

ARCH B336: Mortuary Archaeology in the 21st Century: Ethical Engagement

**ARCH B536/336: Mortuary Archaeology in the 21st Century:
Ethical Engagement**

Friday 9:10 AM-12:00 PM, Old Library 223

Instructor: Dr Jennie Bradbury (jbradbury@brynmawr.edu)

ARCH B336: Mortuary Archaeology in the 21st Century: Ethical Engagement

Themes to consider:

- History of Mortuary Archaeology
 - Previous Research
 - Region
 - Political and social factors
- Archaeological Theory and Mortuary Archaeology
 - Application and usage
 - Van Gennep and Hertz
 - Ethnography
 - Pots = People; Burials = People
 - A few terms and details
 - Archaeology and Personhood
 - Pollution and purity
- Ethics and the dead
 - Unique status (what about objects)?
 - De-humanization
 - Role of museums, archaeology, universities etc.,
- What is mortuary archaeology, what are mortuary archaeologists?
 - Mediators
 - Type of funerary practice
 - Not about death?

“...form and structure which characterize the mortuary practices of any society are conditioned by the form and complexity of the organizational characteristics of the society itself.” (Binford 1971: 23)

- **Saxe (1970)**: social significance of burial (8 hypotheses) and development of statistical methods to test them.
- **Hypotheses 1-7**: Social Persona through the mortuary record;
- **Hypothesis 8**: Formal Cemeteries and resource competition
- **Binford (1971)**: two phenomena; *technical* and *ritual*
- 40 non-state organized societies from HRAF (hunter-gatherer; shifting agriculturalist; pastoralist and settled agriculturalist)
- e.g.. hunter-gatherers: **sex/age** important categories for differentiation
- settled agriculturalists: **social positioning**