

Anthropology 2239A
Mummies: The Scientific and Cultural Analysis of Human Mummies
Course Outline
Fall 2017



Western's
"Lady Hudson"

Class time: Wednesday 7 to 10pm
Classroom: SSC-2032

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Nelson
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Office: Social Science Centre 3410
Office Hours: Wednesdays 4-5pm &
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Tuesdays 2:00-4:00

Course value: 0.5 credit

General Description

Mummies are of interest to archaeologists and to the general public. Mummies are people and they speak to us from across the centuries. This course takes an interdisciplinary, scientific and cultural approach to the study of human mummies to discuss issues of ethics, science and cross-cultural perspectives on death.

Prerequisite(s):

Any first-year Social Science, Health Sciences, or Science course.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should have come to understand the following:

- that mummies are people, and they are microcosms of information about the individuals and their culture
- the importance of cross-cultural perspectives in the understanding of human cultural practices
- the variability of how different cultures deal with death
- the critical analysis of how popular culture uses and misuses mummies and other archaeological icons
- the nature of the discussions of ethics related to mummy studies
- the importance of the interdisciplinary, team based approach to mummy studies
- the practice of modern bioarchaeology and how it has evolved

Grading:

Student evaluation for this course will be based on two exams and a reflection paper. The midterm will be worth 35% of the course grade and will take place in class on October 25th, 2017. The final exam will be worth 45% of the course grade and will be written during the exam period in December. Both exams will be multiple choice format. The reflection paper will be a 1000 word paper due on November 15th and is worth 20% of the final grade.

The Reflection Paper:

A reflection paper gives you the opportunity to think in detail about one of the course readings and two related articles that you find in refereed academic journals. The idea is to reflect on how that reading contributes to the course in general, how it presents something that is new to you and on how it relates to the additional articles. Your paper should be organized into three sections: an introduction, a body and a conclusion. In the introduction, outline briefly what the course reading is about and then identify what the reading and articles present that you did not know before. In the body of your paper explain why you chose that particular reading and articles and discuss how they fit in with the associated lecture and the overall course. In the conclusion, summarize what was presented in the body and present the crux of what you got out of the reading – did it change the way you think about death?, mortuary practices?, cross-cultural variability?

The paper should have a title page, the text and a literature cited section. It should be formatted in Times Roman, 12 point font, double spaced with 2.5cm margins. Papers will be submitted on OWL and in hard copy. Further details on format and structure will be presented in class and posted on OWL.

Readings: Readings are available on the course OWL site – <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

Weekly Lecture Topics and Readings:

September 13th – Meet the mummies

- a. an introduction to bioarchaeology and paleopathology
- b. science and anthropology
- c. what is a mummy?
- d. the ethics of mummy studies

readings:

- Aufderheide, AC. 2003. Introduction. In AC Aufderheide, pp: 1-21. The Scientific Study of Mummies. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Larsen, CS. 2006. The changing face of bioarchaeology: An interdisciplinary science. in: JE. Buikstra, & LA Beck, eds., Bioarchaeology: The Contextual Analysis of Human Remains, pp: 359-374. Academic Press: New York.
- Larsen, CS. & Walker, PL. 2005. The ethics of bioarchaeology. In: TR. Turner ed., Biological Anthropology and Ethics: From Repatriation to Genetic Identity, pp: 111-119. State University of New York: Albany
- Lonfat, BMM., Kaufman, IM. & Rühli, F. 2015. A code of ethics for evidence-based research with ancient human remains. The Anatomical Record 298: 1175-1181.

September 20th - Death and a cross-cultural survey of mortuary rituals

- a. natural decomposition and how to stop it
- b. anthropology and the cross-cultural perspective
- c. dealing with death and rituals of remembrance

readings:

- Charles, DK. 2005. The archaeology of death as anthropology. In: FM. Rakita, JE. Buikstra, LA. Beck & SR. Williams, eds., Interacting with the Dead: Perspectives on Mortuary Archaeology for the New Millennium pp: 15-24. University of Florida Press: Gainesville.
- Mann, RW., Bass, WM., & Meadows, L. 1990. Time since death and decomposition of the human body: Variables and observations in case and experimental field studies. Journal of Forensic Sciences, 35: 103-111.

September 27th - Mummies of the world I – ancient New World mummies

- a. Chile
- b. Peru

readings:

- Arriaza, BT., Doubrava, M., Standen, VG., & Haas, H. 2005. Differential mortuary treatment among the Andean Chinchorro fishers: Social inequalities or in situ regional cultural evolution? Current Anthropology 46: 662-671.
- Vreeland, JM. jr. 1998. Mummies of Peru. In: A. Cockburn, E. Cockburn & TA. Reyman eds., Mummies, Disease and Ancient Cultures, pp: 154-189. Cambridge University Press: New York.

