

Programa da Unidade Curricular

		Ano Lectivo: 2011/2012	
<b>The Prehistory of Death; from Stone Age to Iron Age (área: História e Arqueologia)</b>			1 ECTS
<b>Curso de Mestrado em Arqueologia Pré-Histórica e Arte Rupestre</b>			

Carga Horária	Horas Totais de Contacto				Docente	George Nash
	T	TP	P	PL		
	0	9	0	0		
Prof. Convidado						

**Synopsis:**

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. In later prehistory many of the components and suspected rituals associated with death, burial and ritual in early prehistory can be traced during this period, suggesting that there is a continuous ancestral heritage to the way the dead are treated. This lineage is not confined to a specific geographic area but is widely practiced throughout the prehistoric core areas of Europe.

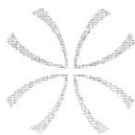
**Evaluation:**

Students will be assessed following the teaching component of the course. The assessment exercise will include the construction of 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.  
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Mithen, S.J. 2003. After the Ice: a global human history 20000-5000BC. Weidenfeld & Nicholson.  
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- Nash, G.H. 2006. *Architecture of Death*. Logastone Press.
- O'Kelly, M.J. 1982. *Newgrange: archaeology, art and legend*. London: Thames & Hudson.
- Thomas, J. 1991. *Rethinking the Neolithic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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- Zvevibel, M., (ed.) 1986. *Hunters in Transition. Mesolithic Societies of Temperate Eurasia and their Transition to Farming*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

#### Mid to Later Prehistory

- Bradley, R. 1990. *The Passage of Arms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bradley, R. 1993. *Altering the Earth*. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.
- Bradley, R. 2007. *The Prehistory of Britain and Ireland*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Burgess, C. 1980. *The Age of Stonehenge*. London: Dent.
- Cunliffe, B. 2008. *Europe between the Oceans: 9000 BC-AD 1000*. Oxford University Press.
- Gibson, A. and Simpson, D. (eds.) 1998. *Prehistoric Ritual and Religion*. Sutton Publishing.
- Harrison, R.J. 1980. *The Beaker Folk*. London: Thames & Hudson.
- Parker Pearson, M. 1992. *Bronze Age Britain*. London: Batsford.
- Ucko, P. 1979. 'Ethnography and archaeological interpretation of funerary remains', *World Archaeology*, 31, 262.

#### Iron Age

- Champion, T.C. and Collis, J.R. 1996. *The Iron Age in Britain and Ireland: Recent Trends*. J.R.Collis Publications.
- Cunliffe, B. 1993. *The English Heritage Book of Danebury*. London: Batsford.
- Cunliffe, B. 2005. *Iron Age Communities in Britain 4th Edition*. London: Routledge.
- Gwilt, A. and Haselgrove, C. 1997. *Reconstructing Iron Age Societies*. Oxbow Monograph 71.
- Raftery, B. 1994. *Pagan Celtic Ireland*. London: Thames & Hudson.

#### Bog Bodies

- Brothwell, D.R. 1986. *The Bog Man and the Archaeology of People*. London: British Museum Publications.
- Glob, P.V. 1969. *The Bog People: Iron Age Man preserved*. London: Faber.
- Turner, R.C. and Scaife, R.G. (eds.) 1995. *Bog Bodies: new discoveries and new perspectives*. London: British Museum Press.

#### Observations:

Students will be taught the archaeology of death, burial and ritual, focusing on the prehistoric era; from Neanderthals to people working with iron; a duration of a round 250,000 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,

  
(Doutor Luíz Oosterbeek)