

DEPAUL HUMANITIES CENTER
THE DEAD OF WINTER

Planning the Good Death

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

DePaul Student Center, Rm. 314
2250 N. Sheffield Avenue, Chicago



As a culture we tend to rage against the dying of the light, seeing a concept such as “the good death” as oxymoronic. Socrates tells us, however, that true lovers of wisdom must spend their whole lives preparing to die—preparing, more importantly, to die properly. With a many-angled approach and a multidisciplinary panel, we will come together to ask what it means to prepare for death and what role such preparation itself might play in making that death a good death. From the pragmatic realities of creating an advanced directive and living will, to the fascinating (and, perhaps, troubling) statistics concerning how different classes, races, and ethnic groups in the U.S. go about such planning, to the Zen monk tradition of practicing one’s entire life to be able to write a final poem on one’s deathbed, we will attempt to think together about what it could mean to confront the dying of the light with something other than mournful rage.

with

Deborah Carr, Rutgers University, Professor of Sociology
Angelika Cedzich, DePaul University, Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Dr. Julie Goldstein, Medical Director, Clinical Ethics and Palliative Medicine
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This event is free and open to the public.