

THANATOLOGY



Honours Specialization in Thanatology



Major in Thanatology



Certificate in Loss, Grief and Bereavement Studies



Minor in Thanatology

Why Choose Our Thanatology Program?

The Thanatology program at King's is a pioneering interdisciplinary program focused on the study of death, dying, grief, and bereavement. It is the only undergraduate degree program in its field in the world. It blends academic rigor with practical experience, and provides you with a deep understanding of the psychological, social, cultural and ethical dimensions of end-of-life issues, grief, and various loss experiences across the lifespan. A degree in Thanatology prepares you for work in many fields, including education, government, health care, counselling, social services, research, and policy. You will leave the program with valuable skills in critical thinking and self-awareness, and the capacity to see the world in new ways both professionally and personally.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1. Interdisciplinary Approach:

Learn a holistic view of thanatology by studying a combination of psychology, sociology, ethics, and cultural studies. The Thanatology Program has many courses that are cross-listed with other departments such as Religious Studies, Philosophy, Disability Studies, Childhood and Youth Studies, Psychology, Sociology, Social Justice and Peace Studies and Social Work.

2. Diverse Curriculum:

Choose from a wide variety of courses taking a critical death studies approach and examining the intersections of culture, religion, power, inequity, gender, politics, injustice, access, race, age and more.

3. Expert Faculty:

Learn from renowned faculty members who are leading experts in the field of thanatology, are passionate about teaching and are committed to mentoring and inspiring students to develop their own unique potential.

4. Practical Experience:

Participate in internships, placements, and community engagement projects. This undergraduate program offers a practicum course that includes a 45-hour field placement, and numerous community agency visits, as well as a number of courses that use experiential learning and in-depth weekend workshops.

5. Research Opportunities:

Engage in cutting-edge research and contribute to the expanding field of thanatology. Thanatology has a research lab affectionally known as the Loss Lab where students are mentored and guided through their own research projects.

6. Supportive Environment:

Benefit from small class sizes and a close-knit community of students and faculty dedicated to supporting each other's academic and professional growth

7. Real Life Application:

The theory, information, skills and experiences are all immediately applicable to both your personal and professional lives.

The Thanatology program at King's has given me invaluable insights into the complexities of grief and loss. The combination of theoretical knowledge and practical experience has prepared me for a meaningful career in palliative care."

Julia Zinn, '22 Psychology and Thanatology, Four Year (Honours) Double Major Bachelor of Arts



Career and Pathway Opportunities:

As a graduate of the Thanatology program, you will have a wide range of career options, including:

- Grief counselling and therapy
- Palliative and hospice care
- Funeral services and bereavement support
- Social work
- Health care and pastoral care
- Policy and research
- Education
- Government work

Additional courses to choose from:

Additional courses are available

- Thanatology 2232F/G: Children and Death: Theory and Interventions
- Thanatology 2235A/B: Popular Culture and Death
- Thanatology 2283A/B: Grief Support for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Thanatology 2206F/G: The Role of the Death Doula
- Thanatology 2605A/B: Creative Responses to Loss and Grief
- Thanatology 3325F/G: Dark Tourism: Seeking The Dead, Exploring Internal and External Landscapes
- Thanatology 3326F/G: Grief Activism
- 3331F/G Climate Grief and Eco-Anxiety.

First year Courses:

- Thanatology 1025A/B: Introduction to Thanatology

Mandatory Courses Over 4 Years:

- Thanatology 2201A/B: Research Methods in Thanatology
- Thanatology 2225A/B: Topical Issues in Thanatology
- Thanatology 2230F/G: Principles of Palliative Care
- Thanatology 2231F/G: Bereavement and Grief: Overview and Interventions
- Thanatology 3322F/G: Diversity and Social Justice Issues in Thanatology
- Thanatology 3355F/G: Ethical Issues in Death, Dying and Bereavement



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