



**RELG 358-01/AMST 381-01**

**Instructor:** Douglas Winiarski

**Course Meeting Times:** M 1:30–2:45; W 1:30–4:10

**Location:** INTC 344 & Locations around Richmond

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**Cell phone:** (804) 683–3152

**Office Hours:** by appointment

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**Overview**

This advanced community-based learning seminar explores attitudes toward death in early America as expressed through material culture: gravestones, landscape architecture, and monuments, as well as mourning art, photographs, jewelry, and clothing. Seminar participants will collaborate with students at VCU and conduct fieldwork at various cemeteries, museums, and Civil War sites in and around Richmond, including Hollywood Cemetery, one of the finest examples of the rural cemetery movement in the United States. Assignments emphasize the strategic use of new technologies to convey historical research to a public audience.

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**CBL Objectives**

The Center for Civic Engagement definition of community-based learning (CBL) coursework includes “Any class that connects students to the Greater Richmond community for experiential learning.” “CBL courses,” the CCE website continues, “fully integrate classroom and community elements.... Students in CBL classes also act as co-educators rather than passive recipients, engaging in the community, reflecting on experiences, and adding their insights to the educational content of the course.”

RELG 358/AMST 381 builds upon this definition in two specific ways:

- Students will engage in historical research and fieldwork at various Richmond-area cemeteries, churches, historical societies, special collections libraries, and museums.
- Students will develop advanced independent research skills and convey their findings to a public audience using new media technologies.

## Course Procedures & Requirements

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Although this course has no prerequisites and assumes no prior knowledge of the subject, it nonetheless is an advanced seminar. The graded assignments challenge students to work creatively and independently at off-campus locations. Above all, this course requires patience, flexibility, and persistence. We will likely confront a number of logistical problems throughout the semester involving the inclement weather, travel to various sites in and around Richmond, and unfamiliar media technologies.

Our seminar will meet twice each week. Monday classes will be conducted on campus in a traditional 75-minute discussion format. Wednesday “lab” classes will typically involve off-campus travel to local historical sites. Students will return to campus by 4:30 p.m.

I expect that all course participants will spend an average of ten total hours per week preparing for class, completing writing assignments, engaging in fieldwork at various cemeteries in and around Richmond, conducting research at local museums and archives, and developing their final projects.

Class attendance is mandatory. I will evaluate the quality of your preparation for and participation in our Monday discussion sessions using the following scale: 5 (multiple informed/insightful comments), 3 (moderate contributions), 1 (minimal participation), and 0 (absent).

Final grades for the semester will be calculated as follows:

Class Attendance and Informed Participation	35%
Field Reports (4 out of 5)	20%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Research Presentation	5%
Digital Story	30%

## Required Texts

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The following books are available for purchase in the campus bookstore or from major internet distributors such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

1. Ariès, Philippe. *Western Attitudes toward Death: From the Middle Ages to the Present*, trans. Patricia Ranum. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1975.
2. Keister, Douglas. *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography*. New York: Gibbs Smith, 2004.

In addition, we will be reading a series of scholarly articles and primary texts that are available on our Blackboard website. You will need to download and print copies of these essays and bring them with you to class.

### **Disability Accommodations**

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Students with disabilities for whom accommodations have been formally granted by a University of Richmond Disability Advisor must present a copy of their “Disability Accommodation Notice” to each professor within the first week of the academic term. Accommodations must be negotiated in advance for each scheduled course assignment. Students should plan to consult with me at least one week prior to any scheduled deadline.

### **Auditing & Pass/Fail Restrictions**

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Students may not audit AMST 381/RELG 358 or enroll in the course for Pass/Fail credit.

### **Cell Phones & Laptops**

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While in class, please disable all cell phones and other communication devices. In addition, I ask that all students refrain from using iPads and laptop computers, which may create distractions that will disrupt our discussions.

### **Grade Scale**

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Final grades will be assigned based on the following grade scale: A+ (98–100); A (93–97); A- (91–92); B+ (88–90); B (83–87); B- (81–82); C+ (78–80); C (73–77); C- (71–72); D+ (68–70); D (63–67); D- (61–62); F (60 and below).

