“Beyond the Grave: What Old Cemeteries Tell and Teach the Living”

Term: Spring 2016  
Course Number: FYSE 111-01 (22187)  
Class Meets: Mondays, 6-8:45 p.m.  
Location: Education Center 109

Class Web (Blog) Site: charlestonbeyondthegrave.blogspot.com

Instructor  
Patrick Harwood  
Email  
harwoodp@cofc.edu  
Phone  
843.224.3112 (cell-OK to call or text)

Meeting Hours: I am available before and after class on Mondays; please call or text (cell phone) or email me with questions, issues, absence alerts, etc.

Peer Facilitator: Matt Privette  
(CofC senior)  
privetteme@g.cofc.edu  
803.727.8162

Synthesis Seminars: Tuesdays  
4-4:50, Maybank 115  
Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays  
11-noon

General Information

Description

Situated in the historic district of the “Holy City,” the College of Charleston is surrounded by Charleston's historic streets, buildings, and cemeteries. This class will focus on the many 18th and 19th century graveyards within walking distance of campus and beyond. We will use multiple disciplinary perspectives to study long ago lives, researching and examining how people lived and died. Funerary customs—how people are buried, memorialized, and remembered—can tell us things about the past and also put into perspective, in some ways, our lives and lifestyles today.

This class is also about you becoming a better writer. Writing techniques, structure, grammar and other basics will be emphasized and interwoven throughout the many assignments, such as blog posts that you will be doing.

The course is also about multimedia online content creation and dissemination. On your blogs you write and create an array of different types of content using words, photos and videos produced using programs some of which may be familiar to you, others not.

Expectations and Goals

This course will hit on many different themes and academic disciplines, such as history, religion, art, art history, anthropology, sociology, psychology and genealogy. We will explore the old Charleston cemeteries in these and other contexts. Writing, researching, blogging and visiting graveyards and cemeteries will be a big part of this learning experience. We will have one or more guest speakers to share different views relevant to what we will study.
Expectations are that you:

- Attend all classes, be on time, and don’t be disruptive with use of cell phones and other devices
- Complete assignments on time and make efforts to improve work based on my feedback
- Create your own individual blogs and post to them regularly, per assignments and otherwise
- Contribute to and have fun with the class blog! Meet deadlines, be creative
- Strive to meet with quality (and flare!) the various multimedia project requirements
- Ask questions, share opinions, participate in off-campus class events
- Note: there will be one or more classes held on Saturday instead of Monday for off-campus events
- Also, be sure to save all of the photographs you take- you will need them for a final project

Course Materials and Resources

Required Books and Camera:

- “In the Arms of Angels: Magnolia Cemetery-Charleston’s Treasure of History, Mystery and Artistry” by Patrick Harwood (2014)- this book can be purchased directly from me; copies are also at the CofC Bookstore and other downtown locations
- “Stories Told In Stone- Cemetery Iconography” by Gaylord Cooper (2009, Motes Books)- buy at the CofC Bookstore
- Camera or smart phone that can take quality images and video- you will also need to upload photos and video to various software programs, social media and apps for editing and postings
- Flashdrive- will be helpful in bringing your photos and other material to class when we use the computers
- Flashlight- we will do some nighttime visits to church graveyards; bring ghost repellent too! ;-)

A special class blog has been established that you will post various types of material: writing, photos, videos, etc. The URL is charlestonbeyondthegrave.blogspot.com/

Several church graveyards are a short walk from campus. We will be visiting some of these as a class and you can come back to them (and others downtown) for research and homework assignments. Please do not go alone. Always travel downtown with one or more other people! Safety in numbers! The churches are:

- Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul, 126 Coming Street (Episcopal)
- Second Presbyterian Church, 342 Meeting St. (across from Marion Square Embassy Suites hotel)
- St. Patrick Catholic Church, 134 St. Philip St.
- Circular Congregational Church, 150 Meeting St. (United Church of Christ and Presbyterian Church)
- Unitarian Church of Charleston, 4 Archdale St.
- Bethel United Methodist Church, 57 Pitt St.

