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# Intro to Mortuary Science

MORT1010 301

## Instructor Information

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**Phone:**  
**Email:**  
**Office Location:**  
**Office Hours**  
**Best Time to Contact:**

## Course Description

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Introductory course on the history of funeral service including studies of ancient/historical mortuary practices, caskets and burial containers, and early anatomists/undertakers and their role in embalming history. Modern funeral service practices and basic embalming procedures will also be discussed.

Semester: All

## Course Student Learning Outcomes

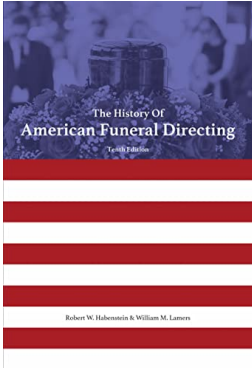
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- Explain and compare historical funeral service practices and their influence on modern day practices.
- Summarize the evolution of funeral merchandise, funeral transportation, funeral homes, and services.
- Explain current funeral service practices.

- Summarize the development of funeral service education.
- Identify and describe inter-professional relationships and responsibilities.
- Identify and describe methods of disposition.

## Required Text or Materials

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**Title:** The History of American Funeral Directing


**ISBN:** 978-0-615-98940-2

**Authors:** Robert W. Habenstein & William M. Lamers

**Publisher:** National Funeral Directors Association

**Publication Date:** 2007 or NEWER

**Edition:** Sixth edition or NEWER

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at 

## Grading Scale

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Assignments, attendance, quizzes, and exams are calculated in points. Canvas will convert your final score to percentages and letter grades.

**You must earn at least a B in this class to apply to the Mortuary Science Program.**

The final grade for this course will be computed as follows:

100 – 95 = A

94 – 90 = A-

89 – 87 = B+

86 – 83 = B

82 – 80 = B-

79 – 77 = C+

76 – 74 = C

73 – 71 = C-

70 – 67 = D+

66 – 64 = D

63 and below = E

## Course Prerequisites

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There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Keys for Success (how to succeed in the course)

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Look at Canvas at the beginning of each week so you can see how much work there is to do.

Turn in all your homework on time - it's *amazing* how that can help your grade!

## Additional Policies

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**PREPARATION, ATTENDANCE, AND PARTICIPATION:** Students are expected to complete the reading assignments. Check Canvas at least twice a week to ensure awareness of assignments and to check for messages from the instructor. Please complete the weekly participation prompt to reassure me I'm teaching humans and not robots.

**PROFESSIONALISM:** Professional behavior includes attendance, punctuality, participation, respect for the instructor's and fellow students' opinions, appropriate written and verbal communication, and a commitment to learning.

**INCOMPLETE POLICY:** An incomplete is a conditional grade given only in extraordinary cases where a student has completed a major portion of the class but is unable to complete course work due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. major illness/injury, death in the family). Written documentation from your physician may be requested. A student must be maintaining 75% or better before an incomplete is given.

**CIVIL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:** The manner in which we behave and treat others impacts everyone and our learning environment. These policies are intended to benefit all of us.

- **Respect:** While you are entitled to your own opinion, you need to communicate your viewpoints in a respectful and professional manner. You are expected to respect the opinions, beliefs, and comments of others. Much can be learned by considering what others have to say and refraining from judgment. At times, we will discuss difficult and sensitive topics. Communicating in a civil manner is especially important during these discussions.
- **Confidentiality:** Personal stories/experiences shared in this class are to be kept confidential. Do not share these stories or experiences with others without first receiving permission from those who shared them.
- **Academic honesty:** Plagiarism is the writing equivalent of stealing or passing off another's work as your own. Rather than properly citing and documenting a source, the student copies the source word for word or modifies what was written to make it appear the work is original to them. Anyone caught cheating will be penalized, possibly receiving an F in the course. If two students turn in the same work for an assignment that was to be completed individually, both will earn a "0" for that assignment. All students are expected to follow the SLCC Student Code of Conduct.
- As your instructor, I will:
  1. Have material for each module posted on Canvas at least one week before assignments in that module are due.
  2. Respect you and your opinions.
  3. Do what I can to help you succeed in this course.
  4. Check Canvas at least once a day, Monday – Friday.
  5. Respond to your messages within 48 hours Monday – Friday.

6. Grade your assignments within one week of being submitted.

**INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT :** My intent for this class is to create a space where students feel included, heard and respected. This class is a place where students' diverse identities and backgrounds are valued and viewed as an asset to our shared learning community. We all come to this course with unique life experiences and there will be diverse perspectives in our discussions. This diversity is our strength as we strive to build an inclusive and equitable learning environment. If you have a conflict with a class or a religious/cultural/spiritual event, please notify me beforehand and we will make arrangements.

