Study Guide 3:  
Chapter 14: Dying, Death, and Bereavement

Since many of you will also be taking the course on Death and Dying, this section will focus on only a few of the many issues involved in the issue. The focus questions include:

- How have cultural attitudes toward death changed over time?
- How do people prepare for death?
- What are the moral and legal issues involved in care of the dying?
- What is a hospice, and how are hospice patients cared for?
- How does an aged person’s death affect family members?

For your reflection paper, write a response of at least one page on one of the Thinking About Aging questions on p. 381-2:

- Which is better, the traditional way of dying at home or the modern way of dying in a medical institution? What does your answer say about the culture you live in?
- Many people say they would rather die young than waste away in old age from a degenerative disease. What do you think?
- What would you say to a terminally ill person who wants to end his or her life?
- Life-extending medical technology is extremely expensive. Should it be rationed depending on a person’s age? Why or why not?
- If you were dying, what kind of care would you prefer to receive and where? Would you refuse life-prolonging treatments? Would you want help in ending your life?

Internet Resources Related to Dying, Death, and Bereavement

In addition to the two sites noted in your textbook on p. 382, here are some additional sites you might find useful:

- The Center for Ethics in Health Care of the Oregon Health Sciences University (http://www.ohsu.edu/ethics) conducts research on the Oregon Death With Dignity Act. A recent publication available through the website, “The Oregon Report Card: Improving Care of the Dying” addresses pain management and ethical issues in the care of the dying.
- American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (http://www.aahpm.org)
- American Hospice Foundation (http://www.americanhospice.org)
- Hospice Foundation of America (http://www.hospicefoundation.org)
- HospiceNet (http://www.hospicenet.org)
- The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (http://www.nhpco.org).
- Partnership for Caring (http://www.partnereshipforcaring.org/HomePage)
- Project on Death in America (http://www.soros.org/death)