



Chris Johanson
Office Hours: M 1:00-3:00
johanson@ucla.edu

Classics 191: Winter 2015

Death and Dying in the Roman World

Tuesday 2:00-4:50

Course Description

Celebrations of death, whether they be violent displays, aristocratic funerals, or funerary monuments played a prominent role in the daily life of ancient Rome. Though death awaited all, the way it came about, and the mode of funerary commemoration varied greatly depending upon one's specific social situation. There was no single Roman way of death, no one funeral, and no one general attitude towards death. Snippets of direct testimony and historical description survive, but the path to an understanding of death in ancient Rome must wend its way through archaeological remains, sarcophagi and tombs, sculpture and inscriptions, epitaphs of gladiators, children, and women, funeral orations, both genuine and facetious, laws that prescribe corpse treatment and burial practice, literary treatments of the afterlife, and cynical treatments of the funeral. The class will explore seven major themes, death's images, literary and iconographic, suicide, the afterlife, the funeral, monuments of the dead, attitudes toward the dead (the death business), and, finally, the violent spectacle of death.

Required texts available to purchase at ASUCLA Textbook Store

Toynbee, J. M. C. *Death and Burial in the Roman World*. Baltimore ; London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996.

Edwards, Catharine. *Death in Ancient Rome*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007.

Hope, Valerie M. *Death in Ancient Rome: A Source Book*. 1st ed.
London: Routledge, 2007.

Course Reader:

Electronic reserve (CCLE)

Recommended texts

Davies, Penelope J. E. *Death and the Emperor : Roman Imperial Funerary Monuments, from Augustus to Marcus Aurelius*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Hopkins, Keith. *Death and Renewal*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.

Kyle, Donald G. *Spectacles of Death in Ancient Rome*. London and New York: Routledge, 1998.

Requirements and Grading

Attendance and active participation in the seminar are required. Students will also give one 30-minute class report during the seminar from the list of topics in the syllabus. After the first two weeks of mostly introductory materials, we will aim to discuss two or three topics each week. There will be no course examinations; instead you will be graded on your in-class performance and ability to discuss weekly reading assignments. A final project (digital project or formal paper) will research one aspect of death and dying in the Roman world. A breakdown of grading percentages follows:

class participation 25% one seminar-style class report 25%;
and research project 50%

syllabus in progress

Week 1

Topics: Introduction: Death and Dying in the Roman World
The Nature of the Evidence
The Topography of Death (**UCLA Visualization Portal**)
Case studies: dying in the Roman world

Readings: Lattimore, Richmond Alexander. "Causes of Death." 142-58.

Week 2

Topics: Origins and Practice
Etruscan roots
Cremation and Burial Practices
Interpreting the Evidence: modern comparanda

Class Report: There and Back Again: The Roman Practice of Cremation
Ash Chests and Sarcophagi: biography, myth, and imagery

Readings: Toynbee, J. M. C. *Death and Burial in the Roman World*. 11-42, 101-113.
Krauskopf, Ingrid. "The Grave and Beyond in Etruscan Religion." 66-89.
Morris, Ian. "'Mos Romanus': Cremation and Inhumation in the Roman Empire." 31-69.
Walker, Susan, "Memorials to the roman dead." 18-54.

Additional Readings for Reports:
Davies, Glenys. "Burial in Italy up to Augustus." 13-19.
Noy, David. "'Half-Burnt on an Emergency Pyre' 186-96.

Week 3

Topics: Preparing for Death and the Afterlife
Roman Attitudes toward the Afterlife
Preparing for Death: the imagines and the epitaph

Class Reports: Representations of the Afterlife in Ancient Literature
Death and the afterlife in Epigraphy
Ghosts

Readings: Cicero *de re publica* 9-29 "The Dream of Scipio"
Vergil Book 6 (Selections)
Propertius 4.7, 11

Davies, Jon. "Roman and Greek Philosophies of Death." 127-38.
Courtney, E. "I Republican Inscriptions." In *Musa Lapidaria* 34-49.
Courtney, E. "Ii K Imperial Inscriptions: Epitaphs." In *Musa* 158-93.
Hopkins, Keith. "The Commemoration of the Dead and Life after Death." 226-33.
Cumont, Franz. *After Life in Roman Paganism*. 44-89

Additional Readings for Reports:

Bodel, John P. "Epigraphy and the Ancient Historian." 1-56.
Burke, Paul F. Jr. "Roman Rites for the Dead And Aeneid 6" 220-28.
Ogden, Daniel. *Magic, witchcraft, and ghosts in the greek and roman worlds a sourcebook*. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press.

