

HISP 471GG: Graves & Burial Grounds

Spring 2018 - W 2-4:45 - Combs 025

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Office Hours: M 2-3, T&R 10-11, W 10-12

COURSE OUTLINE

Graves and burial grounds dot the landscape in America as elsewhere. While funerary sites are ubiquitous, understanding of them lags behind. Many people do not think of graves when considering the built environment. Perhaps because of a discomfort with death, cemeteries are not regularly visited and can as a result end up in disrepair.

This course will introduce students to the history of graves and burial grounds.

Particular attention will be paid to changes in symbols, locations, layout, materials, and wording over time. Funerary practices will be connected to contemporary developments in art, culture, and technology. Finally, students will learn the challenges in preserving these sites today, and develop strategies to accomplish this.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Provide an overview of burial practices in the United States from Colonial times to the present.
- Foster an understanding of symbols and designs in gravestones.
- Encourage interest and involvement in the preservation of funerary sites.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to identify funerary monuments from different time periods and geographies.
- Students will be able to analyze and interpret symbols and text on gravestones.
- Students will be able to apply knowledge from HISP 101 regarding architectural features to funerary contexts.

TEXTS

Meyer, Richard. (ed.) *Cemeteries & Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture*. Utah State University Press: 1992.

Sloane, David. *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*. Johns Hopkins University Press: 1991.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Honor Code: All graded work is bound by the provisions of the Honor Code and must be pledged, signed, and dated.

Preparation & Participation: Keeping up with readings and assignments, participating in class, and interacting with your classmates/teammates in a respectful manner will enrich the learning experience for all of us. Participation will count toward a substantial portion of your final grade.

Attendance & Behavior: Your attendance is vital both for your learning as well as for lively class discussion. Attendance for all in class exercises and presentations is required; these cannot be made up at a later date. Students are expected to display civil and respectful behavior during class. Cell phones must be silenced in class sessions, and laptops may only be used if used in a non-disrupting manner (no instant messaging, games, or sound). Violators will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Graded Coursework: In an effort to safeguard the environment, all written homework assignments are to be submitted in PDF format. Assignments are due (via email) by the beginning of class unless otherwise specified by the instructor. Late submissions will be marked down ten points per day. All assignments must be typed in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spaced, with 1" margins all around unless otherwise noted for specific assignments. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors will reduce the overall grade on assignments, so please proofread carefully and do not rely solely on computer spelling/ grammar checkers! I encourage you to take advantage of the Writing Center's assistance prior to submitting assignments.

Graded Course Requirements	Due Date	Weight
Class Participation	All Semester	25%
Mid-term Examination	Feb 28	25%
Project Proposal	Mar 21	15%
Project Presentation	Apr 25	10%
Project	May 02	25%

The **Office of Disability Resources** has been designated by the University as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you receive services through that office and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodation needs and bring your accommodation letter with you to the appointment. I will hold any information you share with me in strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise. If you have not made contact with the Office of Disability Services and have accommodation needs, (note taking assistance, extended time for tests, etc.), please contact them at (540) 654-1266.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 – jan 17 Course Introduction & Gravestone Design I

WEEK 2 – jan 24 History I: Colonial America & Funerary Myths

Reading: [Sloane, Chapter 2](#)

WEEK 3 – jan 31 History II: The Picturesque & Materials

Reading: [Meyer, Chapter 12](#)

WEEK 4 – feb 07 History III: The Garden Cemetery & Administration

Reading: [Sloane, Chapter 7](#)

WEEK 5 – feb 14 Funerary Design: Architecture, Iconography & Epitaphs

Reading: [Meyer, Chapter 4](#)

WEEK 6 – feb 21 Site Visit: Richmond

Reading: browse <https://www.hollywoodcemetery.org>

WEEK 7 – feb 28 MIDTERM EXAM

Stonecutting

WEEK 8 – mar 07 SPRING BREAK

WEEK 9 – mar 14 Preservation of Cemeteries & Case Studies

Reading: [Preservation Brief 48](#)

WEEK 10 – mar 21 PROJECT PROPOSALS DUE/PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 11 – mar 28 Site Visit: Fredericksburg Cemeteries

WEEK 12 – apr 04 Work Session

WEEK 13 – apr 11 Monument Conservation

Reading: TBA

WEEK 14 – apr 18 Modern Burial Practices/Reusing Cemeteries & Gravestone Design
(redux)

Reading: TBA

WEEK 15 – apr 25 PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 16 – may 02 FINAL PROJECTS DUE