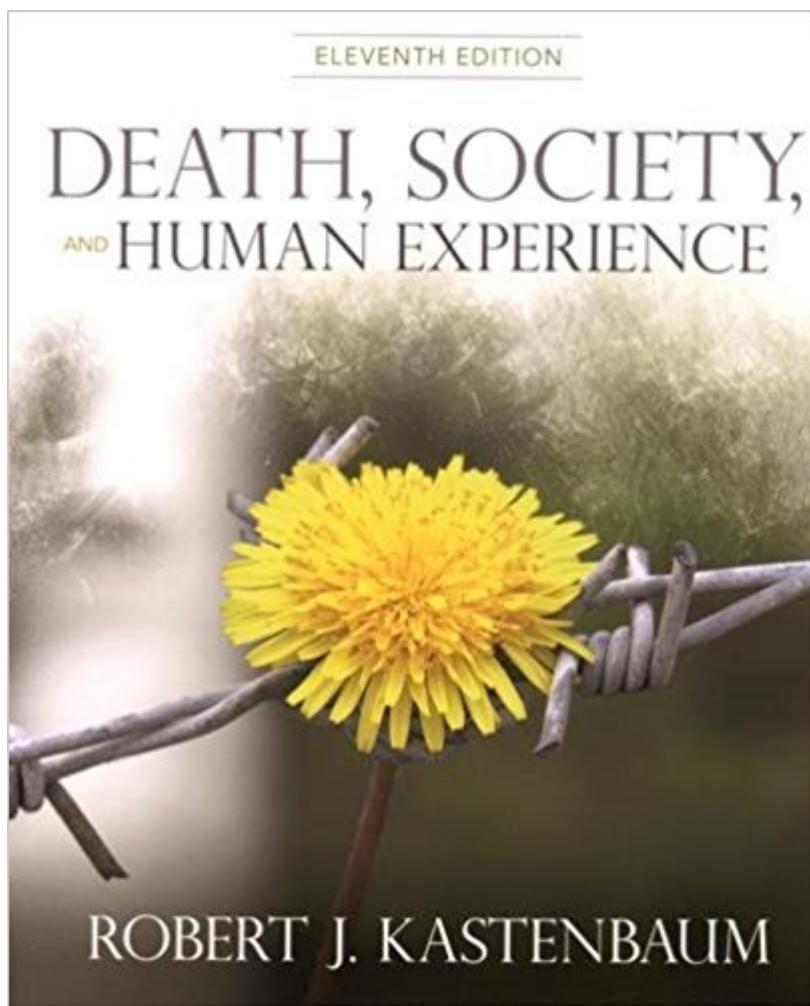


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# Death, Society, And Human Experience



## **Synopsis**

Providing an understanding of the relationship with death, both as an individual and as a member of society. This book is intended to contribute to your understanding of your relationship with death, both as an individual and as a member of society. Kastenbaum shows how individual and societal attitudes influence both how and when we die and how we live and deal with the knowledge of death and loss. Robert Kastenbaum is a renowned scholar who developed one of the world's first death education courses and introduced the first text for this market. This landmark text draws on contributions from the social and behavioral sciences as well as the humanities, such as history, religion, philosophy, literature, and the arts, to provide thorough coverage of understanding death and the dying process. Learning Goals Upon completing this book, readers should be able to:-Understand the relationship with death, both as an individual and as a member of society-See how social forces and events affect the length of our lives, how we grieve, and how we die-Learn how dying people are perceived and treated in our society and what can be done to provide the best possible care -Master an understanding of continuing developments and challenges to hospice (palliative care).-Understand what is becoming of faith and doubt about an afterlife

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Thank you to the following reviewers: Allen Richardson Cedar Crest College J. Meredith Martin University of New Mexico Patrick Ashwood Hawkeye Community College *âœlt is written by sociologist doing research in the field. These bits of original research are scattered throughout the book and gives a backbone of expertise. The author keeps up with recent trends in the death*

and dying field. There are good examples of different ethnic groups and their beliefs/practices in the text.â • -Patrick Ashwood, Hawkeye Community College Â ªThe text is quite well done. The coverage of the events of September 11, 2001 are an excellent addition to the book. The material on death anxiety is first rate.â • -Allen Richardson, Cedar Crest College Â ªI think it is a fantastic text! It is very inclusive.â • -J. Meredith Martin, University of New Mexico