Week 4

Topics: **The Spectacle of the Roman Funeral (UCLA Visualization Portal)**
Practical matters
The sites, the sights, and the sounds

Class Reports: Political Propaganda and the Laudatio Funeris
The Funeral of Julius Caesar
The Procession in Rome: *pompa funebris* and the triumph

Readings:

Polybius 6.52-54
Suetonius Caesar 84-88

Toynbee, J. M. C. *Death and Burial in the Roman World*. 43-64
Bodel, John. "Death on Display: Looking at Roman Funerals." 9-36.
Crawford, O.C. "Laudatio Funeris." 17-27.
Jones, Christopher. "Interrupted Funerals." 588-600.
Sumi, Geoffrey S. "Impersonating the Dead: Mimes at Roman Funerals." 559-85.
Mustakallio, Katariina. Roman funerals: Identity, gender and participation. 179-181.

Additional Readings for Reports:

Flower, Harriet I. "Ancestors at the Funeral: The Pompa Funeris." 91-127.
Beard, Mary. "The Triumph of the Absurd: Roman Street Theatre" 21-43.
Flower, Harriet I. "Praising the Ancestors: Laudationes and Other Orations" 128-58.
Purcell, Nicholas. "Does Caesar Mime" 9-36.
Bettini, Maurizio. 2005. "Death and its double." 191-202

Week 5

Topics: **The Spectacle of the Roman Funeral II (UCLA Visualization Portal)**
The Logistics and Topography of the Funeral Games
Death and Drama
The Game of Death in Ancient Rome

Class Reports:

Gladiatorial combat: origins and evolution
Roman Attitudes toward spectacular violence
Commemorating the warrior: gladiators and soldiers

Readings:

Terence *Adelphoe* (excerpts)

Hopkins, Keith. "Murderous Games." In *Death and Renewal*, 1-30.
Kyle, Donald G. *Spectacles of Death in Ancient Rome*. 1-14, 34-54, 76-102

Courtney, E. "Li Games, Public Performances and Performers." 112-23.
Welch, K. "The Roman Arena in Late-Republican Italy: A New Interpretation." 59-79.

Additional Readings for Reports:

Futrell, A. "Beginnings." In *Blood in the Arena: The Spectacle of Roman Power*, 9-52.
Wistrand, Magnus. 1992. Entertainment and violence in ancient Rome: The attitudes of Roman writers of the first century
Hope, Valerie M. "Negotiating Identity and Status" 179-95.
Hope, Valerie M. "Fighting for Identity" 93-113.
Hope, Valerie M. 2000. Inscription and sculpture: The construction of identity in the military tombstones of Roman Mainz. 155-186.

Week 6

Houses for the Dead

When Emperors Die (Mourning and Mocking)
The Performance at the Tomb
The Streets of Death
Tombs in Foreign lands

Class Reports: The Mausoleum of Augustus in Context
Tombs of Roman Freedmen

Readings: Seneca, Apocolocyntosis

Toynbee, J. M. C. *Death and Burial in the Roman World*. 118-163.
Cormack, Sarah. "Historical Background." In *The Space of Death in Roman Asia Minor*, 17-28.
———. "Tragic Images": The Representation of the Dead." 63-78.
Davies, Penelope J. E. "The Monuments." In *Death and the Emperor* 13-48.
Koortbojian, Michael. "In Commemorationem Mortuorum: Text and Image Along the 'Streets of Tombs'." 210-33.

Additional Readings for Reports:

Cormack, Sarah. "The Spatial Location of the Tomb" 29-50.
Davies, Penelope J. E. "The Power of Place." In *Death and the Emperor* 136-71.
Petersen, Lauren Hackworth. "Family and Community at the Isola Sacra Necropolis: The Tomb of the Varii." In *The Freedman in Roman Art and History*, 184-226.
———. "Memory Making in the Funerary Realm: The Tomb of the Baker in Rome." In *The Freedman in Roman Art and History*, 84-122.

