

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

Term: Fall 2015  
Course Number: FYSE 111-01 (13357)  
Class Meets: Mondays, 6-8:45 p.m.  
Location: Robert Scott Small (RSS) 113

## Instructor

Patrick Harwood

## Email

harwoodp@cofc.edu

## Office Location & Phone

RSS 126 843.953.2212/843.224.3112  
(cell- OK to call or text)

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

**Peer Facilitator:** Matt Privette  
(CofC senior) [privetteme@cofc.edu](mailto:privetteme@cofc.edu)  
803.727.8162  
Synthesis Seminar: Tuesdays  
8:05-8:55 a.m.  
Office Hours: Thursdays,  
MW 3-4 p.m., ECTR 106



## 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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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 some 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

## 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
- A special blog has been established that you will post various types of material: writing, photos, videos, etc. The URL is [charlestonbeyondthegrave.blogspot.com/](http://charlestonbeyondthegrave.blogspot.com/)
- Please feel free to post relevant material to [our class Pinterest board](#). You will be given access to do so. The board is titled the name of this course, “Beyond the Grave: What Old Cemeteries Tell and Teach the Living”
- There are several church graveyards 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)

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

- Research and write about an ancestor of yours (deceased great grandparent or older)
- Church graveyard impressions
- Magnolia Cemetery impressions
- Confederate Ghost Walk impressions
- Cemetery/graveyard scavenger hunt
- Research and write about an old Charleston gravesite
- Write about guest speakers

### 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
Blogging Assignments:	40 percent
Participation, homework and other assignments:	10 percent
Attendance and participation in Matt Privette’s Tuesday seminars:	10 percent

## 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 regularly 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.

### August 31 (Week 1) All CofC classes begin Tuesday, August 25

- 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
- Magnolia Cemetery visits on Sept. 21 and its Ghost Walk Oct. 9-10
- 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 Sept. 7:
  - 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)

### September 7 (Week 2)

- Review and collect Week 1 homework
- Cemetery symbolism and iconography
- Visiting a cemetery/graveyard: what to look for!
- Types of grave markers and monuments
- 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
- Charleston's cemetery scene
- Origin of the "Holy City" nickname
- Graveyards and tourism
- Burials then and now
- The Victorian/Rural Cemetery movement
- Week 2 Homework- Due Sept. 14:
  - 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)
  - Also, in "Stories Told In Stone" read the Foreword on page 7, Chapter 1, "The History of Cemeteries & Gravestone" 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

### September 14 (Week 3)

- Magnolia Cemetery visit planning
  - 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
  - Week 3 Homework- Due Sept. 21
- 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
- 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 October 5.

### September 21 (Week 4)

- 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 Charleston Church Massacre victims are buried)
  - Week 4 Homework- Due Sept 28
- “In the Arms of Angels” read Chapter 7, “A Modern Monument Maker’s Perspective” pages 180-182
- Post a 200-300 word (minimum) piece on your blogs about your impressions of Magnolia Cemetery. Include at least three or four photos you took during our visit. Include a short video also. Include two or more links to related material. And at some point in your writing/post, reference the opinions Richard Crites shared in Chapter 7 of my book
- After posting on your blog, post your piece on the class blog

### September 28 (Week 5)

- Magnolia Cemetery debriefing
  - 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
  - Further detail personal ancestor research/writing assignment
  - Week 5 Homework- Due October 5
- Personal ancestor blog post- at least 300 words with two or more visuals and two or more links

### October 5 (Week 6)

- Review Ghost Walk writing assignment
  - Midterm Exam preparations
  - Confederate Ghost Walk at Magnolia Cemetery- Oct. 9-10 (blog post due Oct. 12)—Ghost Walk is rescheduled for Friday, Nov. 13. Event was postponed due to area flooding.
  - Week 7 Homework:
- “In the Arms of Angels” read Chapter 6, “Epic Epitaphs” pages 166-179

### October 12 (Week 7)

- Further discuss Ghost Walk and writing assignment
- Midterm Exam today (due to area floods, class was cancelled on Oct. 12- exam will be Oct. 26)

### October 19 (Week 8) Fall Break- no class this week

- Class meets again on second floor of RSS. Downstairs is closed due to recent flooding
- Today- review for Midterm exam on Oct. 26
- Today- students presented their ancestor research and blog posts
- Midterm grades are due Friday, Oct. 23
- Thursday, Oct. 29- Last day for students to withdraw with a grade of “W”

### October 26 (Week 9)

- Midterm Exam is today, Monday, Oct. 26- rescheduled due to school closed because of flooding
- Before the test, we will look at Prezi, a popular alternative to PowerPoint presentations
- Students will need to sign up for Prezi accounts (free) on [prezi.com](http://prezi.com)
- Homework for Nov. 2: 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](http://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