October 4th - Mummies of the world II – mummies of Ancient Egypt

readings:

- Wade, AD. & Nelson, AJ. 2013. Evisceration and excerebration in the Egyptian mummification tradition. Journal of Archaeological Science 40: 4198-4206.
- Peck, WH. 1998. Mummies of ancient Egypt. In: A. Cockburn, E. Cockburn & TA. Reyman eds., Mummies, Disease and Ancient Cultures, pp: 15-37. Cambridge University Press: New York.

October 11th – fall term reading week

October 18th - Mummies of the world III – other mummies

- a. bog bodies
- b. mummies from Asia
- c. side show mummies
- d. experimental mummies

readings:

- Aufderheide, AC. 2003. Mummies from the Middle East and Asia. In AC. Aufderheide, pp: 260-276. The Scientific Study of Mummies. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Beckett, RG. & Nelson, AJ. 2015. Mummy restoration project among the Anga of Papua New Guinea. The Anatomical Record 298: 1013-1025.
- Lynnerup, N. 2015. Bog bodies. The Anatomical Record 298: 1007-1012.
- Wade, AD., Beckett, RG., Conlogue, GJ., Gonzalez, R., Wade, R., & Brier, B. 2015. MUMAB: a conversation with the past. The Anatomical Record 298: 954-973.

October 25th – midterm

November 1st - Analytical approaches to mummy studies I – historical perspectives and the mummy autopsy

readings:

- Moissidou, D., Day, J., Shin, DH. & Bianucci, R. 2015. Invasive versus non-invasive methods applied to mummy research: will this controversy ever be solved? BioMed Research International 2015 Article ID 192829.
- Zimmerman, MK & Gleeson, M. 2015. PUM I revisited: tradeoffs in preservation and discovery. The Anatomical Record: 298: 949-953.

November 8th - Analytical approaches to mummy studies II – non-destructive analysis of mummies

- a. archaeometry
- b. imaging
- c. the virtual mummy

readings:

- Chan, SS., Elias, JP., Hysell, ME. & Hallowell, MJ. 2008. CT of a Ptolemaic period mummy from the Ancient Egyptian city of Akhmim. RadioGraphics 28: 2023–2032.
- Chhem, RK. 2008. Paleoradiology: History and new developments. In: DR. Brothwell & RK. Chhem eds., Paleoradiology: Imaging Mummies and Fossils, pp: 1-14. Springer: Berlin.

November 15th - Analytical approaches to mummy studies III – mummies and the study of the history of disease

- a. mummies and the origin of paleopathology
- b. atherosclerosis
- **reflection paper due**

readings:

- Sandison, AT. 1967. Sir Marc Armand Ruffer (1859–1917) Pioneer of palaeopathology. Medical History 11: 150-156.
- Thompson, RC et al. 2013. Atherosclerosis across 4000 years of human history: the Horus study of four ancient populations. The Lancet 381: 1211–1222.

November 22nd - Analytical approaches to mummy studies IV – individuals and populations

- a. mummy case studies
- b. mummy databases

readings:

- Millet, NB. et al. 1998. ROM I: Mummification for the common people. In: A. Cockburn, E. Cockburn & TA. Reyman eds., Mummies, Disease and Ancient Cultures, pp: 91-105. Cambridge University Press: New York.
- Nelson, AJ. & Wade, AD. 2015. Impact: Development of a radiological mummy database. The Anatomical Record 298: 941-948.

November 29th - Mummies and popular culture

readings:

- McGeough, K. 2006. Heroes, mummies and treasure: Near Eastern archaeology in the movies. Near Eastern Archaeology 69 (3-4) 174-185.
- Day, J. 2006. Fear and loathing. Twentieth-century classic mummy films. In: J. Day, The Mummy's Curse: Mummymania in the English-Speaking World, pp: 64-93. Routledge: London.

December 6th – The state-of-the-art and the future of mummy studies

Electronic Devices:

Electronic devices may be used in class for taking notes. They cannot be used during exams.

Western's Academic Policies:

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, mental wellbeing, accommodation for medical illness, and plagiarism and scholastic offences. These policies are outlined with links to the full policies at

http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

Useful Websites:

- A range of student services is available at: <https://student.uwo.ca>
- Student Support Services: <http://westernusc.ca/services>
- Anthropology Department: <http://anthropology.uwo.ca>
- Office of the Registrar: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
- Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>
- Accommodated Exams: http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html