

**Common Course Outline**  
**MORS 115**  
**Advanced Embalming Theory**  
**2 Credit Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**MORS 115 – 2 Credits – Advanced Embalming Theory** consists of analysis and solution of the many problems faced by contemporary morticians; covers areas of embalming chemistry.

**2 credits; 2 lecture hours per week**

**Prerequisite: MORS 113 with a "C" or better**

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate adequate methods of self-protection from communicable and infectious diseases and hazardous chemicals;
2. demonstrate and explain adequate methods of personal and environmental protective measures in the art and science of embalming;
3. explain embalming treatments for infections, communicable diseases, traumatic and pathological conditions;
4. describe and solve the problems related to the embalming procedures necessitated by disaster situations;
5. describe the various postmortem conditions and how they relate to the embalming process;
6. state the various types of embalming fluids and how they apply to the embalming process;
7. perform the calculations necessary to determine the strength of the embalming fluids; and
8. explain the OSHA and FTC rules that pertain to the embalming process.

**Major Topics**

- I. Discolorations
  - a. Definition
  - b. Classifications
  - c. General treatment
  - d. Special treatment
  - e. Classification according to cause
  - f. Intravascular discoloration
  - g. Extravascular discoloration
  - h. Drugs
  - i. Pathological
  - j. Surface discoloration
  - k. Reaction of embalming chemicals

- I. Decomposition
  - m. Condition related to discoloration
  - n. Classifications of lesions
  
- II. Vascular problems
  - a. Conditions
  - b. Treatment
  - c. Decomposition
  
- III. Dehydration (conditions)
  - a. Treatment
  - b. Mechanical and manual aids
  - c. Controlled injection and drainage
  
- IV. Edema
  - a. Conditions
  - b. Types
  - c. Embalming
  - d. Treatment
  
- V. Purge
  - a. Definition
  - b. Treatment
  
- VI. Deformities and malformations
  - a. Conditions
  - b. Treatment
  
- VII. Contagion and infection
  - a. Explanation
  - b. Removal from place of death
  - c. Precautionary measures
  - d. Shipping
  - e. Permission for public funeral
  
- VIII. Radiation
  - a. General considerations
  - b. Treatment
  - c. Personal hygiene
  
- IX. Postmortem Conditions and their embalming Treatments
  - a. Discolorations
  - b. Pharmaceutical agents
  - c. Pathological
  - d. Surface discoloring agents
  - e. Reaction of embalming chemicals upon body contents
  - f. Decomposition changes

- g. Conditions related to discolorations
- h. Vascular difficulties
- i. Decomposition
- j. Dehydration
- k. Body fluid accumulation
- l. Deformities and malformations
- m. Radiation
- n. Preparation of the infant
- o. Treatment of the body to be shipped
- p. Preparation of obese bodies

X. Types of embalming chemicals

- a. Vascular
- b. Cavity fluid
- c. Supplemental fluids
- d. Jaundice fluids
- e. High preservation demand fluids
- f. Accessory chemicals
- g. Safety in handling embalming chemicals in accordance with OSHA Hazard Communication Standard

XI. Arterial Fluid

- a. Function
- b. Purpose
- c. Types
- d. Components
- e. Germicides
- f. Modifying agents
- g. Buffers
- h. Water conditioners
- i. Vehicles
- j. Surfactants
- k. Dyes
- l. Deodorants
- m. Effects on body tissue

XII. Cavity fluid

- a. Purpose
- b. Composition
- c. Preservatives and fixatives
- d. Germicides
- e. Vehicle

XIII. Supplemental fluids

- a. Pre-injection
- b. Composition
- c. Humectants or restorative fluids

- d. Jaundice fluids
- e. High index fluids

XIV. Accessory chemicals

- a. Hardening
- b. Mold preventative powder
- c. Preservative powders
- d. Sealing compounds
- e. Adhesives

XV. Pack applications

- a. Purpose
- b. Compositions

XVI. Dilution of arterial fluid

- a. Primary
- b. Secondary
- c. Fluid distribution
- d. Fluid diffusion
- e. Osmosis
- f. Dialysis
- g. Disinfectants
- h. Index problems

XVII. Coagulants and anti coagulants

XVIII. Reasons for embalming failure

XIX. Government regulations handout

- a. U.S. Department of Labor OSHA Rules
- b. F.T.C. Rule

**Course Requirements**

Grading/exams: Final examinations in all Mortuary Science classes will be comprehensive. There will be no extra credit given in any Mortuary Science Class.

- Test I
- Test II
- Test III
- Test IV
- Test V
- Test VI
- Test VII Comprehensive Final Exam
- Test VIII Compend and Conference Study Guide Test

Each of the eight tests are equally divided for a total of 100%

Grading Scale: The following is the grading scale used in all mortuary science classes.

A = 92 – 100  
B = 85 – 91  
C = 78 – 84  
D = 70 – 77  
F = 0 – 69

### **Other Course Information**

This course is a requirement for an Associate in Applied Science in the Mortuary Science Curriculum, which, in the State of Maryland, is required to sit for the National Board Examination (NBE). The NBE is implemented by the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards ([www.CFSEB.org](http://www.CFSEB.org)). The Mortuary Science Program is statewide designated by the Maryland State Board of Higher Education and is nationally accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education ([www.CFSEB.org](http://www.CFSEB.org)).

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Individual faculty members may include additional course objectives, major topics, and other course requirements to the minimum expectations stated in the Common Course Outline.