

<http://somatosphere.net/2014/01/anthropology-of-the-dead-body-the-corps-e-in-theory-action-and-literature.html>

Anthropology of the Dead Body: The Corpse in Theory, Action, and Literature

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By Rachel Carmen Ceasar

A good read, like a good song, reminds you of where you were and who you were with when you first experienced it. On that note, I am grateful to my mentors for their kind guidance in pushing me to think critically about the dead body; their interrogation of “When is the dead body just a dead body, just a dead body?” rings throughout this syllabus.

The compilation of readings on the dead body is never ending and therefore, the syllabus I post here remains unfinished. As it stands, it is an ambitious 9-week introduction to the dead body by way of an archaeological understanding of material culture, a philosophical engagement with biopolitics, and a science studies approach to knowledge production.

What is missing from this 10-week undergraduate course?

What readings would you put on this syllabus?

What resources, films, or activities would you add to enhance the students’ understanding of the course readings?

[Anthropology of the Dead Body](#)

If you are unable to view or download the embedded syllabus, you can also find it [here](#).

[Rachel Carmen Ceasar](#) is a doctoral candidate in the Joint Medical Anthropology Program at UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco. Her research focuses on contemporary Spain and Morocco as a lens through which we may come to understand how people deal with the aftermath of war and repression. More specifically, she examines the archaeological exhumation of mass graves as a tangible form of social justice in post-Civil War and post-dictatorship Spain. For her next project, she will investigate the unmarked graves of Berber war corpses that remain in Spain today as a critical aspect of the historical and contemporary tensions between

Spain, Morocco, and Berber Morocco.

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