

**Common Course Outline**  
**MORS 101**  
**Funeral Service Principles I**  
**3 Credit Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**MORS 101 – 3 Credits - Funeral Service Principles I** examines the history of funeral service with emphasis on ethnic groups that have influenced contemporary funeral principles and practices as well as the progression of Associations and Education within Funeral Service. Offered in Fall semester only.

**3 credits; 3 lecture hours per week**

**Prerequisites: MORS 106, BIOL 130, BIOL 245, and BIOL 252 with a C or better**

**Overall Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. recognize the historical roots of some contemporary funeral service practices;
2. describe the evolution of funeral merchandise, funeral transportation and funeral homes;
3. explain the development of current embalming practices;
4. understand the development of funeral service education;
5. discuss the importance of developing inter-professional relationships and responsibilities within the funeral service community;
6. apply the history of funeral service as it relates to modern day practices; and
7. discuss the important need for the funeral service practitioner to be sensitive of the various cultural practices.

**Major Topics:**

- I. Early mortuary behavior
  - a. Pagan roots of modern funeral practice
  - b. Funeral customs of the ancient Egyptians
  - c. Funeral customs of the ancient Greeks
  - d. Funeral customs of the ancient Romans
  - e. Hebrew, early Christian and ancient Scandinavian
  - f. Death and burial through the middle ages and Renaissance
  - g. Medical embalmers and the rise of English undertakers
  
- II. Rise of American funeral behavior
  - a. American Indians
  - b. American colonial funeral customs
  - c. Early American funeral undertaking
  - d. Development of coffins, burial cases, caskets, burial vaults and outside boxes

- e. Development of embalming
  - f. Development of restorative art
  - g. Development of funeral transportation
- III. Pattern of late 19<sup>th</sup> Century funerals
- a. First response to death
  - b. At the home
  - c. Influence of the introduction of embalming
  - d. Funeral arrangements
  - e. The funeral
  - f. The funeral procession and burial
  - g. Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century mourning symbols
  - h. Attitude change from gloom to optimistic
- IV. Development of associations
- a. Background
  - b. Nineteenth Century funeral service associations
- V. Institutional growth
- a. Schools
  - b. Agencies, conferences and councils
  - c. Interest groups – NFDA
  - d. Licensing laws
- VI. Describe the functions of modern funeral practices
- a. Funeral patterns
  - b. Operating the modern funeral home

**Course Requirements**

Grading/Exams: Final examinations in all Mortuary Science classes will be comprehensive. There will be no extra credit given in any Mortuary Science Class.

Grading Scale: The following is the grading scale used in all mortuary science classes.

A	9	-	100	Test I	25
=	2				%
B	8	-	91	Test II	25
=	5				%
C	7	-	84	Test III	25
=	8				%
D	7	-	77	Comprehensive Final	<u>25</u>
=	0				%
F	0	-	69		100
=					%

**Other Course Information**

This course is a requirement for an Associate in Applied Science in the Mortuary Science

Curriculum, which, in the State of Maryland, is required to sit for the National Board Examination (NBE). The NBE is implemented by the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards ([www.CFSEB.org](http://www.CFSEB.org)). The Mortuary Science Program is statewide designated by the

Maryland State Board of Higher Education and is nationally accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education ([www.CFSEB.org](http://www.CFSEB.org)).

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Individual faculty members may include additional course objectives, major topics, and other course requirements to the minimum expectations stated in the Common Course Outline.

5/27/20