

Sociology of Aging

Possible Essay Questions for Test 4:

Test 4 covers chapters 14, 15, and 12 as reviewed in class.

Unless otherwise notified, 5 of the following questions will be randomly selected for the test. Be sure to answer all parts of the question. The grade will depend on how well the answer reflects what is discussed in the text, PowerPoint slides, and has been discussed in class.

UPDATED: November 17, 2024

Chapter 14: Death and Dying

1. (a) Why is the topic of death a taboo, that is, rarely discussed? Provide at least three reasons. (b) Why do people fear death? Provide at least three reasons noted in class. (c) What is assisted suicide? (d) What are some reasons for opposing assisted suicide?
2. (a) What is assisted suicide? (b) Is it legal in the U.S.? (c) What is physician-assisted suicide? Is it legal and how is it typically accomplished? (d) Hillier and Barrow note requirements that have been established in at least one state before physician-assisted suicide can be done. What are these?
3. (a) How did the “Cruzan” case, described by Hillier and Barrow, influence future policy/decisions regarding “right to die”? (b) In the case of Schaivo what would you have done and why? (c) What is an advanced directive? What does it typically include (provide at least three)? Describe each.
4. (a) Elizabeth Kubler-Ross proposed that a person goes through five stages once learning that they are terminally ill. Describe each of the stages. (b) What is the difference between passive euthanasia and assisted suicide? (c) Provide examples. (d) What is voluntary and involuntary euthanasia?
5. (a) What is the purpose of hospice? (b) Who receives it? (c) What and how is it typically provided? (d) Where? (e) For how long? (f) How is it often funded? Be sure to discuss changes in 1982. (g) How does Hillier and Barrow define “palliative” care? How is it different from hospice? (h) What is “informed consent?”