WURZWEILER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

PALLIATIVE CARE: SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH SERIOUS ILLNESS
SWK 6825
Spring 2020

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide a comprehensive study of issues related to palliative and end-of-life care. Palliative care is an exciting, relatively new specialty in health care social work, and presents dynamic practice opportunities for social workers with a knowledge base in this arena. This course will integrate an interdisciplinary approach to caring for individuals facing life-limiting and serious chronic illness and their families. Readings, class discussion, and student research will include medical, psychosocial, legal, and ethical perspectives. This is a required course for students in the Certificate in Gerontology and Palliative Care, but is open to all students. There are no prerequisites for this course, but it is highly recommended that students take Social Work in Health Care (SWK 6241) as background prior to enrolling in this course.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Kastenbaum, R.J. (2012). *Death, society, and human experience.* 11th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
List: $152.13 ISBN-10: 0205001084
[Note: Rental or used versions are available for a fraction of the list cost]

Brody, J. (2009). *Jane Brody's guide to the great beyond: A practical primer to help you and your loved ones prepare medically, legally, and emotionally for the end-of-life.* New York: Random House.
List: $30.00 ISBN-10: 1400066549

Lynn, J., Harrold, J., & Lynch Schuster, J. (2011). *Handbook for mortals: Guidance for people facing serious illness. Second edition.* New York: Oxford University Press. (Available as an e-book from YU Library)
List: $28.95 ISBN-10: 0199744564

RECOMMENDED REFERENCES:

Altilio, T. & Otis-Green, S. (Eds.)(2011). *Oxford textbook of palliative social work.* New York: Oxford University Press.
List: $99.95 ISBN-10: 0199739110

Berlinger, N., Jennings, B., & Wolf, S.M. (2013). *The Hastings Center guidelines for decisions on life-sustaining treatment and care near the end of life.* New York: Oxford University Press.
List: $39.95 ISBN-10: 0199974551

Berzoff, J. & Silverman, P.R. (Eds.)(2004). *Living with dying: A handbook for heathcare practitioners.* New York: Columbia University Press. List: $96.50 ISBN-10: 0231127944

Byock, I. (2012). *The best care possible: A physician's quest to transform care through the end of life.* New York: Avery/Penguin Group.
List: $16.00 ISBN-10: 1583335129

Didon, J. (2007). *The year of magical thinking.* New York: Knopf. (Available on e-res)
List: $14.95 ISBN-10: 1400078431

Gawande, A. (2014). *Being mortal.* New York: Metropolitan Books.
List: $17.00 ISBN-10: 1250076226

Hitchens, C. (2012). *Mortality.* New York: Twelve.
List: $22.99 ISBN-10: 9781455502752

Levine, C., & Murray, T.H. (2007). *The cultures of caregiving: Conflict and common ground among families, health professionals, and policy makers.*
Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
List: $25.00 ISBN-10: 0801887712

McPhee, S.J., Winkler, M.A., Rabow, M.W., Pantilat, S.Z., & Markowitz, A.J. (eds.) (2011). *JAMA evidence: Care at the Close of life: Evidence and experience.* New York: McGraw Hill Medical.
List: $70.00 ISBN-10: 0071637958

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Lecture, discussion and interactive exercises will be used as the principle means of learning. Students are expected to attend class, do the assigned reading prior to class, participate in class discussion, and hand in their assigned materials on time. Students will integrate material from field practice into their class discussions and assignments. Guest faculty may be invited to provide a broad interdisciplinary perspective.

GRADING:

Grades will be computed on the following basis:
Mid-term paper – 30%
Final paper – 50%
Meaningful class participation – 20%

Participation will be judged on the quality of a student's involvement in the classroom, characterized by attention to the learning process, contributions to the learning climate, questions asked, opinions stated and how defended, sensitivity to the feelings of others, an awareness of his/her unique input within the classroom setting, and classroom presentations. This is a cumulative assessment based on the entire period of the course.
More than two absences may result in a lower grade for the class.

Students with disabilities should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that any needed special considerations can be made to accommodate the student.

