

# *Cape Cod Community College*

## Departmental Syllabus

---

**Prepared by the Department of Funeral Service**

**Date of Departmental Approval:** June 11, 2018

**Date approved by Curriculum and Programs:** June 19, 2018

**Effective: Fall 2018**

1. **Course Number:** FSR128  
**Course Title:** Social Foundations of Funeral Service
2. **Description:** This course introduces the history and evolution of the art and science of funeral service in North America. Students explore the relationship of social, religious, and spiritual beliefs, traditions, to funeral service practices and legal and ethical responsibilities of funeral service professionals.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes** (instructional objectives, intellectual skills):  
Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following.
  - Demonstrate knowledge of the history and background of funeral service and the evolution of modern American Funeral Service.
  - Demonstrate an understanding of the organization of modern American Funeral Service.
  - Demonstrate an understanding of sociological concepts in funeral service, cultural beliefs and practices of families, and the changing social factors that affect funeral rites.
  - Identify family governing systems found in society, differing family structures, and the role of the deceased within the family and how the death can affect family structure.
  - Describe the role of funeral service personnel as members of a human services profession.
  - Describe the legal and ethical responsibilities of funeral service professionals.
4. **Credit(s):** 3 Credits
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** No
6. **Prerequisite(s):** ENL108 (Critical Reading & Thinking) or satisfactory basic skills assessment score
7. **Semester(s) Offered:** Fall
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Quizzes, examinations, reflective essays, and homework assignments
9. **General Topical Outline** (Optional):
  - Introduction to History, Pagan Roots of Funeral Service through the Middle Ages and Early Burial Practices
  - Rise of the English Undertaker
  - Introduction to Early American Funeral Directing
  - Early American Undertaking, Coffins and Caskets
  - Introduction to Modern Embalming
  - Transportation History in Undertaking
  - Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Funerals and Introduction to Funeral Service Association
  - Introduction to the Ethical and Legal Responsibilities of Today's Funeral Service Professionals
  - Purpose of Funeral Rituals and Family Structure
  - Socioeconomic Issues and Funeral Service
  - Regional Differences in Funeral Rituals
  - Innovation, Change and the Future of Funeral Service