlands. After delving into questions related to the life course, aging, dying, and health care in comparative (historic and cross-cultural perspectives), we will focus on end-of-life care in the U.S. and the Netherlands. How are end-of- life decisions made and what palliative care and hospice options are offered to people/patients in the United States and the Netherlands? What is the substance of the philosophical and ethical debates in each country regarding palliative care and euthanasia? We will hear from medical practitioners, ethicists, policy-makers, and possibly patients as we pursue the following questions: how far should “we” go in prolonging life? Who gets to decide? What may constitute a “good death”? This Mosaic integrates an 11-day (9 full days in country) research trip to the Netherlands.

If possible, the course will engage students in conducting interviews and participant observation both in the Carlisle region and during a 9-day research trip to the Netherlands. In both contexts, we will be able to engage highly regarded professionals in the field of end-of-life decision-making and care, including doctors, nurses, scholars and ethicists and possibly health facilities. Depending on students’ final projects, it may fulfill the SOCI 240 requirement for Qualitative Research Methods. It may also fulfill either the field experience or an elective for Health Studies.

The Mosaic’s 11-day research trip to the Netherlands will take place over spring break. A program fee TBD (plus international airfare) will cover all basic expenses (room and board, travel in country, museum fees, lectures) while in the Netherlands, and transportation to and from Dickinson’s campus to the airport. Students are eligible to apply for financial aid. Applications will be due in early fall, prior to registration for spring 2022 courses; students will be notified prior to pre-registration about the status of their applications.

We will read books, such as Atul Gwanda, *Being Mortal;* Roi Levine, *Values at the End of Life: The Logic of Palliative Care;* Lewis Cohen*, A Dignified Ending: Taking Control Over How We Die;* Kara Clayton*, Hospice: Inside the Stories of Patients and Caregivers;* and Henk Have and Jos Weilie, *Death and Medical Power: An Ethical Analysis of Dutch Euthanasia*.

For more information, contact Prof. Susan Rose (rose@dickinson.edu)