NSCAD University
AHIS 3233: Art and Death
Fall Semester 2016

Course Outline

Room: Fountain Campus, Duke Building, D440
Day and Time: Wednesdays, 9-11 am

Instructor: Marylin McKay
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Telephone: 902-494-8189 (office); 416-737-6470 (home/cell)
Email: mmckay@nscad.ca
Instructor’s office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11 am to 1 pm and by appointment arranged through email

Course Pre-requisites
6 Credits of Art History courses

Calendar Course Description
This lecture course will examine the functions of funerary art in a selected number of Western and non-Western cultures in a variety of time periods including the contemporary.

Lecture Topics and related required readings

1. New Approaches to Funerary Art and Architecture in Nineteenth-Century Western Culture
2. Modernist and post-modernist Funerary Art and Architecture in Western culture
   • Internet sites on the Woodland Cemetery by Erik Gunnar Asplund and Sigurd Lewerentz, Stockholm, Sweden, 1918-1920; Lenin’s tomb in Moscow; President J. F. Kennedy’s grave in Arlington Cemetery, Virginia; the Brion-Vega Cemetery at San Vito d’Altivole, Italy, by Carlo Scarpa, 1969-1978; the Igualda Cemetery at Igualda Spain, by Enric Moralles and Carme Pinós, 1984-1994; the Léon Cemetery at Léon, Spain, by Jordi Badia and Josep Val, 2001; the Kaze-no-Crematorium by Fumihiko Maki, Nakatsu, Japan, 1992; Steve Stavros’ grave in Toronto

3. Chinese paper offerings (joss) for the dead

4. Funerary Art of the Ga and the Asante of Ghana, West Africa

5. Part I. Art for the Mexican Day of the Dead

   Part II. The Malagans of New Ireland, Papua New Guinea
6. **War Memorials in Western Culture**
   - Internet sites for images of the Vimy Ridge Memorial

7. **Large-scale Public Memorials of Massacres and Untimely Deaths of the Rich and Famous**
   - Internet sites with images of the Katyn Memorial, the Oklahoma Massacre the Montreal Massacre and Princess Diana’s grave site in England

8. **The Body as Funerary Art: Effigies and Transi Tombs; Human Skeletons and Bodies**

9. **Ancient Egyptian Grave Goods: case study of King Tutankhamen’s tomb**
10. Gender Construction in Ancient Greek, Etruscan and Roman Funerary Art

11. Islamic tombs in Mughal India

12. Part I. Sexual imagery in funerary art in Western and non-Western cultures

   Part II. Boats, rivers and oceans in relation to funerals, burials and the afterlife

13. Postmortem photography in 19th and early 20th century Western culture and its revival in the late 20th century
First Assignment – Response to an article

  - Length – approximately 4 pages.
  - Format – see “Format for Article Summaries and Final Essay” on pages 7 and 8 of this course outline.
  - If you conclude that “your” cemetery does not fit within Collier’s paradigm, suggest why it does not.
  - Due Date: Tuesday, September 20th by 4 pm. **Note: this essay is not due on a class day.**
  - Worth 20% of final grade.

Second Assignment – Article Summary and Response

  - Length – 4 pages
  - Format – see “Format for Article Summaries and Final Essay” on pages 7 and 8 of this course outline.
  - Due date: Friday, October 14th by 4 pm. **Note: – this essay is not due on a class day.**
  - Worth 30% of final grade.

Third Assignment - Essay

- “The Functions of Funerary Art.” Making use of class notes and assigned readings, write an essay on the functions of funerary art in Western and non-Western cultures.
  - Length – minimum 12 pages, maximum 15.
  - Format – see “Format for Article Summaries and Final Essay” attached to this course outline.
  - Required content and suggested approaches to this essay – see “Required Content and Approaches to Final Essay” on page 8 of this course outline.
  - Due Date: Monday, December 12 April 16th by 4 pm. **Note – this essay is not due on a class day. Also, there is no class this week.**
  - Worth 50% of final grade.

