



Childhood and Youth Studies 2232F (570)  
Fall 2025

Children And Death: Theory And Interventions

**Course Information:**

**Calendar Description:** An examination of children's understanding of death, the dying child, children and funerals, specific ages and interventions for the grieving child, the family system and death, and trauma in children.

**Prerequisite(s):**

**Anti-requisite(s):** Thanatology 2232F/G

**Extra Information:** 3 lecture hours; cross-listed with Thanatology 2232F/G.

**Course Weight:**0.50      **Breadth:** Category A.

**Subject Code:**CYS

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary pre-requisites.

**Childhood And Youth Studies 2232F/570  
Children & Death: Theory & Interventions**

Instructor: Amanda Reinhart, B.A., B.S.W., M.S.W.

E-mail: [areinha4@uwo.ca](mailto:areinha4@uwo.ca)

Office hours: By appointment (Zoom)

## **HOW TO CONTACT ME**

Contact me by email [areinha4@uwo.ca](mailto:areinha4@uwo.ca) and please include the class course number in the subject line. I will try and return a response within 48 business hours Monday – Friday 9am-5pm.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

By appointment with virtual or in-person options available. Email [areinha4@uwo.ca](mailto:areinha4@uwo.ca) to determine time and location.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An examination of children's understanding of death, the dying child, children and funerals, specific ages and interventions for the grieving child, the family system and death, and death and trauma in children.

Thanatology 2232F is an academic university level course. While the course may contribute to the student's personal growth, grades will be assigned on the basis of academic achievement and mastery over the material covered. It is recommended that a student who is recently bereaved consider *not* taking Thanatology 2232. Please see the instructor privately if you have any questions.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course, and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

This course begins on September 9, 2025 and continues until December 9, 2025 honouring all important dates derived from University approved guidelines and academic policies <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/academic-dates-and-events/>

## **MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

This is an in-person course where 3-hour lectures are held weekly. The lectures honour all important dates derived from University approved guidelines and academic policies (<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/academic-dates-and-events/>).

Throughout the course students are expected to interact regularly with other students, and with me, as the instructor.

Each student brings their own knowledge, experience, and interests to our learning community, which we will build on and use our course material (readings, discussions, lessons, etc.) to amplify learning for everyone.

We will all be responsible for our own learning progress and also for contributing to the growth of our learning community through our participation in all course activities and assessments. We will be ready to engage and connect meaningfully. We will be present, scholarly, respectful and ready to contribute to our

group.

The Thanatology program at King's will uphold the UWO policy as stated above. University credits must be earned and that includes attendance and participation in class, and satisfactorily completing all assignments and exams. If 2 classes are missed, students will receive an email stating course expectations. If additional classes are then missed, without documentation or accommodation, students may be debarred from the final exam/assessment. Professors may also consult with the Department Chair and/or Academic Dean's Office.

If students require accommodation, please ensure that the necessary documentation is submitted to Accessibility & Counselling services at King's. Also, please let instructors know, in a timely way, of the required accommodations. This ensures that students and instructors can work together throughout the term to support successful engagement in all aspects of the course.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- 1. *The child's perspective.*** To understand what it is like to be a bereaved child or adolescent. To identify the distinct characteristics of grief in young persons and how do these differ from adult grief.
- 2. *The perspective of those who experience a child's death.*** To understand societal perspectives, as well as parents, siblings, other relatives, friends, teachers, and others close to the child.
- 3. *The helper's perspective.*** To describe how teachers, therapists, social workers, clergy, health care professionals, emergency response professionals and others can provide effective support to the bereaved child/adolescent and their families.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

1. Arnold, C. (2018). *Understanding child and adolescent grief: Supporting loss and facilitating growth*. Routledge.
  - It is available online through the UWO library for free.
  - If you are wishing to purchase hard copy, the cost is: \$68.84.
2. Traher, C. & Breen, L. J. (2024). *The Routledge international handbook of child and adolescent grief in contemporary context*.
  - An E-Book can be purchased through Routledge, the cost is \$49.59 ([The Routledge International Handbook of Child and Adolescent Grief](#))
  - If you are wishing to purchase a hard copy, the cost is: \$61.99 for a paperback
3. Online readings available on OWL

### ***Recommended***

- *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 7<sup>th</sup> ed.*

## **STRUCTURE:**

Weekly lecture material may include PowerPoint presentations, film/youtube clips, case studies, podcasts, or lecture notes and will include material not contained within the text. Supplementary reading material will also be assigned and will be placed on reserve in the library or posted on OWL. *No attempt will be made to cover all the assigned readings in lectures. Students are responsible for reading and understanding the assigned portions*

of the textbook and supplementary reading list, even if this material is not covered in lectures.

## **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- Film review (Group Presentation) - 25%
- Storybook review (Independent Essay) - 30%
- Participation - 20%
- Final Presentation - 25%

### ***Group PowerPoint Presentation (25%)***

Students will record a group presentation on a preselected film by the instructor. Students will demonstrate understanding of course concepts by applying them to the film. Only the instructor will see and hear the presentation. Criteria for this assignment can be found on OWL under *Assignments*. See course schedule below for due dates. Groups will be assigned by the instructor and listed on OWL under *Groups* – see course schedule below for relevant dates.

### ***Individual Storybook Review (30%)***

Students will review a storybook (pre-selected by the instructor) and complete a 7-page individual book review. Students will apply course material when reviewing the storybook. Criteria for these assignments can be found on OWL under *Assignments*. See course schedule below for due dates.

### ***Participation (20% total – 10% Discussion Forum Questions and 10% in-class engagement)***

Participation will be assessed through in-class engagement as well as contribution to class Discussion Question Forums.

