

**Organising
institution**

Università degli Studi di Padova
Dipartimento di Filosofia, Sociologia, Pedagogia e Psicologia Applicata - FISPPA
Prof.ssa Ines Testoni

**Visiting
Professor**

Solomon Sheldon
Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, USA

**Course Title
and
Description**

Fear of death and difficulties in palliative care: The Terror Management Theory contribution to the problem

The aim of the course is the discussion on the unconscious basis of human behaviour from the psychosocial perspective that emphasizes the conflict between desire for life and fear of death. Notably the contribution to the problem of the Terror Management Theory (TMT) is presented and the results of the most significant studies in the past twenty years are considered.

The TMT is in fact the internationally most important psychological theory in the field of death studies where it has provided hundreds of empirical findings.

The main target of the course is then to understand what unconscious psychosocial factors prevent individuals and society from managing in a conscious and shared manner the family, healthcare and social dynamics that pertain to death.

The lectures will emphasize some of the fundamental characteristics of the defensive psychological processes that influence the individual and social choices in a way that is prejudicial and not functional to the promotion of well-being.

The most important field where these biases cause discomfort is the field of palliative care. In order to improve the dissemination and the competences on palliative care it is therefore necessary to understand the psychosocial mechanisms that limit the ability to face death issues and TMT is the best research field to analyse this problem.

Activities

- Lectures
- Group works on TMT
- Discussion on TMT application to the training of palliative caregiver
- Discussion on TMT principles application on palliative care and the identification of prejudices that limit the access to palliative care
- Hypothesis on innovative research plans that apply TMT principles to palliative care
- Story-telling

Period

03/05/2021 – 25/06/2021

Course Level

Degree courses in Medicine, Nursing and Psychology