## Class Schedule

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<b>Monday, January 11</b>	<b>Introduction to the Course</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 13</b>	<b>Making the Stones Speak</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prown, "Mind in Matter," pp. 1–19 (Blackboard).</li> <li>▪ Haltman, "Introduction," pp. 1–10 (Blackboard).</li> <li>▪ Study PowerPoint slide show on St. Helena Cemetery, Beaufort, S.C. (BlackBoard).</li> </ul>
<b>Monday, January 18</b>	<b>No Class—MLK Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Begin Ariès, <i>Western Attitudes toward Death</i>, pp. 1–107.</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, January 20</b>	<b>Iconography and Evolution of Puritan Funerary Art</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue Ariès, <i>Western Attitudes toward Death</i>, pp. 1–107.</li> <li>▪ Assemble a portfolio of ten images from the Farber Gravestone Collection (see Blackboard for link).</li> </ul>
<b>Monday, January 25</b>	<b>Research Workshop (Annotated Bibliographies I)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue Ariès, <i>Western Attitudes toward Death</i>, pp. 1–107.</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, January 27</b>	<b>Meet &amp; Greet w/VCU Students</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete Ariès, <i>Western Attitudes toward Death</i>, pp. 1–107.</li> </ul> <p>CLASS MEETS AT VCU (DETAILS T.B.A.).</p>
<b>Monday, February 1</b>	<b>Nineteenth-Century Deathways (w/Dywana Saunders)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Schantz, "Heavenly Country," pp. 38–69 (Blackboard).</li> <li>▪ Smith, "Visage of One So Dear," pp. 255–268 (Blackboard).</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, February 3</b>	<b>Fieldwork at the American Civil War Museum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Loughridge and Campbell, "Life after Death," pp. 7–27 (Blackboard).</li> </ul> <p>CLASS MEET AT THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM (GPS: 1201 EAST CLAY STREET, RICHMOND).</p>
<b>Monday, February 8</b>	<b>The Landscape of Antebellum Richmond</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potterfield, <i>Nonesuch Place</i>, pp. 15–54 (Blackboard).</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, February 10</b>	<b>Fieldwork in Downtown Richmond (w/Jeanine Keefer)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Keister, <i>Stories in Stone</i>, 13–39.</li> </ul> <p>CLASS MEETS AT UR DOWNTOWN.</p> <p>POST FIELD REPORT #1 (AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM).</p>

**Monday, February 15****Anglican/African Deathways**

- Nelson, “Word, Shape, and Image,” pp. 157–181 (Blackboard).
- Seeman, “Reassessing the ‘Sankofa Symbol,’” pp. 101–122 (Blackboard).
- Chan, “Coffin’s Emblem Defies Certainty” (*New York Times* online).

COMMENTS ON FIELD REPORT #1 (AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM) DUE BEFORE THE START OF CLASS.

**Wednesday, February 17****Fieldwork at St. John’s Church & the “Burial Ground for Negroes”**

- Browse the “Richmond’s Historic Cemeteries” website page for St. John’s Church (see Blackboard for link).
- Browse the “How to Read a Graveyard” website (see Blackboard for link).

CLASS MEETS AT ST. JOHN’S CHURCH (GPS: 2801 EAST BROAD STREET, RICHMOND).

**Monday, February 22****The Republican Cemetery**

- Upton, “Gridding the Graveyard,” pp. 203–241 (Blackboard).
- Seeman, “Crossing Boundaries, Keeping Faith,” pp. 232–262 (Blackboard).

**Tuesday, February 23****Special Evening Event: Lecture by Dr. Erik Seeman**

BROWN-ALLEY ROOM, WEINSTEIN HALL, 5:00 P.M.

**Wednesday, February 24****Fieldwork at Shockoe Hill Cemetery and the Hebrew Cemetery (w/Erik Seeman)**

- Browse the “Richmond’s Historic Cemeteries” website pages for Shockoe Hill Cemetery and the Hebrew Cemetery (see Blackboard for links).

CLASS MEETS AT SHOCKOE HILL CEMETERY (GPS: 4TH AND HOSPITAL STREETS, RICHMOND).

POST FIELD REPORT #2 (ST. JOHN’S CHURCH).

**Monday, February 29****The Rural Cemetery Movement**

- Bender, “‘Rural’ Cemetery Movement,” pp. 505–518 (BlackBoard).
- McDannell, “Religious Symbolism of Laurel Hill Cemetery,” pp. 275–303 (Blackboard).

COMMENTS ON FIELD REPORT #2 (ST. JOHN’S CHURCH) DUE BEFORE THE START OF CLASS.

**Wednesday, March 2**

**Fieldwork at Hollywood Cemetery I**

- Watch *Hollywood: Richmond's Garden Cemetery* (Blackboard).
- Browse the "Richmond's Historic Cemeteries" website page for Hollywood Cemetery (see Blackboard for link).

CLASS MEETS AT HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY (GPS: 412 SOUTH CHERRY STREET, RICHMOND).

POST FIELD REPORT #3 (SHOCKOE HILL CEMETERY/HEBREW CEMETERY).

**Monday, March 7**

**Spring Break**

**Wednesday, March 9**

**Spring Break**

**Monday, March 14**

**Evening Documentary Screening: *Death and the Civil War***

- Faust, "Accounting," pp. 211–249 (Blackboard).

NOTE: TIME AND LOCATION T.B.A.

COMMENTS ON FIELD REPORT #3 (HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY) DUE BEFORE FILM SCREENING.

**Wednesday, March 16**

**Fieldwork at Evergreen & East End Cemeteries**

- Richardson, "Richmond's African American Cemeteries," pp. 158–170 (Blackboard).
- Wessler, "Black Deaths Matter (*The Nation* online).

CLASS MEETS AT EVERGREEN CEMETERY (GPS: EVERGREEN ROAD, RICHMOND).

**Monday, March 21**

**The Religion of the Lost Cause**

- Wilson, "Religion of the Lost Cause," pp. 219–238 (Blackboard).
- Begin Janney, "Influence and Zeal of Women," pp. 69–103 (Blackboard).