## Brief Description of Assignments/Exams

**Check Canvas EVERY week for assignments and messages** – YOU are responsible to be aware of assignments. They are NOT listed on the syllabus.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments, instructions, and due dates are on Canvas in the Modules. Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. the night before class. Extra time to turn in homework will not be given. Look over the modules early to familiarize yourself with the workload.

**LATE WORK:** Late work submitted within 48 hours of when due will receive a grade of 50% of the on-time score. Assignments will be closed after 48 hours and will not be reopened.

**EXAMS/QUIZZES:** There will be a midterm and final exam. Questions come from assigned readings, class lectures, and material on Canvas. The exams are open book/notes. Exams can only be taken on Canvas on the date indicated. Module quizzes on Canvas test your basic understanding of the assigned reading material for that week **and must be completed by the due date**. Quizzes cannot be taken past the due date.

## Course Content Warnings/Trigger Warnings

Because of past or current life experiences, you may find an assignment too emotionally upsetting to complete. If this is the case, please contact me. You can complete one or more extra credit assignments instead.

## Course Schedule

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### **Getting Started Module: Jan. 9**

- Syllabus review
- Self-introduction

### **Module 1: Jan. 16**

- Basic industry vocabulary
- What a funeral director does
- Embalming and cremation overview
- Obituary assignment

### **Module 2: Jan. 23**

- Chapters 1 and 2
  1. Pagan Roots of Modern Funeral Practice
  2. Early Christian, Hebrew and Scandinavian Burial
- Common types of American funerals
- Methods of disposition

### **Module 3: Jan. 30**

- Chapters 3 and 4
  - o Death and Burial Through the Middle Ages and Renaissance
  - o Medical Embalmers and the Rise of English Undertakers

#### **Module 4: Feb. 6**

- Chapters 5 and 6
  - o American Colonial Funeral Behavior
  - o Early American Funeral Undertaking
- Funeral Homes – areas, staffing, ownership, types

#### **Module 5: Feb. 13**

**Mortuary Tour (as a class) on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY. 13 at 5:30 p.m. See Canvas for details.**

- Supporting and developing inter-professional relationships and responsibilities
- Miscellaneous funeral stuff

#### **Module 6: Feb. 20**

- Cemeteries
- Headstones

#### **Module 7: Feb. 27**

- Working with those whose customs and beliefs are different than your own
- Unique foreign funeral practices

**SPRING BREAK: MARCH 4-8**

## **Module 8: Mar. 12**

- Hallowed Grounds
- Utah Office of the Medical Examiner

## **MIDTERM EXAM – Take on Canvas on TUESDAY, MARCH 19**

## **Module 9: Mar. 19 - Yes, we do have class!!**

- Chapters 7 and 8
  - o Coffins, Burial Cases and Caskets
  - o Through the Ice-Age into Embalming
- Green funerals
- Women in funeral service

## **Module 10: Mar. 26**

- Current Events
- Chapter 9
  - o Transportation: Carriage to Gas Buggy
- Funeral vehicles

## **Module 11: Apr. 2**

- Foreign Funeral Customs
- Chapters 10 and 11



- o The Pattern of Late 19th Century Funerals
- o The Associational Impulse
- Modern merchandise

**Module 12: Apr. 9**

- Chapters 12 and 13
  - o Institutional Growth and Modern Associational Developments
  - o The Panorama of Modern Funeral Practice
- Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT) overview

**Modules 13: Apr. 16**

- Ethics
- Best Funeral Ever

**Modules 13: Apr. 16**

- Documentary – The Undertaking
- Grief

**FINAL EXAM – Take on Canvas on TUESDAY, APRIL 30, AT HOME**

[College Wide Student Learning Outcomes](#)

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- Acquire substantive knowledge in the intended major and throughout General Education
- Communicate effectively
- Develop quantitative literacies necessary for the chosen field of study
- Think critically
- Express themselves creatively
- Develop civic literacy and the capacity to be community-engaged learners who act in mutually beneficial ways with community partners
- Develop the knowledge and skills to work with others in a professional and constructive manner
- Develop information literacy
- Develop computer literacy

## Institutional Policies

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As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

You can access the document by clicking on the following link: <https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus>

## Learning Support and Tutoring Services

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We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, please visit the Institutional Syllabus under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab: <https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus>. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

## Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, please visit the Institutional Syllabus under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab: <https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus>. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

## Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)