MID-TERM ASSIGNMENT: Due at Session 7

Select one of topics below for in-depth discussion. At least five scholarly references, in addition to your texts, should be used; websites may be used, but they do not count towards the five scholarly references. The paper must be in APA format.
Page length: 8 pages

Some possible topics are:

a. Obituary and death anniversary notices – what is their essential message? What need(s) do they meet on the part of the bereaved? On the part of society? What effect do they have on the reader? On society as a whole? Should the practice be encouraged or discouraged? Why?
b. Widows – Discuss the realities of the plight of widows around the world. Begin your research by looking at the subjective experience of a widow you know well or to whom you have ready access. Think about the customs, statistics, and relevant laws effecting widows around the world and in the US.
c. Bereavement – What are the common representations of bereavement we see in the media? What images of grief do we see in the movies? Magazine/newspaper articles? News reports on TV? What differences do you think the terrorist attacks on September 11 are having on the ways the nation views and understands the grief process?
d. Disenfranchised grief – Discuss the multiple types of disenfranchised grief in this culture. What are they? Why are members of these particular groups not supported in their grief as others are? What can be done to eliminate the sense of ostracism felt by those who are disenfranchised as a result of the death of someone they love?
e. Madison Ave. culture -- Consider the messages of Madison Avenue advertising and the youth worshiping culture in which we live alongside the level of violence in movies and TV, and the depictions of elderly in all of the above. What are the essential messages conveyed in all of these about the value of elderly persons and those who are ill?
f. Near-death experiences – What is meant by the term “near-death experience?” What information is circulated on the internet about this phenomenon? What impact do you see it having on patients and their families?
g. Hospice – What is hospice? What role does a hospice play in a terminally ill patient’ life? What is palliative care? How widespread is palliative care in US

health care practices today? How many people die on hospice services today? Are hospice service equally distributed across all segments of society? Why or why not?

h. Suicide and suicide prevention – Discuss suicide and suicide prevention resources. What resources are readily available to the general public concerning suicide and its prevention? How do you evaluate them? In your view, is there a “rational suicide” that we need not “prevent?”

i. Other topics must be pre-approved by your professor.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT: Due at <u>Session 12</u>

Select one of the below topics for in-depth analysis. At least five scholarly references, in addition to your texts, should be used; websites may be used, but they do not count towards the five scholarly references. The paper must be in APA format.

Page length: 8-10 pages

Topics:

a. Cultural Perspectives – Select a culture or community with which you are <u>unfamiliar</u>. Discuss the cultural meaning of illness and death, including the culture’s rituals surrounding death and the mourning process. You may be creative, but discuss your ideas with your professor. Include in your discussion of the roles of social workers in promoting culturally competent psychosocial care.

b. Alzheimer’s Care – Explore the ethical issues faced by families/surrogates making end-of-life decisions on-behalf family members with Alzheimer’s Disease. Include a description of the biological process of this disease. Give special consideration to the ethics of withholding or withdrawing artificial nutrition and hydration (food and fluids). Include in your discussion the roles of social workers in Alzheimer’s and family care.

c. Advance Care Planning – Research whether or not advance care planning has been an effective tool for documenting individual wishes regarding end-of-life care. Consider the tools that are used for advance care planning, including the POLST approach. What has worked and what has not. Explore challenges presented by cultural perspectives, or practices around family decision-making (as opposed to decisions made by individual patients). Include in your discussion the roles of social workers in advance care planning.

d. Other topics must be pre-approved by your professor.

COURSE OUTLINE

Session 1 – Introduction to End-of-Life Care

- In-class viewing of the video, *Wit*.

Session 2 – Talking about Death

- Attitudes and experiences about death - Self inventory: Can we talk?
- Biological criteria of death
- Examples from literature and film (Didion & *Wit*)

<u>Required readings</u>:

Didon, J. (2005). *The year of magical thinking.* New York: Knopf, pp. 3-41.

Hitchens, C. (2012). *Mortality.* New York: Twelve. Chapter 1, pp. 1-9.

