

**Class Overview**

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| **General Class Information**  *All fields must be completed and posted in UVaCollab and World Viewable in SIS no later than two weeks prior to registration.* | | | | | |
| **Subject Area &**  **Catalog Number** | NCSS 123 | **Class Title** | Virginia Gravestones and Cemeteries | |
| **Credit Type** | **Credit**  *Undergraduate*  *Graduate*  **Noncredit** | | **Delivery Method** | **P (In-Person)**  **CI (Classroom/Internet)**  **WB (Web-Based)** |

1. **Class Description (Use the SIS 400 characters from catalog description)**

Using anthropological, sociological, and historical works, this course surveys three hundred years of local mortuary practices in Albemarle County, from Native American buial mounds to modern memorial parks. By examining gravestone iconography, changing mortuary rituals, and cemetery landscapes, studenst begin to reconstruct the lives of the dead as well as the beliefs of those who buried them. An anthropological lens is used to understand the development of the American mode of dealing with death and dying. Visits to nearby graveyards supplement in-class lectures. To facilitate productive discussions, students are encouraged to keep a journal throughout the course for recording their reactions to the course's sensitive and complex subject matter.

1. **Learning Outcomes**

1. To gain an understanding of the ways in which death is understood, experienced, and given meaning America.

2. To explore ritual practices surrounding death and death-related religious beliefs

3. To gain an awareness of theoretical approaches to the study of ritual by focusing on rites of passage related to death.

1. **Assessment Components**

1. **Required Text (include ISBN, specific edition)**

Gary Laderman, The Sacred Remains: American Attitudes Towards Death, 1799-1883 (Yale U Press). ISBN-10: 0300078684.

Gary Laderman, Rest In Peace: A Cultural History of Death and the Funeral Home in Twentieth Century America (Oxford Press). ISBN-10: 019518355X.

1. **Required Additional Resources and Technical Components**

1. **Other Class Expectations (for Classroom/Internet and Web-Based classes, specify any live (synchronous) meetings dates, times, delivery mode)**