*Discussion Question Forums:* there are 8 discussion question forums on OWL Brightspace. Each of the forums are assigned to a specific week in the course and it's associated materials. You are expected to generate two discussion questions related to that week's readings/materials and post them to the Discussion Forum before the start of class that week. Forums will close at 11:00am on the morning of class. Discussion forum questions will be utilized in-class to facilitate meaningful discussion with your peers. See course schedule below for due dates.

*In-class Engagement:* engagement will be assessed through your participation in class discussions and activities.

### ***Final Presentation (25%)***

Students will present a 20 minute presentation in groups of approximately 5 students. Presentation topics will be assigned by the instructor to each group. Topics will focus on a marginalized or equity seeking group and students will research how grief shows up for children/youth in that specific group and present their findings to the class. Groups will be assigned by the instructor and listed on OWL under *Groups* – see course schedule below for relevant dates. Formal supporting documentation is required for academic consideration for the final presentation (see: Academic Consideration Policy in the Appendix).

## **DROP DATE**

Final date to drop a first-term half course without academic penalty is **December 1, 2025**.

## **Weekly Course Schedule**

<b>Week:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Readings:</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Week One	September 9 2025	Introduction and Developmental Considerations	Arnold: Chapter 1&2 Davies: Chapter 1 (PDF)	
Week Two	September 16, 2025	Developmental Considerations	Arnold: Chapter 2 Davies: Chapter 2 (PDF) Tracher & Breen: Chapter 2	Discussion Questions #1  Group PowerPoint Presentation: Groups confirmed on OWL
Week Three	September 23, 2025	Disenfranchised Grief and Death of a Parent	Arnold: Chapter 4&5	Discussion Questions #2
Week Four	<b>No Class – Truth and Reconciliation Day</b>			
Week Five	October 7, 2025	Death of a friend and children with life- limiting illness	Arnold: Chapter 7&8	Discussion Questions #3
Week Six	October 14, 2025	Death of a sibling and pet, non-death loss	Arnold: Chapter 6 Traher & Breen: Chapter 20 and 12	Discussion Questions #4  Group PowerPoint Presentation due: October 14, 2025 @ 11:59pm
Week Seven	October 21, 2025	Grief and Loss Experienced by Indigenous and Black Youth	Arnold: Chapter 11 Traher & Breen: Chapter 11 and 26	Discussion Questions #5
Week Eight	October 28, 2025	Suicide in Children and Adolescents	Arnold: Chapter 10 Traher and Breen: Chapter 9	Discussion Questions #6  Storybook Review due: October 28, 2025 @ 11:59pm  Final Presentation Groups Confirmed on OWL
Week Nine	<b>No Class – Fall Reading Week</b>			
Week Ten	November 11, 2025	Assessing Grief and Loss in Children and Adolescents  Loss and Resilience in GSM Youth	Arnold: Chapter 3 Traher and Breen: Chapter 22  Arnold: Chapter 12 Traher and Breen: Chapter 13	Discussion Questions #7
Week Eleven	November 18, 2025	Grief, Adolescents, and Social Media	Arnold: Chapter 13 Traher and Breen: Chapter 23 and 25	Discussion Questions #8

		Resilience, Self-Care, and Ethics	Arnold: Chapters 14 and 15	
Week Twelve	November 25, 2025	<b>Presentations</b>		
Week Thirteen	December 2, 2025	<b>Presentations</b>		
Week Fourteen	December 9, 2025	<b>Presentations / Wrap-Up</b>		

## ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR ABSENCES, MISSED ASSESSMENTS

A student seeking academic considerations for any work worth less than 10% must contact the instructor. *Any absence for legitimate reasons will be dealt with by re-weighting the term work grade accordingly or setting a timeframe to submit work at a later date.* If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's Office and **not to the instructor**. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic consideration shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor. Whenever possible, students who require academic considerations should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Academic Counselling/Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s)

### Attendance Policy

Any student, who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given).

### Debarment of Students from Writing the Final Examination

1. A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the academic year.
2. Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination (meaning they will be ineligible to write the final exam) Students who miss more than 3 classes will be recommended to be debarred from the final exam.

### Late assignments/Make ups

All assignments are to be submitted on the due date and time. The penalty is 5 marks/day late up to 5 days – after which, the assignment will not be graded.

Additionally:

- Advise the instructor if you are having problems completing the assignment on time, prior to the due date of the assignment. When possible, illness and personal crises must be announced prior to the deadline. *Extensions for assignments will not be granted retroactively. Please use*

*Medical/Compassionate for consideration around missed academic work where applicable.*

- Be prepared to provide documentation to the Academic Advising Office
- AAO approved missed test/exam will have a make-up test/exam
- If students are granted Academic Consideration, work will be due 2 days after the end of the period for which the student received Academic Consideration

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline

Notice of Turnitin Use: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

**At the discretion of the instructor**, when deemed necessary, tests and examinations in this course **may** be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

# KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

### 2025-2026

#### **1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences**

##### **Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)**

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

##### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses\\_enrollment/exams\\_and\\_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

##### **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under Special Examinations).

## **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

## **2. Support Services**

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College:

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

## **GBSV Support:**

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing [Care@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:Care@kings.uwo.ca) or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html)

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

### **3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

**Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom:** King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

### **4. Statement on Academic Offences**

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see [https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality\\_Reports - TurnItIn.html](https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality_Reports - TurnItIn.html).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

### **5. Copyright of Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

## **6. Use of Recordings**

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

## **7. Policy on Attendance**

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.