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. The midterm will be worth 40% of the course grade and will take place on February 15, 2017. The final exam will be worth 60% of the course grade and will be written during the exam period in April. Both exams will be multiple choice and short written answer format.

Readings:
Readings will be assembled onto OWL – https://owl.uwo.ca/portal

Interactive Learning:
Interactivity will be introduced to lectures using TurningPoint software (version 5.3.1). The software will not be used to take attendance or to assign grades. Student information can be found at http://presswestern.uwo.ca/students.html. Students will log into https://virtualclickers.uwo.ca/ to access the interactive parts of a lecture.
Weekly Lecture Topics and Readings:

January 11th – 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:

January 18th - 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:

January 25th - Mummies of the world I – ancient New World mummies
   a. Chile
   b. Peru

readings:
February 1st - Mummies of the world II – mummies of Ancient Egypt

readings:

February 8th - Mummies of the world III – other mummies

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

readings:

February 15th – midterm

February 22nd – reading week

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

readings:
March 8th - Analytical approaches to mummy studies II – non-destructive analysis of mummies
   a. archaeometry
   b. imaging
   c. the virtual mummy

readings:

March 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

readings:

March 22nd - Analytical approaches to mummy studies IV – individuals and populations
   a. mummy case studies
   b. mummy databases

readings:

March 29th - Mummies and popular culture

readings:

April 5th – The state-of-the-art and the future of mummy studies
Electronic Devices:

Computers may be used in class for taking notes and interacting with the TurningPoint session. 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