Specific Blog Posts (key research and writing assignments- all posts much include visuals)

- Church graveyard facts and impressions
- Magnolia Cemetery facts and impressions (Saturday visit)
- Cemetery/graveyard scavenger hunt
- Research and write about an ancestor of yours (deceased great grandparent or older)
- Research and write about an “Old Charlestonian” and his/her gravesite
- Write about guest speakers
- Content creation using Prezi, Kizoa and other programs

CofC’s Grading Policy

A 94-100; A- 90-93; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 65-69; D 60-64; F 59 and under A = 4.00 B = 3.00 C = 2.00 D = 1.00 A- = 3.67 B- = 2.67 C- = 1.67 F = 0.00 B+ = 3.33 C+ = 2.33 D+ = 1.33
Final Grade Determination

Two Exams (midterm and final exam): 40 percent
Blogs and blogging assignments: 40 percent
Participation, homework and other assignments: 10 percent
Attendance and participation in Matt Privette’s Tuesday seminars: 10 percent

Note: There will be extra credit opportunities in the form of extra blog posts you can do to have points added to the lower grade between your midterm and final exams.

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is regularly updated and modified so do not rely on a schedule printed the first week of class. I will often bring up this schedule at the start of class, show you what is due next class and in the classes ahead, and go over what may have been changed in this schedule. Homework assignments and other key assignments are underlined for emphasis.

January 11 (Week 1)

- Welcome to college and course introduction
- Course policies and procedures
- Peer facilitator Matt Privette and his role
- Syllabus review
- Required books
- Student information sheets
- Class and individual blogs (using Blogger)
- Prezi No. 1 presentation- Course overview
- Funeral and burial traditions historically and globally
- Graveyards in the city review
- Your professor’s cemetery interests, research and books
- Introduction to blogs and, specifically, Google's Blogger platform
- How to set up your blog: step-by-step instructions
- Each class member will be added as an author to the class blog
- Week 1 Homework: Due Jan. 25:
  --- Set up individual blog using the Blogger platform
  --- In Patrick Harwood’s book, read pages 1-15 (Introduction, Rural and Victorian Cemetery Movements, Research Riches, and Other U.S. Victorian Cemeteries) and answer the questions in the distributed handout
  --- In “Stories Told In Stone” review Chapter 4, “Glossary of Common Gravestone Symbols & Interpretations” (pages 71-82) and “Visual Guide to Cemetery Monument Types” (pages 91-92)
  --- Also due Jan. 25 (since we don’t have class next week):
    --- In “Stories Told In Stone” read the Foreword on page 7, Chapter 1, “The History of Cemeteries & Gravestones” pages 9-12, and “Glossary of Common Gravestone Symbols & Interpretations” (pages 71-82)
    --- “In the Arms of Angels”- read Chapter 5, “Cemetery Symbolism,” pages 151-165
    --- Answer handout questions from these readings

January 18 (Week 2) Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday (no class tonight)

January 25 (Week 3)

- Review and collect Week 1 homework
- Cemetery symbolism and iconography
- Visiting a cemetery/graveyard: what to look for!
- Types of grave markers and monuments
- Charleston’s cemetery “scene” (tours, ghost walks, etc.)
Origin of the “Holy City” nickname
Graveyards and tourism
Burials then and now
The Victorian/Rural Cemetery movement
Week 3 Homework- Due Feb. 1:
In “Stories Told In Stone” read Chapter 2, “Identifying Your Ancestors” pages 25-53
“In the Arms of Angels” read Ch. 7, “A Modern Monument Maker’s Perspective” pages 180-182
“In the Arms of Angels” review Chapters 1-4, “Magnolia’s Most Magnificent,” “More Memorable Memorials,” “Magnolia’s Confederacy Legacy,” and “The Children of Magnolia Cemetery” (pages 16-150)
Answer handout questions from these readings

