



## Programa da Unidade Curricular

<b>European Early Prehistoric Death and Burial/ Morte e Enterramentos na Europa Pré-Histórica (área: História e Arqueologia)</b> Curso de Mestrado em Arqueologia Pré-Histórica e Arte Rupestre		Ano Lectivo: 2011/2012	
			3 ECTS

Carga Horária	Horas Totais de Contacto				Docente	George Nash
	T	TP	TC	S		
	0	7	12	8		Docente Convidado

**Synopsis:**

This short course will look at the burial deposition of archaic and early modern humans. In terms of the human experience, one cannot escape death; it forms part of our life cycle and arguably extends beyond life itself. Although most of us live in a secular world, death still evokes and captivates. The way we as modern humans deal with death can be traced through the archaeological record in Europe to around 40,000 BCE. From this period, the archaeological record clearly shows elements of ritual within burial practice. Prior to the emergence of modern humans, Neanderthals were also dealing with death in a particular and deliberate way. Much of what was practiced during this early period in prehistory extends into later prehistory and beyond. Despite the course being Euro-centric, the course will also include burial archaeology from around the globe, providing students with a quantitative approach to burial deposition.

**Evaluation:**

Students will be assessed following the teaching component of the course. The assessment exercise will include the formulation of a ritual-funerary episode observing all the fundamental components such as body preparation, burial and grave good deposition from a chosen prehistoric period. Students will be asked to present (in groups) their narrative. Public speaking is an important skill that students will need not only as an archaeologist, but in other walks of life. It is an essential part of your assessment in order to complete this course option.

**Bibliography:**

## Earlier Prehistory

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- Bailey, G. & Spikens, P. (eds.) 2008. Mesolithic Europe. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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- Chippindale, C. 1987. Stonehenge Complete. London: Thames & Hudson.
- Clark, J.G.D. 1954. Star Carr. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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- Lynch, F. 1997. Megalithic Tombs and Long Barrows in Britain. Princes Risborough, Shire.
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- Mithen, S.J. 2003. After the Ice: a global human history 20000-5000BC. Weidenfeld & Nicholson.
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- Morrison, A. 1980. Early Man in Britain and Ireland: An Introduction to Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Cultures. London: Croom Helm.
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Thomas, J. 1991. Rethinking the Neolithic. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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Zvelebil, M., (ed.) 1986. Hunters in Transition. Mesolithic Societies of Temperate Eurasia and their Transition to Farming. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Observations:**

Students will be taught the archaeology of death, burial and ritual, focusing on the early prehistoric era; from Neanderthals to the Neolithic; a duration of a round 200,000 years. Using both the archaeological and anthropological records students will be expected to identify key philosophical points, sites and the respective material culture within the various prehistoric periods. In order to contextualise these key areas, the course will also examine contemporary parallels.

O Director do Mestrado,



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(Doutor Luiz Oosterbeek)