

Module Details	
Module Title:	Grave Concerns: Investigating the Archaeology of Death and Burial
Module Code:	ARC7036-B
Academic Year:	2019-20
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	
Type	Hours
Lectures	20
Seminar	18
Fieldwork	3
Directed Study	159

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
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 archaeological interpretations; preserved bodies; deviant burials; and 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, early Medieval identities and influence of Christianity, and the Victorian period.

Learning Outcomes

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
Summative	Coursework	Essay	0-4000 words	100%

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>.

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.