February 1 (Week 4)

Identify and research an ancestor of yours in order to write a detailed article with photos for your and the class blog
Steps to begin this project: identify ancestor, talk to parents, grandparents, find records, articles about your subject; using Ancestry.com, details of writing and blog posting assignment
Visit to the graveyards at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul, 126 Coming St. and St. Patrick Catholic Church, 134 St. Philip St. (bring cameras)--Keep an eye out for gravesites you may want to research for your research project due later in the term
Week 3 Homework- Due Feb. 8:
Write a short paper identify the relative you will research (remember, must be a great grandparent or older). Answer these questions: his/her name, connection with your parents and grandparents, when this person was born and died, cause of death, where he/she lived, job/career information, family life, and any other information you find out that you might use in your research article; also see what visuals you may be able to find and use. Note: This is not a blog post. Research paper/article blog post will be due Feb. 22.
With notes and photographs made during our church graveyard visits, create a post on your blog documenting your impressions of these grave sites. Also include 10 or more examples of cemetery symbolism and their/your interpretations- use one photo for each example. Include two or more links to related material
After creating your blog post, link it to the class blog (how to do this will be explained)

February 8 (Week 5)

St. Patrick and St. Luke/Paul blog posts due today (we visited last Monday)- we will due a peer review tonight
Also due today, Ancestor Research Project proposals (checked and returned in class)
Ancestor blog post is going to be due next Monday, Feb. 15- distribute and go over handout with details of this assignment (post a link on the class blog too)
Research resources
Ancestry.com presentation
Information about the Charleston County Public Library (Calhoun Street on way to the aquarium) and its ancestry.com free terminals
Go over Name That Monument Prezi- this time with types of markers listed
Discuss Saturday, Feb. 20 field trip to Magnolia Cemetery (we will also see several other cemeteries in the vicinity of Magnolia, including the Emanuel AME cemetery where three of the June 2015 Charleston Church Massacre victims are buried)
February 15 (Week 6)

- Ancestor blog posts due today - presentations tonight (post to class blog also) - see handout for details of this assignment
- Magnolia Cemetery field trip details (see below) - distribute and go over handout detailing the assignment/blog post that goes with this visit
- There will also be a “Gravestone Symbolism Scavenger Hunt” element to our Magnolia Cemetery visit - a handout will be given on Saturday detailing this activity - the photo-filled blog post that will be done from this will be part of the Midterm Exam!

***Saturday, Feb. 20 -- Magnolia Cemetery Field Trip - we will all meet in front of the Stern Student Center at 1 p.m. to get on a bus that will take us to Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston (attendance mandatory)***
(blog post on your site and link to class site due Monday, Feb. 22 - see handout for post guidelines).

February 22 (Week 7)

- Magnolia Cemetery blog post due today (link to class blog post also)
- Gravestone Symbolism Scavenger Hunt blog post reminder that this is part of the Midterm Exam
- Midterm Exam preparations - study guide will be distributed (blog quality will be part of the exam)

February 29 (Week 8)

- Midterm Exam today

March 7 (Week 9)  Spring Break- no class this week

March 14 (Week 10)  Note: Friday, March 18 is the last day to withdraw with a “W” from this class

