

**HSS elective: Archaeologist's View of Death**  
**ANTH 0548**  
**Course Number: 312128030**  
**Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Sophia Zuoqiu, D. Sc.

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**Office:** SCUPI New Building, Office 423

**Office hour:** Wednesday 11am-12pm; Thursday 11am-12pm; Friday 11am-12pm  
Or email to set up an appointment

TA: 杨禹泽

**Lecture Time: Friday 8:15am-11:00am**  
**(FIELD TRIP dates to be finalized, subject to change)**

**Lecture Location: Liberal Arts Building Zone 3 Room 104**

**Note:** This syllabus is subject to change. Enrolled students **MUST** attend course field trips.

**Course Description**

This is an introductory course consists of BOTH lectures and field trips. Students wishing to enroll in this course **MUST** attend the field trips to receive grades for the course. This course aims to introduce students from all backgrounds to basics about archaeology, excavation and the concept of afterlife for ancient civilizations. We will look at the wide range of burial practices in the world, with a focus on burial practices in China. Course lectures will provide conceptual information about burial practices and will be reenforced by field trips to local museums. Participation and active learning are essential to this course. In addition, students will be evaluated on their ability to apply engineering thinking to understanding social-behavior development of human societies. Please see grading rubric for details.

**Course Objectives**

With successful completion of this course, students will:

- Explain the basics of archaeology
- Explain the engineering concepts applied in archaeology and excavation
- Understand the social, economic, and cultural aspects of death
- Compare and contrast death traditions and material culture around the globe
- Grasp the ethical and political dimensions of human and material remains

**Course credit hours:** Three (3)

**Course prerequisite:** None

**ABET outcomes**

1. An ability to identify, formulate, and solve complex engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science, and mathematics;

2. An ability to communicate effectively with a range of audiences;
3. An ability to function effectively on a team whose members together provide leadership, create a collaborative and inclusive environment, establish goals, plan tasks, and meet objectives;
4. An ability to acquire and apply new knowledge as needed, using appropriate learning strategies.

### **Grading Rubric**

The students are evaluated on their participation in class, individual learning and group work based on the following grading rubric:

Attendance and participation	30%
Individual work	10%
Group project	30%
Midterm exam	10%
Final exam	20%

**NO MAKE UP is accepted for any of the above grading items.**

### **Video and Audio Recording Policy**

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion, and activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance should be used solely for the student's private use.

### **Academic Integrity**

We are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). Unacknowledged direct copying from the work of another person/group/source, or the close paraphrasing of such, is called plagiarism and is a serious offense, equated with cheating in examinations. This applies to copying both from other students' work and from published sources. Paraphrasing, when the original statement is still identifiable and has also no acknowledgement, is plagiarism. The use of artificial intelligence also requires explicit citation and specification of contribution. The Code of Student Conduct allows Sichuan University to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation.

### **Tentative Topics & Schedule**

Friday 9/6 Lecture 1: Course introduction and basics about archaeology

Friday 9/13 Lecture 2: Fundamentals of burial practices and prehistoric burials

Friday 9/20 Lecture 3: Engineering in anthropology and archaeology; site visit preparation

Friday 9/27 Lecture 4 + Field visit 1: Baodun site visit

Sunday 9/29 (make up class for holiday break) Field visit 2: Sichuan University Museum

(Friday 10/4 NO LECTURE, October First Holiday)

Friday 10/11 Lecture 5: After life in ancient Egypt (Bronze Age)

Friday 10/18 Lecture 6: After life from Bronze Age China: Sanxingdui, Jinsha Bronze Age Culture Sites

Friday 10/25 Field visit 3: Jinsha Museum

Friday 11/1 Lecture 8: After life in Europe

Friday 11/8 Lecture 9: After life in the New World: North and South Americas

Friday 11/15 Lecture 10: Midterm Exam

Friday 11/22 Lecture 11: Changing cultures of after life

Friday 11/29 Lecture 12/Field visit 4: Shiling Mausoleums Museum

Friday 12/6 Lecture 13/Field visit 5: Yong Mausoleum Museum

Friday 12/13 Lecture 14: Cross-culture influence in burial practices: Silk Road Cemeteries

Friday 12/20 Lecture 15: Group project research (Chengdu Museum OR Sichuan University Museum)

Friday 12/27 Lecture 16: Group project presentation

Friday 1/3/2025 Lecture 17: Final exam