

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CANTON, NEW YORK**



**MASTER SYLLABUS**

**FSAD 121: Analytical Embalming**

**CIP Code:**

**(12.0302) Funeral Direction/Services**

**Created by: Darien Cain, MS,  
David R. Penepent, PhD**

**Updated by: October 24, 2023**

**School of Science, Health and Criminal Justice  
FUNERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
Spring 2025**

A. **TITLE:** Analytical Embalming

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** FSAD 121

C. **CREDIT HOURS (Hours of Lecture, Laboratory, Recitation, Tutorial, Activity):**

# Credit Hours: 3

# Lecture Hours per Week: 2

# Lab Hours per Week: 2

Other per Week: 0

Course Length: 15 Weeks

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **GER CATEGORY:** None

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Spring

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is the first of three embalming courses required to graduate from the program. This course addresses the definitions of death, the public health considerations, ethical performance, necessary instruments, embalming theory and procedures for typical cases. This course may only be repeated once.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**

a. Pre-requisite(s): Enrollment into FSAD program, Blue Card status with the Department of Health - Bureau of Funeral Directing

b. Co-requisite(s): None

c. Other Co-requisite: None

**I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

Student Learning Outcome [SLO]	Program Student Learning Outcomes [PSLO]	Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO]
1. Students will develop a basic understanding of embalming theory and principles as they relate to standard embalming practices.	2.1.5 Demonstrate technical skills in embalming and restorative art that are necessary for the preparation and handling of human remains.	5. Industry, Professional, Discipline-Specific Knowledge and Skills
2. Students will apply basic embalming principles and theory through lab-based embalmings	2.1.5 Demonstrate technical skills in embalming and restorative art that are necessary for the preparation and handling of human remains.	5. Industry, Professional, Discipline-Specific Knowledge and Skills

**J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_**

If Yes, select one or more of the following categories:

Classroom/Lab x  
 Internship\_\_\_\_  
 Clinical Practicum\_\_\_\_  
 Practicum\_\_\_\_  
 Service Learning\_\_\_\_  
 Community Service\_\_\_\_

Civic Engagement\_\_\_\_  
 Creative Works/Senior Project\_\_\_\_  
 Research\_\_\_\_  
 Entrepreneurship\_\_\_\_  
 (program, class, project)

**K. TEXTS:**

Gee-Mascarello, S. (2022). *Embalming: History, theory, and practice: Sixth edition*. McGraw Hill.

Penepent, D.R. (2023). A complete guide to the science section of the National Board Exam for funeral services: Revised edition. Anubis Publication Inc.

**L. REFERENCES: None**

**M. EQUIPMENT: Microsoft Word or comparable software. Internet access is required.**

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

**NOTE: IN ALL FUNERAL SERVICE REQUIRED CORE COURSES A “C” OR HIGHER IS NEEDED TO PASS**

Assignment Category	Grade Weight/ Point Distribution
Assignments	25%
Quizzes	45%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
Total	100%

Your final grade will be calculated based on the following grading scheme:

From %	To %	Letter grade	
100	92.0	A	
91.9	87.0	B+	
86.9	83.0	B	
82.9	79.0	C+	
78.9	76.0	C	
75.9	69.0	D+	Required to retake the course.
68.9	60.0	D	Required to retake the course.
59.9	0	F	Required to retake the course.

O. **SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- 2 Assignments
- 6 Quizzes
- Midterm Exam
- Comprehensive Final Exam
- FSAD students must obtain a grade of “C” or better in this course.

Once enrolled in the Funeral Services Administration program, students must complete the course of study within six (6) years. FSAD courses that are (6) years or older must be retaken because the American Board of Funeral Service Education revises the course outlines every seven years.

**P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

- I. Embalming Basics
  - A. Emergence of Embalming
  - B. The Circulatory System and blood flow
  - C. Instruments used in the embalming process
  - D. Anatomical Planes and Directions
- II. The Embalming Procedure
  - A. Raising Vessels
  - B. Establishing Drainage
  - C. Various Embalming Analysis
  - D. Setting Features
- III. Various Changes during the Embalming Process
  - A. Before the embalming process
  - B. During the embalming process
  - C. After the embalming process
  - D. Proper care for each of these stages
- IV. Embalm five cases
  - A. Complete embalming reports for each case
  - B. Calculate dilution of HCHO
  - C. Demonstrate proper cleaning technique, before, during and after the embalming process.

**Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE:**

The embalming laboratory is used primarily to embalm human remains. Cadavers will be obtained from SUNY Upstate and the receiving of human remains is unknown during the semester. The condition of the remains and the specific treatments required will govern the goals and objectives of that session. A minimum of 5 embalmings will be done per semester, along with a practical lab examination.

In addition to embalming labs, students will learn cosmetic application, restorative art techniques, and how to dress human remains.

Non-body labs that may be done in the absence of a cadaver will include:

- Suturing
- Moving and lifting obese human remains
- Terminal Disinfection practice
- Biohazard techniques and waste management
- Using a removal stretcher
- Setting the features
- Utilizing and using embalming instruments properly
- Learning proper techniques and usage of equipment in the laboratory

Note\* Virtual/Online students will be required to complete labs in a funeral home and have them signed off by their preceptor. All funeral homes must be approved by the Program Director, and in good standing with the Bureau of Funeral Directing.