Bob Kastenbaumâ ™s exploits as skating messenger apparently qualified him to become editor of two community newspapers, an eccentric career trajectory that somehow led to a graduate scholarship in philosophy and a Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Southern California (1959). He was most interested in fields of psychological study that barely existed at the time: lifespan development and aging, time perspective, creativity, and death and dying. Kastenbaum became part of an emerging cadre that overcame the prevailing neglect and resistance to these issues. He worked in varied settings as clinician, researcher, activist, hospital administrator, educator, and author. The innovative programs he introduced into a geriatric hospital and his article, â ªThe Reluctant Therapistâ • have been credited with preparing the way for increased attention to the needs and potentials of vulnerable elders and terminally ill people.Â With Dick Kalish, he founded Omega, the first peer-reviewed journal focused on death-related issues.Â Kastenbaum taught the first regularly-scheduled university course on death and dying and came up with the first textbook (Death, Society, & Human Experience, 1977). He also established the first university-based educational and research center on death and dying (Wayne State University, 1966).Â His other books include The Psychology of DeathÂ (1972, 1990, 2000); Dorian, Graying: Is Youth the Only Thing Worth Having?Â (1995), and On Our Way. The Final Passage Through Life and Death (2004).Â He has also served as editor of the Macmillan Encyclopedia of Death and Dying,Â (2003) and two previous encyclopedias.Â In the public sphere he has served as a co-founderÂ of The National Caucus on Black Aging, consultant to the United States Senate Special Subcommittee on Aging, and participant in developing the Veterans Administrationâ ™s geriatric research and educational centers, and the landmark National Hospice Demonstration Project.Â Kastenbaum lives in Tempe, Arizona with Bunny (wife), Angel (The Incredible Leaping Dog), enhanced by Pumpkin and SnowflakeÂ in the cat department.Â Along with his continuing research interests, Kastenbaum has been writing book and verse for musicals and operas. He notes that nobody has died in the two most recently premiered operas (Closing Time; American Gothic, music by Kenneth LaFave), but cannot make any such promises about the next opera.

The book is extremely helpful and useful. I have this book because I am taking an online course "Sociology of Death". The class is fascinating to discuss with other peers. Though not many of us partake in discussing death, this class has helped me reshape my mentality about it. The process and acceptance of the death phase.

I was touched by Kastenbaum's respectful tone and attitude throughout this book. He provides not only a wonderful global overview (with focus on the American death-denying culture), but also a personal element that somehow brings more authenticity and authority to the subject. This was the first text required through the American Institute of Health Care Professional's Grief Counseling Certification course, and I am glad for it. I have a master's in psychology and was already a Hospice volunteer, but this book really helped me feel like I was digging into my chosen area of interest. Statistics, concepts, terminology and cultural comparatives are all here. The only thing the text doesn't truly do is prepare the reader to facilitate a bereavement group meeting, but it lays excellent groundwork for moving toward that action.

I am currently working on getting credentialed as a certified grief counselor. I was very hesitant about taking an online course, having never done one in the past, and always preferred the lecture environment. What I like most about his book is that it reads a lot like a lecture. Kastenbaum is very detail oriented and I find myself having few questions. It's enjoyable to read and I look forward to doing my coursework. I think this is a great introductory textbook to help counselors, and really anyone, gain an understanding of death in our society.

Kastenbaum has addressed every facet of death in our society. Every chapter is in itself a small book, leaving no aspect untouched. I am taking a continuing education series to obtain certification as a Grief Counselor and this book a total and contemporary look at death as I have never encountered. I may not resale this book as it is a valuable reference. Chapter 3, The Death System, is an extremely raw look at how our society approaches and treats death toward individual groups, I look at the society I live in with a very different perspective after reading about our death system. This book is a must read for anyone entering into grief counseling.

Very well written, this textbook is perfectly tailored for a 15-week college course. The book is comprehensive and reflects the author's depth of knowledge, extensive experience as well as genuine sensitivity and empathy.

great to get a RENTAL of the required Text for College.\*pretty beat-up, but as long as I'm not held accountable for it - excellent.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book (all 530 pages!) because of its' comprehensiveness on a complex topic. The author has an amazing writing style which engages the reader. Further, the fact that it is in its' 10th edition attests to its' use as an introduction to further study of the topic for health care students, or interested parties on this subject.

The seller delivered the text in a timely fashion, in good condition as stated in the description. The book was in good condition, was the product I needed and was described accurately. Now, the text itself. This academic text presents fact without standard peer reviewed research to back it. It is poorly organized, edited and uses very few standard grammatical conventions for a 300-400 level undergraduate course. It was required by my graduation path, or I would have dropped the course and returned the title the first two days. It really is the worst written, compiled and edited book I have ever read of any genre, and that isn't hyperbole. I wanted to gouge my eyes out to make it stop after 15 pages and that was the high point of my reading experience.

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