- Return, review and collect Midterm Exams
- Field trip to Old Charleston City Jail, 21 Magazine St. (blog post assignment TBA)
- Cemetery Symbolism - Victorian, Christian and Masonic, as seen in many old Charleston graveyards and cemeteries
- Prezi, a popular alternative to PowerPoint presentations
- Students will need to sign up for Prezi accounts (free) on prezi.com
- Homework for March 21: Create a Prezi presentation on the theme of:
  - “Top 10 Things…”
  - This can be on 10 things you want to achieve in life!
  - 10 places you want to visit around the country and world!
  - 10 items on your young “bucket list”!
  - 10 people you most admire and respect in the world!
  - Next Monday, after Dr. Dickinson’s presentation, each of you will present your Prezi Top 10 creations
  - Post this on your blogs and the class blog (charlestonbeyondthegrave.blogspot.com)
  - You will be shown how to embed Prezi in Blogger (it’s easy!)
  - Make sure you have at least 10 circles (or slides as called in PowerPoint)
  - When presenting be ready to discuss each part of your Top 10 list
  - Have a photo/visual in each circle. Some writing is needed too, but not much since you’ll be detailing each item/person, etc. on your list

March 21 (Week 11)
Prezi “Top 10” presentations tonight

Cemetery symbolism

Homework due March 28: Visit a downtown Charleston graveyard you haven’t been to before. Document with photos and research at least 10 examples of symbolism and iconography seen on gravestones, monuments and memorials. With your photographs, describe what the symbol or icon represents in terms of funerary meaning. Post on class blog also.

March 28 (Week 12)  (Guest Speaker Today)

- Cemetery symbolism blog post due- see details above
- Tonight: Guest speaker: CoFC sociology professor George Dickinson, author and nationally-recognized expert on death, dying and bereavement. See additional information on him here.
- Week 11 Homework: Due April 4
  --Write a 300 plus word blog post about Dr. Dickinson’s visit to our class. Include at least three quotes from him. Hit on his general themes on death, dying and bereavement. Post only on your blogs, not the class one
  --Include a photo of him that you take during class tonight and also have at least two links to related material about Dr. Dickinson
  --Take careful notes during his presentation. Write (or record) interesting, insightful and especially articulate full sentences that will make strong quotes in your post
  --Give post an engaging headline- same with your lead sentence- don’t be bland
  --Keep your paragraphs short and flowing
  --Review this PowerPoint on feature writing and reporting (from one of my previous classes) for insights into effective feature storytelling and writing

April 4 (Week 13)

- Dr. George Dickinson blog post due- details above (post only on your blogs, not the class blog)
- Takeaways from Dr. Dickinson’s presentation
- Discuss upcoming Charleston church graveyard assignment and “Old Charlestonian” research project
- Week 13 Homework due April 11: Prepare an “Epic Epitaphs” Prezi featuring 12 or more epitaphs that you found and photographed at three or more Charleston graveyards (post on class blog also). Your epitaphs can be from Magnolia Cemetery or the other church graveyards we have already visited. Here are several other downtown church graveyards within walking distance of campus.
  - Second Presbyterian Church, 342 Meeting St.
  - First (Scots) Presbyterian Church, 53 Meeting St.
  - Circular Congregational Church, 150 Meeting St.
  - Unitarian Church in Charleston, 4 Archdale St.
  - Bethel United Methodist Church, 57 Pitts St.
- This post should be 300 plus words and have at least five photographs that help capture the look, feel and distinctiveness of the graveyard you are featuring. Post on your blog and the class blog.
- Also, include a list of three or more “Old Charlestonian” gravesites that you see and think could make for a good research project blog post. Include photos of your three possible choices- include each name, and all information on the headstone or monument, name of the graveyard and why you think each person might be interesting for you to research for this upcoming assignment
- TONIGHT’S CLASS:
“Epic Epitaph” presentation- taken from my “In the Arms of Angels” book (Chapter 6, pages 166-180) and Greenhill section Chapter 8, pages 183-192

Your “Epic Epitaph” assignment: Produce a Prezi presentation featuring at least 12 epitaphs that you find and like at three or more Charleston cemeteries/graveyards. They cannot be from just one. In your presentation, have one or two photos of the gravesite, with the epitaph clearly visible in one photo. List the following: 1) the epitaph (verbatim); origin of the phrase (research!); who is buried there-name(s), birth/death years; and the cemetery/graveyard name (be sure to call church gravesites graveyards, not cemeteries)

So, you will need to visit several grave sites on your own in the weeks ahead. The five listed above are within walking distance of campus. Magnolia Cemetery can be revisited also. Remember, three or more different gravesites, not one.