Kastenbaum, Ch. 1, pp. 3-30; Ch. 2, pp. 42-47

Sessions 3 & 4 – Understanding Hospice and Palliative Care

- Principles of palliative care
- Distinguishing/integrating palliative care from hospice
- The interdisciplinary care team
- Social work roles and the interdisciplinary team
- Examples from literature and the humanities

<u>Required readings</u>:

Kastenbaum, Ch. 5, pp. 143-165.

Brody, Ch. 2, pp. 9-22; Ch. 7, pp.73-93; Ch. 9, pp. 114-128.

Gwande, A. (2010). Letting go. *The New Yorker*, 86(22), 36. (This reading is also available in Gawande, A. (2014). *Being mortal.* New York: Metropolitan Books, Chapter 6, pp. 149-190.)

Jackson, K. (2013). Transitions to hospice care: Social workers foster meaningful conversations about dying. *Social Work Today. 13*(4), 22.

Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) (2015). Americas care of serious illness: 2015 state-by-state report card on access to palliative care in our nation’s hospitals. Download at: https://reportcard.capc.org/

In class viewing of “Letting Go: A Hospice Journey”

Session 5 – Pain and Symptom Care

- Medical terminology
- Major symptoms and treatment
- Life-sustaining/life-prolonging interventions
- Behavioral symptoms, including anxiety and depression
- Issues of specific populations (children, substance users, HIV, oncology)

<u>Required readings</u>:

Lynn, J., Harrold, J., & Lynch Schuster, J. (2011). *Handbook for mortals: Guidance for people facing serious illness. Second edition.* New York: Oxford University Press, Chapters 7, 8, and 9; pp. 87-149.

Van Pelt, J. (2012). Pain care advocacy in an era of opioid abuse. *Social Work Today, 12*(5), 16.

Session 6 – Effective & Ethical Communication

- Truth-telling
- Informed consent
- Delegating decision-making to family members
- Relaying bad news
- Social work and physician codes of ethics

<u>Required readings</u>:

National Association of Social Workers (2008), *Code of Ethics.* Washington, DC: NASW.

American Medical Association (2008), Fundamental elements of the patientphysician relationship. *Code of medical ethics: Current opinions with annotations, 2008-2009.* Opinion 10.01. Chicago, IL: American Medical Association Press.

Kastenbaum, Ch. 4, Box 4-2, p. 115; pp. 121-126.

Brody, Chapters 12 & 13, pp. 159-190.

Girgis, A., & Sanson-Fisher (1995). Breaking bad news: Consensus guidelines for medical practitioners. *Journal of Clinical Oncology, 13*(9), 2449-2456.

Kapp, M.B. (1991). Health care decision-making by the elderly: Get by with a little help from my family. *The Gerontologist, 31*(5), 619-622.

Session 7 – Cultural Perspectives

- Role of culture in end-of-life care
- Unique cultural concerns
- Diversity within cultural traditions
- Religion and spirituality - Bias and discrimination
- Health disparities

Required Readings:

Koenig, B., & Gates-Williams, J. (1995). Understanding cultural difference in caring for dying patients. *Western Journal of Medicine, 163*(3), 244-249.

Bullock, K. (2006). Promoting advance directives among African Americans: A faith-based model. *Journal of Palliative Medicine,* 9(1), 183-195.

Gonzales-Ramos, G. (2007). On loving care and the persistence of memories: Reflections of a grieving daughter. Chapter 2. From C. Levine & T.H. Murray (eds.). *The cultures of caregiving: Conflict and common ground among families, health professionals, and policymakers.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Stein, G.L. & Bonuck, K. A. (2001). Attitudes on end-of-life care and advance care planning in the lesbian and gay community. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 4(2), 173-190.

Volandes, A. E., Paasche-Orlow, M., Gillick, M. R., Cook, E. F., Shaykevich, S., Abbo, E. D., & Lehmann, L. (2008). Health literacy not race predicts end-of-life care preferences. J Palliat Med, 11(5), 754-762. doi:10.1089/jpm.2007.0224 [doi]

Session 8 & 9 – Health Care Decision-Making & Advance Care Planning

- Primary role of communication
- Social work role in advance care planning, facilitating communication, and conflict resolution
- Surrogate decision-making
- Understanding documents
- Doing your own plans
- Do-not-resuscitate orders
- Organ donation

Required readings:

Stein, G.L. (2004). Improving our care at life's end: Making a difference. *Health and Social Work*, 29(1), 77-79.

