

## **Grave Concerns: Investigating the Archaeology of Death and Burial**

|                |                                                |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Module Code:   | ARC7036-B                                      |
| Academic Year: | 2018-19                                        |
| Credit Rating: | 20                                             |
| School:        | School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences |
| Subject Area:  | Archaeology                                    |
| FHEQ Level:    | FHEQ Level 7 (Masters)                         |

Pre-requisites:

Co-requisites:

### **Contact Hours**

| <b>Type</b>    | <b>Hours</b> |
|----------------|--------------|
| Lectures       | 20           |
| Seminar        | 18           |
| Fieldwork      | 3            |
| Directed Study | 159          |

### **Availability Periods**

| <b>Occurrence</b> | <b>Location/Period</b>                          |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| BDA               | University of Bradford / Semester 2 (Feb - May) |

### **Module Aims**

This module addresses the complexity and variability of funerary treatment and rituals in human societies across time and space. The treatment is both theoretical and specific to periods from the Middle Palaeolithic to post-Medieval, including the socio-political contexts of burials and interpretations in the present.

### **Outline Syllabus**

The module will cover archaeological approaches to Funerary evidence, considering theoretical perspectives and their role in interpretation of past societies. A range of topics

will be explored, such as 'what is death', dealing with anthropology of death, grief and mourning, grave goods and how they are used in interpretations, preserved bodies, deviant burials, ethics in the use and display of the dead. The module will include a variety of case studies drawing on the research expertise at the University of Bradford, such as the earliest burials in the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic in Africa, the Middle East and Europe, increasing sedentism and the early cemeteries in the Mesolithic and Neolithic, rise of the individual in the Bronze Age in Britain, complexity in the Iron Age in Europe, early Medieval identities and influence of Christianity, and the Victorian period.

### Module Learning Outcomes

*On successful completion of this module, students will be able to...*

- 1 Critically appraise the diversity of funerary behaviour and its role in understanding past societies
- 2 Critically examine and evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions made from the archaeological evidence relating to funerary archaeology
- 3 Use evidence from funerary archaeology to formulate perspectives on past cultures and the role of interpretation in contemporary understanding
- 4 Critically evaluate information drawn from a variety of documentary sources and communicate these in written and oral form.
- 5 Lead others in seminar groups to discuss key aspects relating to funerary archaeology and its themes

### Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Lectures, seminars and directed study. Students will also experience designing and leading seminars of undergraduate students. Students will be able to use Directed Study for reading of literature detailed in the module documentation and for researching and preparing for coursework.

Assessment consists of a critical review and an essay. Written feedback will be provided.

### Mode of Assessment

| Type      | Method     | Description     | Length      | Weighting | Final Assess' |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| Summative | Coursework | Critical review | -1500 words | 30%       | No            |
| Summative | Coursework | Essay           | -2500 words | 70%       | Yes           |

### Legacy Code (if applicable)

## Reading List

To view Reading List, please go to [rebus:list](#).