**Wednesday, March 23**

**Fieldwork at Hollywood Cemetery II**

- Complete Janney, "Influence and Zeal of Women," pp. 69–103 (Blackboard).

CLASS MEETS AT HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY (GPS: 412 SOUTH CHERRY STREET, RICHMOND).

SUBMIT TOPIC FOR ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY BEFORE 4:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, MARCH 25.

**Monday, March 28**

**Research Workshop (Digital Storytelling)**

- Review Haltman, "Introduction," pp. 1–10 (Blackboard).
- Browse UR's "Learning Digital Storytelling" website.

- Watch previous examples of student DST productions (Blackboard).

CLASS MEETS IN THE TECHNOLOGY LEARNING CENTER, BOATWRIGHT LIBRARY, 3RD FLOOR.

**Tuesday, March 29**

**Special Evening Event: Lecture by Dr. Edward Linenthal**

JEPSON HALL, ROOM 118, 4:30 P.M.

**Wednesday, March 30**

**Fieldwork at Richmond National Cemetery  
(w/Edward Linenthal)**

- Zipf, "Marking Union Victory in the South," pp. 27–45 (Blackboard).
- Browse the "Richmond's Historic Cemeteries" website page for Richmond National Cemetery (see Blackboard for link).
- Familiarize yourself with the Battle of Seven Pines and the Peninsular Campaign (1862) by browsing the articles at the Civil War Trust website (see Blackboard for link).

CLASS MEETS AT RICHMOND NATIONAL CEMETERY (GPS: 1701 WILLIAMSBURG ROAD, RICHMOND).

POST FIELD REPORT #4 (EVERGREEN CEMETERY/EAST END CEMETERY).

**Monday, April 4**

**Research Workshop (Researching Richmond Cemeteries)**

CLASS MEETS IN GALVIN RARE BOOK ROOM, BOATWRIGHT LIBRARY, LEVEL B-1.

COMMENTS ON FIELD REPORT #4 (EVERGREEN CEMETERY/EAST END CEMETERY) DUE BEFORE THE START OF CLASS.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE (SUBMIT BY EMAIL).

**Wednesday, April 6**

**Independent Fieldwork**

**Monday, April 11**

**Independent Research**

**Wednesday, April 13**

**Independent Fieldwork/Research**

**Monday, April 18**

**Independent Fieldwork/Research**

**Wednesday, April 20**

**Student Presentations**

**Finals Week**

**Pizza Party & DST Screenings!**

NOTE: DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION T.B.A.

## Blackboard Bibliography

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- Bender, Thomas. "The 'Rural' Cemetery Movement: Urban Travail and the Appeal of Nature." In Robert Blair St. George, ed., *Material Life in America, 1600–1860*, pp. 505–518. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1988.
- Campbell, Edward D. C., and Patricia R. Loughridge. "Life after Death: Mourning in the Old South and the Confederacy." In *Women in Mourning: A Catalog of the Museum of the Confederacy's Corollary Exhibition Held November 14, 1984 through January 6, 1986, Richmond, Virginia*. [Richmond, Va.]: Museum of the Confederacy, 1985.
- Haltman, Kenneth. "Introduction." In Jules David Prown and Haltman, eds., *American Artifacts: Essays in Material Culture*, pp. 1–10. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2000.
- Janney, Caroline E. "Influence and Zeal of Women." In *Burying the Dead but Not the Past: Ladies' Memorial Associations & the Lost Cause*, pp. 69–103. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008.
- McDannell, Colleen. "The Religious Symbolism of Laurel Hill Cemetery." *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 111 (1987): 275–303. In *Material Christianity: Religion and Popular Culture in America*, pp. 275–303. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1995.
- Nelson, Louis P. "Word, Shape, and Image: Anglican Constructions of the Sacred," pp. 157–181. In Nelson, ed., *American Sanctuary: Understanding Sacred Spaces*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2006.
- Smith, Deborah A. "The Visage Once So Dear: Interpreting Memorial Photographs." In Peter Benes, ed., *Painting and Portrait Making in the American Northeast*, The Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, *Annual Proceedings 1994*, pp. 255–268. Boston University, 1995.
- Potterfield, T. Tyler. *Nonesuch Place: A History of the Richmond Landscape*, pp. 15–54. Charleston, S.C.: History Press, 2009.
- Prown, Jules David. "Mind in Matter: An Introduction to Material Culture Theory and Method." *Winterthur Portfolio* 17 (1982): 1–19.
- Richardson, Seldon. "Richmond's African American Cemeteries." In *Built by Blacks: African American Architecture and Neighborhoods in Richmond*, pp. 158–170. Charleston, S.C.: History Press, 2008.
- Wilson, Charles Reagan. "The Religion of the Lost Cause: Ritual and Organization of the Southern Civil Religion, 1865–1920." *Journal of Southern History* 46 (1980): 219–238.
- Zipf, Catherine W. "Marking Union Victory in the South: The Construction of the National Cemetery System." In Cynthia Mills and Pamela H. Simpson, eds., *Monuments to the Lost Cause: Women, Art, and the Landscapes of Southern Memory*, pp. 27–45. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003.