Stein, G.L., Cagle, J.G., & Christ, G. (2017). Social work involvement in advance care planning: Findings from a large survey of social workers in hospice and palliative care settings. *Journal of Palliative Medicine, 20*(3), 253-259, doi: 10.1089/jpm.2016.0352.

Wolff, M. (2012, May 28). A life worth ending. *The New Yorker*, p. 26. Download at: http://nymag.com/news/features/parent-health-care-2012-5/

Lynn, J., Harrold, J., & Lynch Schuster, J. (2011). *Handbook for mortals: Guidance for people facing serious illness. Second edition.* New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 11, pp. 167-178.

Schaeffer, J. (2013). Supporting end-of-life decisions: The social worker's role in advance directives. *Social Work Today* (Special White Paper Report)

Fins, J.J. & Maltby, B.S. (2003). *Fidelity, Wisdom & Love: Patients and Proxies in Partnership.* New York: Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

Brody, Ch. 3, pp. 23-45.

Complete state-specific advance directives

New York State Advance Directive, download from:
http://www.caringinfo.org/files/public/ad/New_York.pdf

New Jersey Advance Directive, download from:
http://www.caringinfo.org/files/public/ad/NewJersey.pdf

Other state advance directives, download from:
http://www.caringinfo.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3289

Swidler, R.N. (2010). The Family Health Care Decisions Act: A summary of key provisions. *NYSBA Health Law Journal, 15*(1), 32-35. Download from: https://www.nysba.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=26481

In re Quinlan, 70 N.J. 10 (NJ 1976)

Powell, T., & Lowenstein, B. (1996). Refusing life-sustaining treatment after catastrophic injury: ethical implications. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, 24*(1), 54-61.

Session 10 – Assisted Suicide and the Right to Die

- Understanding distinctions between assisted suicide and euthanasia
- Understanding distinctions between assisted suicide and foregoing life supports
- Terri Schaivo and disorders of consciousness
- Legal background
- What social workers may do with requests for help in dying

Required Readings:

Kastenbaum, Ch. 9, pp. 267-296.

Washington v. Glucksberg, 521 U.S. 702 (1997).

Hartocollis, A. (2009, December 27). Hard choice for a comfortable death: Druginduced sleep. *The New York Times*. Downloaded at: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/27/health/27sedation.html?pagewanted=1&_r=1&sq=comfortable death&st=cse&scp=1

Brody, Ch. 14, pp. 191-209; Ch. 6, pp. 67-72.

Lynn, J., Harrold, J., & Lynch Schuster, J. (2011). *Handbook for mortals: Guidance for people facing serious illness. Second edition.* New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 12, pp. 179-189.

Eisenberg, D. (2005, April 4). Lessons of the Schiavo battle, *Time*, 22-30.

Gorman, C. (2005, April 4). When does the brain go blank? *Time*, 26-27.

Session 11 – The Critical Role of Family Caregivers

- Appreciating the roles and responsibilities of family caregivers - Who are family caregivers, and what do they do?
- Cultures and values implicated in home care

Required readings:

Lynn, J., Harrold, J., & Lynch Schuster, J. (2011). *Handbook for mortals: Guidance for people facing serious illness. Second edition.* New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 5, pp. 54-68.

Reinhard, S.C., Levine, C., & Samis, S. (2012). *Home Alone: Family Caregivers Providing Complex Chronic Care.* Retrieve from: http://www.aarp.org/home-family/caregiving/info-10-2012/home-alone-familycaregivers-providing-complex-chronic-care.html

Surpin, R., & Hanley, E. (2007). The culture of home care: Whose values prevail? Chapter 6. From C. Levine & T.H. Murray (eds.). *The cultures of caregiving: Conflict and common ground among families, health professionals, and policymakers.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Session 12 – Grief and Bereavement

- Understanding loss and grief
- Stages of grief

- Coping skills
- Spiritual care

Required reading:

Kastenbaum, Ch. 11, pp. 339-371.

