COURSE OUTLINE

FSAD 111 - THE STUDY OF FUNERALS: PAST AND PRESENT

Prepared by: Barry Walch

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Funeral Services Administration Program

Revised: April 28, 2015
A. **TITLE:** The Study of Funerals: Past and Present

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** FSAD 111

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall semester

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, and ACTIVITY:** Three hours lecture per week.

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**
This course discusses the role of funeral directors and other death-related professions in contemporary American society. Terminology, duties, and responsibilities of the funeral director during the removal of deceased, the wake, funeral, and committal service are extensively covered.

Historical methods of preservation and memorializing the dead will be reviewed and discussed. Religious, historical and present day funeral customs in this and other countries are examined. Special focus on military protocols and procedures that are utilized for active duty deaths.

Each student will review his or her own personal response to death and pre-arrange his or her own funeral and/or burial. Each student will write an obituary for themselves or someone they know.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES:** N/A

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**
By the end of this course, each student will:

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<tr>
<th>Course SLO</th>
<th>Institution SLO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Determine and discuss personal response to death or loss. Each student will write a eulogy and pre-arrange a funeral</td>
<td>3. Prof Competence, 4. Interpersonal skills</td>
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<td>2. List and define basic funeral terminology</td>
<td>3. Prof Competence</td>
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<td>3. Identify historical mortuary behavior and the rise of American funeral directing</td>
<td>3. Prof Competence</td>
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<td>4. Compare religious responses to death; including Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Greek Orthodox and Mormon</td>
<td>1. communication</td>
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<td>5. Explain the basic principles of grief psychology and sociology</td>
<td>3. Prof Competence</td>
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<td>6. Discuss inter and intra professional responsibilities of death care related professions</td>
<td>4. Interpersonal Skills</td>
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K. **TEXTS:**
Iserson, K. *Death to Dust, What Really Happens to Dead Bodies*, Galen Press Ltd., Tucson, AZ, 1994


L. **REFERENCES:**
Text and other materials will be on reserve in the Library

M. **EQUIPMENT:** None

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A – F.

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**
Homework
Quizzes
Hourly exams
Comprehensive Final exam
FSAD students must obtain a grade of “C” or better in this course.

O. **DETAILED TOPICAL OUTLINE:**
I. Funeral Directors: Who are they and what do they do?
   A. The Job Description
   B. Characteristics of a Good Funeral Director
   C. Basic Funeral Directing Terminology
II. The Complete Funeral Process
   A. The Removal of the Deceased
   B. The Embalming Process
   C. The Arrangement Conference
   D. Calling Hours
   E. The Funeral Service
   F. The Committal Service
III. Methods of Memorializing the Dead
   A. Funeral Service VS Memorial Service
   B. Unique memorializations of a life lived
IV. Methods of Disposition
   A. Direct burial or cremation
   B. Cremation
   C. Burial
      1. Vaults
      2. Cemeteries
V. Epitaphs, Elegy, Eulogy, and Effigies
   A. Epitaphs - history of them and well known ones
   B. Elegies
   C. Eulogy - how to write one, review some well known ones
   D. Effigy
VI. Historical Responses to Death
   A. Egyptian Mortuary Behaviors
   B. Greek Responses to Death
   C. Roman Traditions
   D. Early European & Hebrew Traditions
E. Scandinavian Traditions  
F. Colonial & Early American Responses  

VII. Religious Responses to Death  
A. Catholic Traditions  
B. Protestant responses  
C. Jewish Traditions  
D. Mormon  
E. Greek Orthodox  
F. Christian Science  
G. Islamic  
H. Humanistic  

VIII. Fraternal & Military Protocols in Death Response  
A. Fraternal Traditions:  
   Order of Eastern Stars, BPOE, Knights of Columbus, Masons, etc.  
B. Military Protocols:  
   Clergy, Escorts, Order of Service, Burial Benefits,