



# COURSE OUTLINE

FUN 347  
**Course Number**

Principles of Embalming I  
**Course Title**

3  
**Credits**

3/0  
**Hours: lecture/laboratory/other (specify)**

**Catalog description:**

Focus is on purpose of embalming and a review of historical background. Ethical and sanitary considerations in the handling of human remains are stressed. Signs and tests of death, postmortem changes in the body, and the basic procedures, instruments and equipment employed in embalming are introduced.

**Prerequisites:** Students must be enrolled in the Funeral Service Education curriculum.

**Corequisites:** FUN 395 or FUN 351

**Required texts/other materials:**

**Text:**           **Title:**           Embalming: History, Theory & Practice  
                      **Author:**       Robert G. Mayer  
                      **Publisher:**   Appleton & Large  
                      **Edition:**       4th

**Supplemental Text: (optional)**

**Title:**           The Embalmer's Guide to Cardiovascular Anatomy  
**Author:**       D.W. Price  
**Publisher:**   Muirfield Publications  
**Edition:**       First

**Last revised:**       August 2006

**Course coordinator:** Robert C. Smith, III; 609-570-3472; smithr@mccc.edu

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Days

Time

Room

**Information resources:**

MCCC library website for database of holdings:

[http://www.mccc.edu/student\\_library.shtml](http://www.mccc.edu/student_library.shtml)

There are numerous MCCC library holdings for Funeral Service.

The call designations are:

- RA622 Funeral Service science and practice
  
- HD9999 Funeral Service business and profession
  
- GT3202 Funeral customs, sociology, and history

**Other learning resources:** Director of Funeral Service has copies of Funeral Service magazines and articles for student use in his office collection.

**Funeral Service Courses that must be completed with grade of “C” or better**

Students should strive for maximum success in all coursework.

A GPA of 2.0 is necessary for graduation.

Students must earn a grade of “C” or better in all of the following courses:

- FUN303 Funeral Service Principles
- FUN327 Restorative Art
- FUN347 Principles of Embalming I
- FUN349 Principles of Embalming II  
[C grade (or permission of Program Director) required in FUN347,  
Principles of Embalming I, in order to take Embalming II]
  
- FUN395 Funeral Service Field Experience

Students must sit for the National Board Exam in order to graduate. Students must graduate and pass the NBE to sit for the State Jurisprudence exam.

NOTE: Minimum “C” grade in Funeral Service courses is 75

- 100-94 A
- 93-90 A-
- 89-87 B+
- 86-83 B
- 82-80 B-
- 79-78 C+
- 77-75 C
- 74-60 D
- >60 F



## Units of study in detail.

Week #1                      Outline of Scope of Course  
Orientation and Introduction  
What is Embalming?  
What is an Embalmer?

Preparation:

1. Read Chapters 1 & 2
2. Complete Key Terms on p. 22
3. Attend lecture and participate in class discussions.

Objectives:

Having completed the assigned readings and exercises, attended the lectures, and participated in class discussions, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the need for embalming and the objectives of embalming.
2. Define: embalming, embalmer.
3. Know and appreciate Ethical Conduct and Respect for the Dead.

Week #2                      Fundamentals of Embalming and Technology  
Terms Associated with Death, Types of Death, Tests for Death  
Personal and Public Health considerations

Preparation:

1. Read Chapter 2 and Chapter 3, pages 41-52.
2. Complete key terms for study on page 40, #1.
3. Attend lecture and participate in class discussions.

Objectives:

Having completed the assigned readings and exercises, attended the lectures, and participated in class discussions, the student will be able to:

1. Define: sanitation, preservation, restoration, death, moribund, apparent death, human remains, cadaver, corpse, personal protective equipment.
2. Describe the different types of death.
3. List the signs of death in order and briefly define each.
4. Explain four expert and three inexpert tests for death.

Week #3                      Quiz 1  
History of Embalming

Preparation:

1. Read Section II, p. 457-498.
2. Answer questions on handout from instructor.
3. Attend lecture and participate in class discussions.

Objectives:

1. Describe national and artificial means of preservation.
2. Identify the Father of Embalming and Father of American Embalming and other key contributors to the development of embalming.
3. Explain the impact of the Civil War on embalming practices.
4. Describe the evolution of embalming/Mortuary Science/Funeral Service Education.

Week #4                      Chronology: Embalming Analysis; Embalming Sequence

Preparation:

1. Read Chapter 10 and Chapter 2, p. 28-40.
2. Complete key terms for study on pages 40, 2-4; and 196-197.
3. Attend lecture and participate in class discussions.

Objectives:

Having completed the assigned readings and exercises, attended the lectures and participated in class discussions, the student will be able to:

1. Define embalming analysis
2. Recognize the basic steps for embalming the autopsied and un-autopsied body.
3. Explain the correct procedures involved in positioning a body on the embalming table and posing features.
4. List considerations that are evaluated before injection begins.