Policies on Late work
Students who submit article summaries late, *for reasons beyond their control*, will not be penalized if they inform the instructor of their situation *before* the work is due and the need for an extension is reasonable. An extension date that is suitable to the student’s need will be then be arranged. When appropriate, documentation of the need for the extension will be required. Otherwise – for the first two assignments – 10% of the assigned grade will be deducted if 1 day late and 20% if 2 to 5 days late. Late days include weekend days. After 5 late days a grade of zero will be assigned. This system does not apply to the final essay. The essay must be submitted on time, unless there is a reasonable need for an extension, or a grade of zero will be assigned.

**Students with Special Needs**

Students who have special needs should discuss their situation with Student Services and arrange for Student Services to send a letter to the instructor outlining what the student needs the instructor to provide. Students should make these arrangements as early as possible, preferably before the start of classes, but certainly within the first two weeks of the course.
Format for Assignments

Assignments must:
1. Be word-processed
2. Use a size 12 font
3. Use double-spacing
4. Use 1-inch margins at the sides and 1 ½ at the top
5. Have either indented paragraphs or double spaces between paragraphs, not both
6. Have been run through the computer’s spell-check
7. Have all titles of books, journals/magazines and works of art within the body of the essay *italics* (= script slanted to the right as it is here)
8. Have all titles of articles within the body of the essay in quotation marks
9. Have a word count at the end of the essay. One page in the above format = approximately 250 words
10. Be submitted in files that are compatible with Microsoft Word as an attachment to email to the instructor’s NSCAD email address: mmckay@nscad.ca
11. Use the following means of acknowledging sources.

Acknowledging Sources for the Essays
1. For acknowledgment of direct quotations, use the author’s full name the first time you quote him/her (only his/her last name for subsequent references). Enclose the quotation in quotation marks. Before the final punctuation, put the page number(s) of the quotation in brackets. For example – Adrian Forty says that “It has been generally taken for granted that memories, formed in the mind, can be transferred to solid objects (2).” Leave further details of acknowledgements for a list entitled Works Cited which will come at the end of your essay. Do not use footnotes or endnotes with this system.

2. If you quote from more than one source by the same author, the information within the bracket must include the year. For example, if you make use of two works by Adrian Forty, and one was written in 1999 and one in 2001, your bracket would include (1989, 20) or (2001, 43).

3. If you are referring to an author’s ideas in a particular text, but not directly quoting the text, use the same format (in 1 and 2 above) for the acknowledgement of the author and title, omitting, of course, the quotation marks.

4. At the end of your essay leave some space (or start a new page) and provide a list entitled Works Cited. In this list put all sources which you have cited or referred to in your essay. Arrange them alphabetically according to the last name of the author. Do not include books and articles that you read but did
not cite. Do not include dictionaries or common sources of encyclopedic information.


(c) If you use electronic material acknowledge it as follows: Author’s name with last name first (if there is an author). Then title in quotation marks. Then internet site address. E.g., “Katyn Memorial.” [www.memorial-katyn.ru/en.html](http://www.memorial-katyn.ru/en.html)

(d) For ways to acknowledge other sources consult the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style.

### Required Content of and Suggested Approaches to Third Assignment/Essay

1. Start by making a simple list of all the general functions of funerary art discussed throughout the course such as “easing grief,” “providing status for the living,” etc.

2. Expand this list by attaching several examples of specific funeral art to each function so that you make use of most of the funerary art discussed in class, yet without repeating discussions of this art.

3. Then take a point of view around which to organize your essay and, consequently, to introduce your essay. For example, depending on the conclusions you have reached throughout the semester, as an introduction, you might say: “Most, if not all, cultures have produced and continue to produce funerary art. This art has many functions; yet these functions are common from one culture to the next.” Or, you might take a different point of view, for example, stating that the functions of funerary art in Western cultures differ from those in non-western cultures. In any case, once you have adopted a point of view/position, the essay needs to support this position.