This project is due on April 11- post on your blog and class one- each of you will present

A look at some “Not So Epic Epitaphs”?

What’s Ahead...

Research Project- Identify an interesting Charlestonian with an interesting gravesite. Your proposal is due April 11 and the research post is due on our last class date, April 18

Write a proposal on the Charlestonian you will research and write about for your blog and class blog: who is this person, when did he/she live and die (and how); include other details you know so far about life, occupation, family, achievements (and failures), legacy and any other interesting facts and tidbits. Describe the gravesite. What is unique, interesting or magnificent or artistic about it? Also, include research sources you have and will use to write a detailed article. Style and length should be similar to the stories I have in “In the Arms of Angels.”

Video Project- Produce a video that documents the things you have done and seen during this FYE class this semester. This one-to-two minute video must be accompanied by music (incompetech.com is a great site for free music!)

The video must be produced using Windows Movie Maker, Apple iMovie or another video editing program (MM and iMovie are free ones)

Use text to convey information such as the cemetery name and address, the gravesite we are seeing, other information

This video will be due on our exam date, Dec. 14, and will be worth 25 points on the final exam

Each of you will present your video on that date, before the test is taken

Tutorial on Windows Movie Maker

April 11 (Week 14)

“Epic Epitaphs” post due on your blog and class blog- each student will present tonight

“Old Charlestonian” proposal also due today- professor will review individually at end of class

“Victorian Sadness/Victorian Splendor- Young Death and the Funerary Artistry it Inspired”

Tonight, we will explore the alarmingly high 18th and 19th century infant and youth mortality rates

View Pinterest material on 18th and 19th century diseases and illnesses


Creating a cemetery video- handout Apple/Mac iMovie instructions; Kizoa slideshow program

Video Project Details- Produce a video that documents the things you have done and seen during this FYE class this semester. The length should be 1:30- 2 minute video (OK if it’s longer)

The video must be produced using Windows Movie Maker, Apple iMovie or Kizoa
Use text to convey information such as the cemetery name and address, the gravesite we are seeing, other information
Video must have music with it (incompetech.com is an excellent free music source)
Post on your blog and the class blog (charlestonbeyondthegrave.blogspot.com)
This video will be due on our exam date, April 25, and will be worth 25 points on the final exam
Tutorial on Windows Movie Maker
Also remember copyright free music is available on the Incompetech website

April 18 (Week 15) Last Class  (Note: We may possibly have our last class on Thursday, April 21)

“Old Charlestonian” research post due today on your blog and class blog - presentations!
Charlestonian blog post due today- include the following elements: 400-500 words, three or more visuals including own photos of gravesite; proper source attribution for material used; two or more links to related material; short paragraphs; strong, engaging headlines and lead sentences; post on your blogs and the class blog also
Final Exam Study Guide and Preparations
Go through my Apple iMovie video tutorial and picture-in-picture feature
Introduce Kizoa slideshow program- students can do a slideshow in Kizoa instead of producing a video in iMovie or Windows Movie Maker
Note: Extra credit can be earned if you produce videos/slideshows in both Kizoa and one of the video editing programs. Shows, however, must not be the same- same photos. Need a separate theme or angle to the extra credit production. Ideas: crosses, angels, mourning women, Christian symbols, etc. Ten points can be added to the lower grade between your midterm and final exam.

April 25 Final Exam 7:30 p.m. (time may be moved to 6 p.m.)

Cemetery Video due today- post on blogs (your and class) and present tonight before test is taken (worth 25 points on the final exam)
Any extra credit posts? There will be a place on the final exam to list any

**FINAL GRADES:** Due Tuesday, May 3 by noon