

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGES OF TECHNOLOGY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
CANTON**



COURSE OUTLINE

FSAD 420 Current Issues in Funeral Services

Prepared by: David R. Penepent

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

Revised: May 11, 2015

FSAD 420–CURRENT ISSUES IN FUNERAL SERVICE

- A. TITLE:** Current Issues in Funeral Service
- B. COURSE NUMBER:** FSAD 420
- C. CREDIT HOURS:** 3
- D. WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** Yes
- E. COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks
- F. SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall
- G. HOURS OF LECTURE:** 3 per week
- H. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**
 As the field of funeral service continues to change in response to societal demands this class provides the opportunity to keep abreast of these developments. Topic areas will include public health, government regulation, funeral home management, religious and secular rites and rituals. Major focus will be on the effects that changes might have on the grief process, societal readjustment following death, and creative ways for funeral service practitioners to address the future. Historical perspective will be utilized as a predictive tool in assessing society’s new outlook on loss and recovery. Three major issues, determined by consensus of the class and instructor each semester, will be the primary focus of the course.
- I. PRE-REQUISITE:** Senior status or current licensure as a practicing funeral director
- J. GOALS** (student learning outcomes):
 By the end of this course, the student will:

Course Objectives	Institution SLO
1. Research three new trends of significant concern to modern funeral service practice	1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking, 4. Professional Competence,
2. Propose alternatives to a trend which might have negative consequences on effective grieving or recovery from loss	2. Critical Thinking 3. Interpersonal Skills
3. Identify stakeholders who would benefit from heightened awareness about current trends and new opportunities	3. Interpersonal 4. Professional Competence
4. Analyze, synthesize, and evaluate a current trend that will	2. Critical Thinking

impact the future of funeral directing.	3. Interpersonal
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K. TEXTS: to be decided prior to course initial offering

L. REFERENCES:

Periodicals in library collection: *The Director*, *Omega*, *Dodge Magazine*,
Mortuary Management

Websites: www.criticalthinking.org, NFDA.com, NYSFDA.org, NFFSE.org,
ABFSE.org, cfseb.org

Books: over 300 applicable volumes reside in Southworth Library; all are possible reference sources.

M. EQUIPMENT: Classroom space suitable for group discussion, audiovisual presentation support equipment. If distance learning, will need DL classroom.

N. GRADING METHOD: A - F

O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

Homework, quizzes, essays, research paper, exams. A grade of “C” or better must be obtained in this course.

P. DETAILED TOPICAL OUTLINE:

I. Critical Thinking

A. 10 components of critical thinking

B. applying reasoning to written and spoken arguments

C. planning, implementation, evaluation of proposals

II. Searching contemporary literature

A. locating trade journals with cumulative indexes

B. evaluating stated and unstated mission of contemporary trade periodicals

C. researching journals that are out of business

D. searching general literature for items pertaining to funeral service

III. Identification of important issues in modern funeral practice

A. techniques for interviewing funeral directors and funeral consumers

B. researching legal issues pertinent to funeral service

C. prioritizing issues to allow focus on significant ones

D. deciding on three issues to focus upon for remainder of course

IV. Identifying formal and informal power structures in funeral service

A. governmental entities: Federal, State, local

B. educational entities: colleges, continuing education, lecturers

C. funeral director’s organizations: NFDA, OGR, NSM, AFDA, JFDA,

BWFS

D. corporate entities: International, regional, trade groups, casket stores, memorial societies, burial insurance, preneed sales companies

E. Consumer entities: AARP, Roman Catholic Church, burial societies, DIY

- V. Historical perspectives on the issues
 - A. identify major and minor influences on the development of the issue
 - B. predicting outcomes of current issues or proposals
- VI. Data gathering techniques
 - A. selection and applicability of statistical tests
 - B. developing survey forms and distribution plans
 - C. creating evaluation instruments
- VII. Techniques for evaluating student performance
 - A. total quality management
 - B. feedback loops
 - C. standards of excellence
 - D. cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains
 - E. relating medium to message
- VIII. Writing effective essays
 - A. state, demonstrate, reiterate
 - B. choosing effective vocabulary
 - C. supporting items -- graphics, pictures, testaments, media items
 - D. setting tone
 - E. creating memorable punch line, catch phrase or logo

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: NA