

COURSE SYLLABUS

LAST REVIEW	Spring 2021
COURSE TITLE	Orientation to Funeral Service & Cremation
COURSE NUMBER	MTSC 0102
DIVISION	Health Professions
DEPARTMENT	Mortuary Science
CIP CODE	12.0301
CREDIT HOURS	3
CONTACT HOURS/WEEK	Class: 3
PREREQUISITES	None
COURSE PLACEMENT	Students must meet the correct placement measure for this course. Information may be found at: https://www.kckcc.edu/admissions/information/mandatory-evaluation-placement.html

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys the history of funeral service with emphasis on the individuals, events, and forces that have influenced contemporary funeral principles and practices as well as the progression of associations and education within funeral service. The cremation curriculum focuses on the important considerations when working with those that choose cremation as a form of disposition.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Explain the importance of funeral service professionals in developing relationships with families and communities they serve.
2. Identify standards of ethical conduct in funeral service practice.
3. Interpret how federal, state, and local laws apply to funeral service in order to ensure compliance.
4. Apply principals of public health and safety in handling and preparation of human remains.
5. Demonstrate technical skills in embalming and restorative art that are necessary for the preparation and handling of human remains.
6. Demonstrate skills required for conducting arrangements conferences, visitations, services, and ceremonies.
7. Describe the requirements and procedures for burial, cremation, and other accepted forms of final disposition of human remains.
8. Describe methods to address the grief-related needs of the bereaved.
9. Explain management skills associated with operating a funeral establishment.

10. Demonstrate verbal and written communication skills and research skills needed for funeral service practice.

TEXTBOOKS

<http://kckccbbookstore.com/>

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Early Mortuary Behavior
 - A. Funeral customs of the ancient Egyptians
 - B. Funeral customs of the ancient Greeks
 - C. Funeral Customs of the ancient Romans
 - D. Early Christians, Hebrew, and Scandinavian burial
 - E. Death and burial through the Middle Ages and Renaissance
 - F. Medical embalmers and the rise of English undertakers

- II. Rise of American funeral behavior
 - A. American Colonial funeral practices
 - B. Early American funeral undertaking
 - C. Development of coffins, burial cases, caskets, burial vaults and outside boxes
 - D. Development of embalming

- III. Pattern of the Late Nineteenth Century Funerals
 - A. First response to death
 - B. At the home
 - C. Influence of the introduction of embalming
 - D. Funeral arrangements
 - E. The funeral

- IV. Association developments
 - A. Background
 - B. Nineteenth Century associational development among funeral directors
 - C. National Funeral Directors Association

- V. Institutional growth
 - A. Schools
 - B. Agencies, conference and councils

- VI. Modern Funeral practice
 - A. Funeral patterns
 - B. Operating the modern funeral home

- VII. Ethics in Funeral Directing
 - A. Client (Family) facilitation
 - B. Community relationships

- VIII. Ethics related to the deceased body
 - A. Confidential/privacy issues
 - B. Professional procedures

- IX. Ethics with funeral service operations
 - A. Employer – Employee relationships
 - B. Accuracy and privacy of records
 - C. Unlicensed or unethical activity
 - D. Compliance with state laws, rules and regulations

- X. Cremation Liability
 - A. Funeral provider
 - B. Crematory
 - C. Due diligence

- XI. Arranging for cremation
 - A. Considerations in choosing cremation

- XII. Forms for cremation
 - A. Secure forms required by the Department of Health
 - B. Other state and local agency forms

- XIII. FTC compliance with cremation
 - A. Requirements
 - B. Misrepresentations

- XIV. Cremation Containers
 - A. Caskets
 - B. Alternative containers
 - C. Containers for cremated remains

- XV. Scattering of cremains
 - A. Legal considerations
 - B. Other methods

- XVI. Disposition of cremated remains
 - A. Discuss legal restrictions, local customs, and options when applicable

B. Methods

XVII. Shipping cremated remains

A. Domestic

B. International standards

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

- A. Discuss ethical issues and apply them to the funeral service profession.
- B. Communicate the history and development of the funeral service profession.
- C. Describe the roots of contemporary funeral service practices.
- D. Describe the evolution of funeral merchandise, funeral transportation and funeral homes.
- E. Explain the development of current embalming practices.
- F. Discuss the important need for funeral service practitioner to be sensitive of the various cultural practices.
- G. Explain the importance of using appropriate paperwork to document cremation related decisions, including forms required by state and local agencies and those designed for legal practice.
- H. Distinguish between cremation containers, containers for cremated deceased, and other related merchandising options.
- I. Describe options for proper disposition of cremated deceased including legal restrictions and local customs.
- J. Communicate an understanding of requirements for shipping cremated remains.

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student progress is evaluated through both formative and summative assessment methods. Specific details may be found in the instructor's course information document.

COLLEGE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Student Handbook

<https://www.kckcc.edu/files/docs/student-resources/student-handbook-and-code-of-conduct.pdf>

College Catalog

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/catalog/index.html>

College Policies and Statements

<https://www.kckcc.edu/about/policies-statements/index.html>

Accessibility and Accommodations

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/resources/student-accessibility-support-services/index.html>.

