

HIST 388: Burial and Ritual

Professor: Susan Schulze, Ph.D. sschulze@gmu.edu

OFFICE Hours: T/Tr 10.30AM-11.30AM and 4.30PM-5.30PM

My “office” is one of the tables outside of the Starbucks in the basement of the JC

The Honor Code at George Mason University: *To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this:* Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, and/or lie in matters related to academic work.

OBJECTIVES

- To gain an overview of the evolution of human burial practices.
- To place modern burial practices within historical perspective.
- To equip the student with tools necessary to read critically and to recognize valid analysis.
- To develop skills to competently assess sources of information.
- To apply the rules of analysis in composition.

Attention: If you are a student with a learning pattern and you need academic accommodations, contact the office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. With the proper documentation arrangements will be made to accommodate your needs.

MATERIALS & COURSEWORK

Lecture The information in the lectures is the Standard Historical Narrative. However, no single textbook covers the scope or geography targeted for the semester. As we proceed through the semester and when available, I will download textbook chapters into a folder on Blackboard.

Readings The lecture will be supplemented with articles from journals and chapters from books. These articles and chapters are assigned in Take Home Exercises. Most of the articles and chapters are drawn from the JSTOR database. Our work with the articles is geared to: the cultivation of critical reading skills (i.e. learning how to identify valid analysis); the cultivation of a knowledge-base upon which to develop independent thought; and preparation to enable the application of proper analysis to written communication.

Course-work

TAKE-HOME EXERCISES (THX)

A cluster of articles valued at 20-25 points will be made available through email on Fridays.

The completed exercises will be due the following Monday.

RANDOM ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (RAO) for points will occur in class.

If you miss the day of a pop-quiz or a pop-exercise then you forfeit the opportunity to try for the points attached to the pop.

No “make-up” opportunities will be provided. I will provide copies of hand-outs until the end of the day (i.e. the end of my last office hour) 5.30PM.

ONE 8-10 PAGE PAPER

The paper will be submitted (50 points) with an opportunity to rewrite (50 points)

The format and parameters for submitting the paper will be provided.

Rules for submission of completed work (THX and RAO)

Be prepared to submit a print-out of the article pages with completed work at the beginning of class. The first 5-10 minutes of class will be used to collect student work. I will be reviewing answers to the TKHMXs in the following class-session (i.e. on Thursdays). The pace set does not allow for late or disruptive submission. So, your option to submit your work is made forfeit under the following conditions: *work submitted during class (i.e. after the first 15 minutes until the end of class); after the end of class; or during office hours will have 5 points deducted. Students that manifest a pattern (3 times) of submitting their work between the 10 minute and 15 minute marks; during class; after the end of class; or during office hours will have an additional 10 points deducted on the fourth submission. (A pattern is 3 times across or within categories.) Work will not be accepted after the end of my office hours on Tuesdays.*

That said, the flow of points during the semester presents a means by which to compensate when an assignment is forfeit. The class is designed to allow for the learning curve of the individual student and to absorb mistakes made (such as forfeiting your submission of a Take-Home Exercise or a poor quiz score).

For the THX: you will be printing out 1-2 pages from each reading (approximately 7-10 sheets in a completed packet of work.). You will have to learn how to print a single page from an article otherwise you run the risk of costing yourself a lot of money. Learning how to print on both sides will save paper (maybe a few trees). Some questions in the THXs will require hand-written answers. These answers can be written on the print-out from the articles. **All written answers are to be in sentence form. Answers not written in sentence form will get an automatic zero.** For the RAO the format will be described on a case-by-case basis.

The hardcopy must be submitted by you (**or a friend or a family member** who is nice enough to turn it in for you). Electronic submission is not accepted, ever. I do not accept student work in my mailbox in the Department.

ABSENCES

Absence from class.

The student is responsible for acquiring missed notes from a class-mate. I do not provide lecture notes.

Absences on a scheduled quiz day.

To schedule a “make-up” session, some form of official documentation must be submitted to confirm the validity of the absence.

The documentation reestablishes your option on the quiz.

An email announcing an absence does not qualify as valid documentation nor does a note from a parent.

The student is responsible for initiating the discussion with the instructor to arrange for a make-up session.

THE GRADE

Your goal is to accumulate by the end of the semester as many points as possible up to a cap of 250.

Your final grade is based upon total points earned divided by 250.

(So, if you earn 175 points by the end of the semester [$175/250=70$] you will have a final grade of 70, a C-.)

I provide a list of your grades at the end of the mid-term grading period. Otherwise, **each student is responsible for keeping track of his/her own points during the semester.** I would strongly encourage saving all your work until the end of the semester.

There will be at least 10 Take-Home Exercises at 20-25 points each (total available points = 200-250).

There will be at least 5 Random Additional Opportunities at 5-10 points each (total available points = 25-50).

There will be 2 quizzes at 50 points each (total available points = 100).

There will be 1 paper: due 17 November (total points available $2 \times 50 = 100$)

A total of 425-500 points will be made available during the semester.

Quizzes

The quizzes are worth 50 points each. Content will be drawn from lecture and the readings assigned in the Take-Home Exercises.

The quizzes are cumulative, closed note, and copies of the articles are not allowed during testing.

TESTING SCHEDULE: quiz 1 29 September

quiz 2 27 October

Grading Rubric

- **All answers must be written in sentence form.** Incomplete sentences, bullet-point and/or slashed constructions = 0.
- Hypothetical constructs, solecisms in logic, and hyperbolic assertions = 10 point reduction in each instance
- Both the page number and author's name are required in citation. No page number in the citation = 0
No name in the citation = 0
- Citation is required when using ideas or phrasing from the work of others.
- Plagiarism in the first instance will result in a 0 on the paper submitted.
- A second incidence of Plagiarism will prompt submission of the case to the Honor Committee.

RULES FOR COMPOSITION: generally and specifically

At the university level - Only scholarly sources are to be used. On-line or hardcopy reference materials (such as encyclopedias, biographical dictionaries, web-site quick references, textbooks, enthusiast sites, course materials from other universities, exam-prep summaries, etc.) are **not** acceptable as sources for research compositions.

At the university level - the citation of sources is expected. It is the case that a large proportion of what you write down is pulled from the work of other writers. You are borrowing something from somebody, it is polite to give credit where credit is due. To not acknowledge the source is to plagiarize.

Generally speaking, in your academic and professional career **to avoid plagiarism:**

Direct quotation is a verbatim transcription (a copy) of two or more words the author wrote. A direct quote **always** requires quotation marks and citation (check with your instructor about their preferred citation form). To alter one word of a quote transforms the quotation into a paraphrase (a lame paraphrase but a paraphrase nonetheless). Paraphrased material always requires citation. To paraphrase something is to restate the ideas expressed in a set of sentences written by the author of a source. In other words, to paraphrase is to quote indirectly. Therefore paraphrased material always requires citation, however does not require quotation marks.

PLAGIARISM: To plagiarize is to copy and attempt to present as one's own the ideas, phrasing, and/or order of the work of someone other than one's self. It is in the act of not presenting citation that you make the "attempt to present" the words as yours.

FALSE CITATION is to present a citation to a source that is in fact not the actual source of the content in the essay. False citation is a particularly egregious form of plagiarism.

The instructor reserves the right to exercise her professional judgment to change any and all terms defined herein.