Week #5                      Test #1  
Post Mortem Physical Changes

Preparation:

1. Read Chapter 5.
2. Complete key terms for study on page 117.
3. Attend lecture and participate in class discussions.

Objectives:

Having completed the assigned readings and exercises, attended the lectures, and participated in class discussions, the student will be able to:

1. Define: hypostasis, algor mortis, livor mortis, dehydration, physical changes, chemical changes, decomposition, pH and rigor mortis and the impact on embalming results.

Week #6                      Post Mortem Chemical Changes

Preparation:

1. Read Chapter 5.
2. Attend lecture and participate in class discussions.

Objectives:

Having completed the assigned readings and exercises, attended the lectures, and participated in class discussions, the student will be able to:

1. Explain: proteolysis, saccharolysis, lipolysis, autolysis, putrefaction decomposition, changes in pH and rigor mortis, post mortem stain, post mortem calorificity, hydrolysis, the role of bacteria after death, and the impact on embalming results.

Week #7                      MID-TERM EXAM

Weeks #8-9                      Selection and Raising of Vessels  
Arteries Most Commonly Used in Embalming  
Quiz

Preparation:

1. Read Chapter 8. (and/or Price)
2. Complete key terms for study on page 161.
3. Attend lecture and participate in class discussions.

Objectives:

Having completed the assigned readings and exercises, attended the lectures, and participated in class discussions, the student will be able to:

1. Distinguish between, list and identify the major branches of the major vessels of the circulatory system.
2. Define and differentiate between: arteries, veins, and nerves.
3. Recognize, identify, and describe the major vessels used in embalming (i.e. subclavian, common carotid; axillary; brachial; radial; ulnar, femoral and iliac arteries, etc.)

Week #10                      Test #2  
Techniques for selection and raising vessels  
Considerations for embalming the autopsied body.

Preparation:

1. Read Chapter 9. (and/or Price)
2. Complete key terms for study on page 183.
3. Attend lecture and participate in class discussions.
4. Study for mid-term.

Objectives:

Having completed the assigned readings and exercises, attended the lectures, and participated in class discussions, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the treatments of autopsied & un-autopsied bodies, including cranial, thoracic and/or abnormal exploratory autopsies, etc.
2. Describe various techniques and locations for incisions (i.e., supraclavicular, parallel, longitudinal, transverse, etc.).

Weeks #11-12                      Injection and Pressure  
Quiz

Preparation:

1. Read Chapter 4, pages 85-91, Chapter 12, pages 227-234 and Chapter 13, pages 253-255.p. 101 #4 & 5.
3. Attend lecture and participate in class discussions.

Objectives:

Having completed the assigned readings and exercises, attended the lectures, and participated in class discussions, the student will be able to:

1. List and describe the six main methods of creating solution pressure; gravity, hand pump, bulb syringe, combination gravity and bulb syringe, air pressure, and force pump (centrifugal).
2. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of the six methods of creating pressure.
3. Explain: actual pressure, injection pressure, potential pressure, recommended pressure, differential and rate of flow.

Week #13                      Drainage  
Test 3

Preparation:

1. Read Chapter 12, pages 234-243.
2. Complete key terms for study on page 244.
3. Attend lecture and participate in class discussions.

Objectives:

Having completed the assigned readings and exercises, attended the lectures, and participated in class discussions, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the purpose and importance of drainage.
2. List and define the methods of drainage in relation to injection (alternate, intermittent, and concurrent).
3. List five or six methods of stimulating drainage.

Week #14                      Prep after Arterial Injection  
Sutures

Preparation:

1. Read Chapter 15.
2. Complete key terms and concepts for study and discussion on page 297.
3. Attend lecture and participate in class discussions.

Objectives:

Having completed the assigned readings and exercises, attended the lectures, and participated in class discussions, the student will be able to:

1. Describe supplemental embalming methods and their application.
2. Explain proper use of sutures (e.g. baseball, worm, intradermal, etc.).
3. Identify post embalming treatments including terminal disinfection and completion of the case report.

Week #15                      Distribution, Diffusion and Dilution of Arterial Fluids  
Quiz

Preparation:

1. Read Chapter 13.
2. Complete key terms for study on page 264.
3. Attend lecture and participate in class discussions.

Objectives:

Having completed the assigned readings and exercises, attended the lectures, and participated in class discussions, the student will be able to:

1. Define and explain: primary dilution, secondary dilution, fluid distribution, fluid diffusion, osmosis and dialysis.
2. Identify five factors relative to fluid and its injection (amount of fluid, strength, temperature, pressure, relation of above to disinfection, preservation, etc.)

Review for Final Exam

Final exam will be administered during the scheduled Final Exam period.