

# Understanding Dying, Death, and Bereavement


By Michael R. Leming, George E. Dickinson


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Using a social-psychological approach, the new edition of this book remains solidly grounded in theory and research, while also providing useful information to help individuals examine their own feelings about-and cope with-death and grieving. The well-known authors and researchers integrate stimulating personal accounts throughout the text, and apply concepts to specific examples that deal with cross cultural perspectives and the practical matters of death and dying.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

"This book does an excellent job of integrating and presenting empirical research on death-related topics. I would say that this book takes a multidisciplinary approach to the study of death and dying, presenting a comprehensive review of key topics and issues in the field. The authors manage to cover the personal, social, cultural, legal, philosophical, spiritual, and ethical issues related to death and dying against the backdrop of empirical research and theory in the field. In addition to presenting basic facts and information, the authors offer practical advice that enables readers to understand and to cope with the problems and issues that arise in a world where death, dying, and bereavement are a reality."

"I have used this book several times and have not found one that is as comprehensive or offers the cross-cultural insights. I selected it because not only was it substantive, but it also introduced students to cross-cultural variations. Further, it went beyond the psychological issues of dying and bereavement, [and] provided a context for the ways in which people die and mourn and the consequences of dying, death, and loss to others."

#### About the Author

Michael R. Leming is professor emeritus of sociology and anthropology at St. Olaf College in Minnesota and co-director of the college's Spring Semester in Thailand program. He holds degrees from Westmont College (B.A.), Marquette University (M.A.), and the University of Utah (Ph.D.). He has completed additional graduate study at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Leming was the founder and former director of the St. Olaf College Social Research Center, a former member of the board of directors of the Minnesota Coalition of Terminal Care and the Northfield AIDS Response, and has served as a hospice educator, volunteer, and grief counselor. He is the author of numerous articles on social thanatology and family issues and has taught courses on death and dying for over 35 years.

George E. Dickinson is professor of sociology at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. He holds degrees from Baylor University (B.A. in biology and M.A. in sociology) and Louisiana State University (Ph.D. in sociology). He has completed postdoctoral studies in gerontology at Pennsylvania State University, in thanatology at the University of Kentucky School of Medicine, and in medical sociology at the University of Connecticut. He was Visiting Research Fellow in palliative medicine at the University of Sheffield's School of Medicine in England in 1999, the International Observatory on End of Life Care in the Institute for Health Research at Lancaster University in England in 2006, and the University of Bristol School of Veterinary Science's Department of Animal Behavior and Welfare in England in 2013. He has published over 90 articles in numerous professional journals.

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