## Class Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	<a href="#">Alas, Poor...Who</a>	Discussion	0

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignment Name</b>	<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Points</b>
	<a href="#">Corpsies</a>	Discussion	0
	<a href="#">Death and the Antiquaries</a>	Discussion	0
	<a href="#">Introduce Yourself</a>	Discussion	0
	<a href="#">Mortuary Science Program Survey</a>	Quiz	0
	<a href="#">Suggestion Box</a>	Discussion	0
	<a href="#">The Undertaker and the Quack</a>	Discussion	0
1/9	<a href="#">DAY 1 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
1/16	<a href="#">SELF INTRODUCTION</a>	Discussion	5
1/16	<a href="#">Discussion Groups</a>	Discussion	5
1/16	<a href="#">MODULE 1 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
1/16	<a href="#">Obituary Assignment</a>	Assignment	25
1/16	<a href="#">Syllabus quiz</a>	Quiz	10
1/22	<a href="#">How the Ancient Religions Viewed the Afterlife</a>	Quiz	10
1/22	<a href="#">Preferred method of disposition</a>	Discussion	5
1/22	<a href="#">Vocabulary Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
1/22	<a href="#">Chapters 1 &amp; 2 Reflection</a>	Discussion	10

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignment Name</b>	<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Points</b>
1/23	<a href="#">MODULE 2 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
1/29	<a href="#">Chapters 3 &amp; 4 Quiz</a>	Quiz	25
1/29	<a href="#">Death in the Arts</a>	Discussion	10
1/30	<a href="#">MODULE 3 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
2/5	<a href="#">Chapters 5 &amp; 6 Quiz</a>	Quiz	25
2/5	<a href="#">Cemetery Tour</a>	Assignment	15
2/5	<a href="#">Colonial Americans</a>	Quiz	10
2/5	<a href="#">The Undertaker and the Quack</a>	Quiz	5
2/6	<a href="#">MODULE 4 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
2/12	<a href="#">Your Own Headstone</a>	Discussion	5
2/13	<a href="#">MODULE 6 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
2/20	<a href="#">A Cemetery Special</a>	Assignment	10
2/20	<a href="#">Funeral Home Tour Report</a>	Assignment	25
2/20	<a href="#">MODULE 5 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignment Name</b>	<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Points</b>
2/20	<a href="#">What did you find most interesting?</a>	Assignment	10
2/26	<a href="#">Hallowed Grounds</a>	Assignment	40
2/27	<a href="#">MODULE 7 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
3/11	<a href="#">Gettysburg Address</a>	Discussion	10
3/11	<a href="#">Death and the Civil War Assignment</a>	Assignment	50
3/12	<a href="#">MODULE 8 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
3/18	<a href="#">Chapters 7 &amp; 8 Quiz</a>	Quiz	25
3/19	<a href="#">GREEN FUNERALS</a>	Assignment	5
3/19	<a href="#">Midterm Exam - Tuesday, March 19 - Take on Canvas</a>	Quiz	75
3/19	<a href="#">MODULE 9 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
3/19	<a href="#">WOMEN IN FUNERAL SERVICE TODAY</a>	Assignment	5
3/25	<a href="#">Like / Don't Like</a>	Assignment	10
3/25	<a href="#">The Murder of Emmett Till</a>	Assignment	20
3/26	<a href="#">Current Events Assignment</a>	Assignment	5

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignment Name</b>	<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Points</b>
3/26	<a href="#">MODULE 10 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
4/1	<a href="#">Chapters 10 &amp; 11 Quiz</a>	Quiz	25
4/1	<a href="#">Foreign Funeral Customs</a>	Discussion	25
4/2	<a href="#">MODULE 11 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
4/8	<a href="#">Chapters 12 &amp; 13 Quiz</a>	Quiz	25
4/8	<a href="#">Societal Changes and Funerals</a>	Assignment	10
4/9	<a href="#">MODULE 12 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
4/16	<a href="#">Best Funeral Ever</a>	Assignment	20
4/16	<a href="#">CASE STUDY: THE EMBALMER, THE BOARD, AND THE BEARSKIN RUG BABY</a>	Assignment	5
4/16	<a href="#">Cemetery Holding My Dad's Ashes</a>	Assignment	10
4/16	<a href="#">ETHICAL DILEMMAS - WHAT WOULD YOU DO?</a>	Assignment	9
4/16	<a href="#">MODULE 13 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
4/22	<a href="#">The Undertaking</a>	Assignment	40

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignment Name</b>	<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Points</b>
4/23	<a href="#">Grief</a>	Assignment	10
4/23	<a href="#">MODULE 14 ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</a>	Assignment	5
4/29	<a href="#">Funeral Invitation - Extra Credit Opportunity (Up to 10 points).</a>	Assignment	0
4/29	<a href="#">Headstone Photos - Extra Credit Opportunity (Up to 10 pts).</a>	Assignment	0
4/30	<a href="#">MORT 1010 Final Exam - TUESDAY, April 30 - Take on Canvas - Do NOT come to class</a>	Quiz	100