

The Archaeology Of Death

CLAS 3119-880/881



Sarah James

Large Lecture (880):
MW 10:10-11:00

Honors Recitation (881):
W 1:25-2:15

Each culture has unique processes to deal with death that are often a reflection of long-standing traditions, customs, and beliefs.

Mortuary archaeology is primary to both field and theoretical archaeology because of the invaluable information it provides about the human past. This class will give you a solid grounding in archaeological approaches to the study of funerary practices in order to elucidate aspects of pre-modern societies. While this course focuses on the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean and their neighbors (from ca. 3000 BCE-400 CE), we will also integrate case studies from around the world to illustrate core concepts. The physical traces of these practices survive as tombs, cemeteries, individual burials, and other ritual markers and tell us much about past behavior, social structures, and concepts of the afterlife. Same as ANTH 3119.