

# “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. BellSouth Room 250  
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:	30 percent
Participation, homework and other assignments:	20 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” review Chapters 1-5, “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)
- 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
- Week 9 Homework: Ghost Walk blog post will be due on October 26
  - Write a 300-400 word post on your impressions of the Magnolia Cemetery Confederate Ghost Walk

---Photos of the skits may not be permitted but try to get a few shots before and after

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

- 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)**

- Ghost Walk blog post (personal blog and class one) due today
- Graveyard scavenger hunt!
- Week 12 Homework- Due November 16:
  - Using the graveyard scavenger hunt check list (there will be multiple topics)- start to complete the list, which needs to include who's buried there, when he/she lived and died, and photographs to each site to go with the items you are to find from your list

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

- 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 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
- Researching and profiling a 19<sup>th</sup> century Charlestonian
- Week 13 Homework: Due November 23
  - 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. Include research sources you have and will use

### **November 16 (Week 12)**

- Scavenger hunt list and blog post due today
- Ways to share your research and writing
- Adobe InDesign for book layout, design and publishing

### **November 23 (Week 13)**

- Charlestonian research updates- blog post is due December 7
- Creating a cemetery video
- Going multimedia

### **November 30 (Week 14)**

- Pulling it all together- final posts and projects
- Week 15 Homework: Charlestonian blog post (yours and class posts) due December 7

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

- Charlestonian blog post due today
- Final exam study guide and review

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