Brody, Ch. 15, pp. 210-234; Ch. 10, pp. 130-141.

Didon, J. (2005). *The year of magical thinking.* New York: Knopf, pp. 3-41.

Sessions 13 and 14 – Special Topics

Two classes are reserved for special topics and/or guest faculty discussing their unique hospice and palliative care programs, settings, and service populations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

Acquaviva, K. D. *LGBTQ-inclusive hospice and palliative care: a practical guide to transforming professional practice*. New York: Harrington Park Press.

Altilio, T., & Otis-Green, S. (2011). *Oxford Textbook of Palliative Social Work*: Oxford University Press.

Berlinger, N., Jennings, B., & Wolf, S.M. (2013). *The Hastings Center guidelines for decisions on life-sustaining treatment and care near the end of life.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Berzoff, J. & Silverman, P.R. (Eds.)(2004). *Living with dying: A handbook for heathcare practitioners.* New York: Columbia University Press.

Byock, I. (2012). *The best care possible: A physician's quest to transform care through the end of life.* New York: Avery/Penguin Group.

Byock, I. (2014). *The Four Things That Matter Most - 10th Anniversary Edition: A Book About Living*: Atria Books.

Byock, I. (1998). *Dying well*: Riverhead Trade.

Cairns, M., Victoria Hospice Society, T., & Thompson, M. (2003). *Transitions in dying and bereavement: a psychosocial guide for hospice and palliative care*. Baltimore, MD: Health Professions Press.

Callanan, M., & Kelley, P. (2012). *Final gifts: understanding the special awareness, needs, and communications of the dying* Simon & Schuster.

Christ, G. (2000). Healing children's grief: Surviving a parent's death from cancer. New York: Oxford University Press.

Christ, G. H., Messner, C., & Behar, L. (Eds.). (2015). *Handbook of oncology social work* (1st ed.). New York: Oxford.

Cox, K., & Steiner, S. (2013). *Self-care in social work: A guide for practitioners, supervisors, and administrators*. Washington, D.C.: NASW Press.

Csikai, E. (2006). *Ethics in end-of-life decisions in social work practice*: Lyceum Books.

Dunn, H. (2009). *Hard choices for loving people: CPR, artificial feeding, comfort care, and the patient with a life-threatening illness, 5th Edition* (5th ed.): A & A Publishers.

Ellison, K. P., & Weingast, M. Eds. (2016). Awake at the bedside: contemplative teachings on palliative and end-of-life care Wisdom Publications.

Fadiman, A. (2012). *The spirit catches you and you fall down: A Hmong Child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures* (2nd ed.). New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

Halifax, J., & Ira, B. (2009). *Being with dying: cultivating compassion and fearlessness in the presence of death*. Shambhala

Heiney, S. P., & Hermann, J. F. (2013). *Cancer in our family: helping children cope with a parent's illness* (2nd ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Cancer Society.

Holland, J. C., Breitbart, W. S., Jacobsen, P. B., Lederbarg, M. S., Loscalzo, M. J., & McCorkle, R. S. (2010). *Psycho-Oncology*. New York: Oxford.

Holland, J. C., & Lewis, S. (2001). *The human side of cancer: living with hope, coping with uncertainty*. New York: Harper Perennial.

Holland, J. C., & Rowland, J. H. (1990). *Handbook of psychooncology: psychological care of the patient with cancer* New York: Oxford.

Hooyman, N. R., & Kramer, B. J. (2008). *Living through loss: Interventions across the life span*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Jenkinson, S. (2015). *Die wise: A manifesto for sanity and soul*. Berkeley, CA: North Atlantic Books.

Kaufman, S. (2005). *And a time to die: how American hospitals shape the end of life*. New York: Scribner.

Kalanithi, P. (2016). *When breath becomes air*. New York: Random House.

Kolsky, K. (2008). End of life: helping with comfort and care. In National Institute on Aging (Ed.), *https://d2cauhfh6h4x0p.cloudfront.net/s3fs-public/end_of_life_helping_with_comfort_care_0.pdf* Bethesda, MD: National Institute on Aging.