### November 2 (Week 10) (Note: Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, Nov. 1)

- Midterm Exams will be returned
- Prezi presentation posts “Top 10 Things...” due today
- You may be given time after today’s guest speaker to start working on your blog post about him
- 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: November 9
- --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

## November 9 (Week 11)

- Dr. George Dickinson blog post due- details above (post only on your blogs, not the class blog)
- Takeaways from Dr. Dickinson's presentation
- On Friday, Nov. 13, class will meet in front of the Stern Student Center at 8 p.m. to take a bus to Magnolia Cemetery for the Confederate Ghost Walk
- Week 11 Homework: Ghost Walk blog post will be due on November 16:
  - Write a 300-400 word post on your impressions of the Magnolia Cemetery Confederate Ghost Walk
  - Post on your blogs and the class blog (charlestonbeyondthegrave.blogspot.com)
  - Photos of the skits may not be permitted but try to get a few shots before and after
  - Anyone who can't go Friday able to go Saturday? If so, will have to get there on your own...
  - Confirm who will be going Friday
    - If you are unable to attend the Ghost Walk, your alternate assignment (due Nov. 16) is to visit and write a detailed blog post about one of the following downtown Charleston graveyards: (post on class blog also)
      - 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.
    - 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.
    - TONIGHT'S CLASS:
      - Weather permitting we will walk to the Second Presbyterian Church for the purpose of: 1) seeing another major Charleston church graveyard; 2) Documenting epitaph examples on headstones, monuments and memorials; 3) Your blog post assignment to write about this "Nighttime Flashlight Tour" of an old Charleston graveyard; 4) To begin to look for an old Charlestonian and old Charleston grave to write about for a research project due the last class on December 7 (Note: We will visit this church on Nov. 16)
      - "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 10-12 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); its origin (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 four 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 November 23- 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 Nov. 23 and the research post is due on our last class date, Dec. 7
          - 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](http://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

**RECAP: Homework Due Friday, Nov. 13 and Monday, Nov. 16:**

- Due Friday: Night-time Flashlight Graveyard Tour Post: 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church- Describe your thoughts about touring a really old cemetery at night in the dark! Include at least four or five photographs you take during our visit. Include facts about the history and significance of this early 19<sup>th</sup> century church and graveyard. Post on your blog and the class one. (300 plus words) (note: due date rescheduled to Nov. 23)
- Due Nov. 16: Magnolia Cemetery Confederate Ghost Walk- thoughts, impressions, comments about skits- include a few photographs (300 plus words)

**November 16 (Week 12)**

- Due Today: Ghost Walk blog post (personal blog and class one) due today- and alternate assignment for those who did not attend the Ghost Walk
- Tonight we will visit 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church (rescheduled from last Monday)
- Due Thursday, Nov. 19: Night-time Flashlight Graveyard Tour Post: 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church- Describe your thoughts about touring a really old cemetery at night in the dark! Include at least four or five photographs you take during our visit. Include facts about the history and significance of this early 19<sup>th</sup> century church and graveyard. Post on your blog and the class one. (300 plus words)—here’s a link to this church’s history.
- “Victorian Sadness/Victorian Splendor- Young Death and the Funerary Artistry it Inspired”
  - Tonight, we will explore the alarmingly high 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century infant and youth mortality rates
  - Readings: “In the Arms of Angels” Chapter 4, “The Children of Magnolia Cemetery”, “Stories Told in Stone” pages 22-23, “Glossary of Major Epidemics/Pandemics”
- Creating a cemetery video- handout Apple/Mac iMovie instructions

**November 23 (Week 13)**

- Epitaphs Prezi due today (see assignment details above under November 9 class)
- Charlestonian research proposals are also due today
- 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.

**November 30 (Week 14)**

- Pulling it all together- final posts and projects
- Return “Old Charlestonian” research paper/post proposals
- Week 15 Homework: Charlestonian blog post (yours and class posts) due December 7
- View Pinterest material on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century diseases and illnesses
- Discuss and view Pinterest material on Blogger labels and website/blog analytics (students will complete a handout on this material)
- Second half of class, students will review their blogs and/or a classmates to prepare for final blog critique (handout will be given with list of all blog posts and other required elements)

**December 7 (Week 15) Last class today (exams begin Wednesday)**

- 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
- Cemetery/graveyard videos- remember this is part of the test and that you can do a Kizoa slideshow instead of an iMovie or Windows Movie Maker production
- This video/slideshow production on your blog and class blog is worth 25 points on the final exam!
- Also remember copyright free music is available on the Incompetech website
- Final exam study guide and review

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, 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

**Exam Date: Monday, Dec. 14, 7:30-10:30 p.m.**

- Cemetery Video due today- post on blogs (your and class) and present tonight before test is taken