Death, Society, And Human Experience
Providing an understanding of the relationship with death, both as an individual and as a member of society. This book is intended to contribute to your understanding of your relationship with death, both as an individual and as a member of society. Kastenbaum shows how individual and societal attitudes influence both how and when we die and how we live and deal with the knowledge of death and loss. Robert Kastenbaum is a renowned scholar who developed one of the world’s first death education courses and introduced the first text for this market. This landmark text draws on contributions from the social and behavioral sciences as well as the humanities, such as history, religion, philosophy, literature, and the arts, to provide thorough coverage of understanding death and the dying process. Learning Goals
Upon completing this book, readers should be able to:
- Understand the relationship with death, both as an individual and as a member of society
- See how social forces and events affect the length of our lives, how we grieve, and how we die
- Learn how dying people are perceived and treated in our society and what can be done to provide the best possible care
- Master an understanding of continuing developments and challenges to hospice (palliative care)
- Understand what is becoming of faith and doubt about an afterlife

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Customer Reviews
I was touched by Kastenbaum’s respectful tone and attitude throughout this book. He provides not only a wonderful global overview (with focus on the American death-denying culture), but also a personal element that somehow brings more authenticity and authority to the subject. This was the first text required through the American Institute of Health Care Professional’s Grief Counseling Certification course, and I am glad for it. I have a master’s in psychology and was already a Hospice
volunteer, but this book really helped me feel like I was digging into my chosen area of interest. Statistics, concepts, terminology and cultural comparatives are all here. The only thing the text doesn’t truly do is prepare the reader to facilitate a bereavement group meeting, but it lays excellent groundwork for moving toward that action.

I am currently working on getting credentialed as a certified grief counselor. I was very hesitant about taking an online course, having never done one in the past, and always preferred the lecture environment. What I like most about his book is that it reads a lot like a lecture. Kastenbaum is very detail oriented and I find myself having few questions. It’s enjoyable to read and I look forward to doing my coursework. I think this is a great introductory textbook to help counselors, and really anyone, gain an understanding of death in our society.

It’s okay. I feel this guy only talks about his opinions. I mean, he just talks and talks about his view, and little information about the actual chapter. I get bored and zoned out. I used this for my Death and Dying class and I prefer the professor talking about the chapters.

I bought this because it is required reading for the Funeral Directors course. I didn’t find it a study chore at all but rather interesting and I learned alot. This book has made me a better person.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book (all 530 pages!) because of its' comprehensiveness on a complex topic. The author has an amazing writing style which engages the reader. Further, the fact that it is in its' 10th edition attests to its' use as an introduction to further study of the topic for health care students, or interested parties on this subject.

Kastenbaum has addressed every facet of death in our society. Every chapter is in itself a small book, leaving no aspect untouched. I am taking a continuing education series to obtain certification as a Grief Counselor and this book a total and contemporary look at death as I have never encountered. I may not resale this book as it is a valuable reference. Chapter 3, The Death System, is an extremely raw look at how our society approaches and treats death toward individual groups, I look at the society I live in with a very different perspective after reading about our death system. This book is a must read for anyone entering into grief counseling.

Good overview of how our world views death. Interesting statistics. I am confident that I will refer
back to it on future occasions.

Very moving, well written and formatted, bought this for class but worth the read all on its own, I would highly recommend it.

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