Lauria, M., Clark, E., Hermann, J., & Stearns, N. (2012). *Social work in oncology: supporting survivors, families, and caregivers*: American Cancer Society. http://acs.bookstore.ipgbook.com/social-work-in-oncology-products-9781604431711.php

Levine, C., & Murray, T.H. (2007). *The cultures of caregiving: Conflict and common ground among families, health professionals, and policy makers.* Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Levine, S. (1989). *Who dies? An investigation of conscious living and conscious dying*: Anchor Press/Doubleday.

Lynn, J., Harrold, J., & Schuster, J. L. (2011). Handbook for mortals: Guidance for people facing serious illness (2nd ed., pp. 320). New York: Oxford.

Matzo, M. L., & Sherman, D. W. (2015). *Palliative Care Nursing: Quality Care to the End of Life*: Spring.

McCue, K., & Bonn, R. *How to help children through a parent's serious illness: supportive, practical advice from a leading child life specialist* (2nd ed.). New York: St. Martin's Griffin.

McPhee, S.J., Winkler, M.A., Rabow, M.W., Pantilat, S.Z., & Markowitz, A.J. (eds.) (2011). *JAMA evidence: Care at the Close of life: Evidence and experience.* New York: McGraw Hill Medical.

Miller, J. E., & Cutshall, S. (2001). The a*rt of being a healing presence: A guide for those in caring relationships*: Willowgreen.

O'Rourke, M. (2012). *The long goodbye: A memoir*: Riverhead Trade.

Pantilat, S. Z. (2017). *Life after the diagnosis: Expert advice on living well with serious illness for patients and caregivers*. Philadelphia: Da Capo Press.

Reese, D. J. (2013). *Hospice social work*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Reith, M., & Payne, M. (2009). *Social work in end-of-life and palliative care*. Chicago: Lyceum Books.

Remke, S. S. (2013). *The insider's guide to grief*: Lowertown Press.

Schwalbe, W. (2012). *The end of your life book club*: Vintage.

Shepard, S. (2017). *Spy of the First Person*: Alfred A. Knopf.

Taylor, C. (2017). *Dying: A memoir*. Portland, OR: Tin House Books.

Walsh-Burke, K. (2012). *Grief and loss: Theories and skills for the helping professions.* (2nd Ed.): Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Warraich, H. J. (2017). *Modern death: How medicine changed the end of life* (1 ed.). New York: St. Martin's Press.

Palliative Care Journals

American Journal of Hospice Care
American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care
American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
Briefings in Palliative, Hospice, and Pain Medicine & Management
Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing
Journal of Pain and Symptom Management
Journal of Palliative Care
Journal of Palliative Medicine
Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life & Palliative Care
Palliative and Supportive Care

C. Websites

http://www.swhpn.org, for Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network
http://www.nhpco.org, for National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
http://www.aahpm.org, for American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
https://www.nhpco.org/patients-and-caregivers/advance-care-planning/advance-directives/, for comprehensive consumer education about advance care planning, including state-specific advance directives
http://hospice-cares.com/hands/signs.html for general articles about dying
http://www.hospicenet.org for general articles about dying and hospice care
http://www.npr.org/programs/death/trns.html
http://www.depression.about.com, click on “Grief and Loss” section
http://www.fortnet.org/WidowNet/index.html, especially the section marked “Comments and Ideas from Other Widows”; see “Dumb Remarks and Stupid Questions” in this section. Also check the section “Demographics” to read “Gay Widowers: Grieving in Relation to Trauma and Social Supports.”
http://www.compassionatefriends.org, click on Grief in the News and read “Talking with Friends Who Have Lost a Child.”
http://www.pomc.com/, Parents of Murdered Children website with general articles
http://www.griefnet.org/KIDSAID/welcome.html for articles about children and dying
http://www.soros.org/death
http://www.law.about.com/msub26.htm for articles about assisted suicide
http://www.suicidology.org for articles about suicide
http://www.kidshealth.org for articles about adolescents and suicide