Week 7

The Roman Funeral III

Topics Women and Children: The Source material.
Pets

Class Reports: Praising Women: the *Laudatio Turiae*
Burying Children

Reading: The *Laudatio Turiae*
The *Laudatio Murdiae*

Matheson, Susan B. et al. "The Funerary Realm." In *I, Claudia* 181-214.
King, Margaret. "Commemoration of Infants on Roman Funerary Inscriptions." 117-54.
Huskinson, Janet. "Disappearing Children?" 91-103.
Patterson, John R. "Patronage, Collegia and Burial in Imperial Rome." 15-27.

Additional Readings for Reports:

Wistrand, Erik Karl Hilding. *The So-Called *Laudatio Turiae**.

Suet. Jul. 6.1
Huskinson, Janet. *Roman Children's Sarcophagi*

Week 8

The Death Business

Burying the masses
Dealing with the dead
Mourning

Class Reports: Sarcophagi – (case studies in form and meaning)
Death Pollution
Burying Slaves (The Columbaria)

Project Outline/Draft Due

Readings: Lucian *de Luctu*
Lex Libitinae

Toynbee, J. M. C. *Death and Burial in the Roman World*. 245-285.
Bodel, John. "Dealing with the Dead: Undertakers, Executioners and Potter's Fields in Ancient Rome." 128-51.
———. "The Organization of the Funerary Trade at Puteoli and Cumae." 147-68.
Hopkins, Keith. "Death in Rome: The Rich and the Poor - Individual and Mass Graves." 205-11.
Hopkins, Keith. "Death in Rome: Burial Clubs and Collective Tombs." 211-17.
Hopkins, Keith. 1983. *Death in Rome: Funerals, grief and mourning*. 217-226.
Hope, Valerie M. "Contempt and Respect: The Treatment of the Corpse in Ancient Rome." 104-27.
Kyle, Donald G. 1998. *Spectacles of Death in Ancient Rome*. 155-171
Corbeill, Anthony. 2004. "Blood, milk, and tears: The gestures of mourning women." 67-106

Additional Readings for Reports:

Hasegawa, Kinuko. "The Burial Clubs for Slaves and Freedmen." 81-88.
———. "The Columbaria and the Aristocratic Families." 4-29.
———. "Inscriptions from the Columbarium of the Statilii." 92-107
Lindsay, Hugh. "Death-Pollution and Funerals in the City of Rome." 85-103.

Week 9

Suicide

Roman Attitudes toward Suicide
Methods and means
Political suicide and modern comparanda.

Class Reports: The Suicide of the Cato
Seneca on Suicide

Readings: Tacitus *Annales* 16.18-19

Hill, Timothy. "The Concept of Political Suicide at Rome." 183-212.
Edwards, Catharine. "Modelling Roman Suicide? The Afterlife of Cato." 200-22.
Evenepoel, Willy. "The Philosopher Seneca and Suicide." 217-43.
Griffin, M. "Philosophy, Cato, and Roman Suicide: I." 64-77.
———. "Philosophy, Cato, and Roman Suicide: II." 192-202.
Van Hoof, Anton J. L. "Icons of Ancient Suicide: Self Killing in Classical Art." 179-86.
Van Hoof, Anton J. L. "Suicide and Parasuicide in Ancient Personal Testimonies." 76-82.

Additional Readings for Reports:

The Volokh Conspiracy - Nice way to go (blog post)

Week 10

Transitions

Dying in the rest of the World

Modern funerals, modern spectacle

Class Reports: When worlds collide: pagan and Christian Imagery
Martyrs

Final Project Due

Readings:

Perpetua

Parker Pearson, Michael. "Epilogue: Death and Memory." 193-97.

———. "Placing the Dead." In *The Archaeology of Death and Burial*, 124-41.

Elsner, Jas. "Art and Death." 145-65.

Davies, Jon. "Christian Burial." 187-200. London

———. "The Nature of Martyrdom." 201-16.

Harries, Jill. "Death and the Dead in the Late Roman West." 56-67.

Kyle, Donald G. 1998. *Spectacles of Death in Ancient Rome*. 242-255.

Walker, Susan, "Memorials to the roman dead." 61-62.

Additional Readings for Reports:

Droge, Arthur J., and James D. Tabor. 1992. *A noble death : Suicide and martyrdom among christians and jews in antiquity*. 1st ed. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco.

Shaw, Brent D. 1996. Seasons of death: Aspects of mortality in imperial rome. *The Journal of Roman Studies* 86:100-38.