

**Department of Anthropology**

**Anthropology 2239B-001**

**Mummies: The Scientific and Cultural Analysis of Human Mummies**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

***Winter 2022-2023***

*Version date: January 13, 2023*

**Classes:**

Lectures: Mondays 1:30-3:30 pm

Classroom: SEB-2100 (Spencer Engineering Building)

Credit value: 0.5 credit

**Instructor:**

Dr. Andrew Nelson

Office: SSC-3323

Office hours: TBA.

Email: [anelson@uwo.ca](mailto:anelson@uwo.ca)

Teaching Assistants: Please refer to the course site in OWL.

**Requisites:**

Prerequisites: None.

Antirequisites: None.

**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the study of mummies: ancient and modern, natural and anthropogenic, and from every corner of the world. Mummies are microcosms of the life and death of people of the past, and they bear witness to the environments and cultures in which they lived. Topics discussed in lecture include the ethics, history and methods of mummy studies, as well as worldwide patterns and practices of mummification. The topic of the course is inherently interdisciplinary, and lectures will include material from archaeological, ethnographic, historic, clinical, radiological and popular culture sources, to name only a few. Mummy studies is also placed firmly within the broad discipline of anthropology, emphasizing the importance of cross-cultural and deep temporal perspectives to the understanding of human cultural and biological variability.

## **Weekly Lecture Topics**

*A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL site before the first day of class.*

## **Learning Outcomes:**

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

- debate the nature of the discussions of ethics related to mummy studies
- understand that mummies are people, and they are microcosms of information about the individuals and their culture
- recognize the importance of cross-cultural perspectives in the understanding of human cultural practices
- identify the variability in terms of how different cultures deal with death
- explain the importance of the interdisciplinary, team-based approach to mummy studies
- define the modern practice of bioarchaeology and recognize how it has evolved

## **Course Materials:**

Published papers will supplement the lectures and provide fodder for the discussion sections. These papers will be available through the readings tab on the OWL site.

## **Evaluation:**

### Grading:

Student evaluation for this course will be based on two exams and a short reflection paper. The midterm will be worth 35% of the course grade and will take place in class on February 13th, 2023. The final exam will be worth 45% of the course grade and will be written during the exam period in April. Both exams will be in multiple choice format. In addition, there will be a 1,250 word reflection paper due on March 13th, 2023. This paper will be 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 will 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.

The reflection paper is due March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Papers are to be submitted to OWL by 11:55pm on the 13<sup>th</sup>. A hard copy must also be submitted. As long as the paper is in by the due date/time to OWL, the hard copy can be submitted to the Anthropology Department dropbox by 4pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> (it must be the same version).

## **Academic Statements and Policies:**

### Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

For further information, please consult the University's [medical illness policy](#) in the Academic Calendar.

Unless a student receives accommodation for illness through Academic Counselling, late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5%/day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days.

### Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence. Please visit Western Libraries to read about [What is Plagiarism?](#)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

### Policy on Laptops and Cellphones in Class:

Laptops are permitted for note-taking in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites, they will be asked to close the laptop and will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cellphones are turned off at the beginning of class.

*Academic Rights and Responsibilities*

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Policies in the Academic Calendar](#) which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.