Department of Anthropology  
Anthropology 2239B-001  
Mummies: The Scientific and Cultural Analysis of Human Mummies  

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE  
Winter 2022-2023  

Version date: August 25, 2022

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

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: - TBA

Course Specific 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 at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

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.
**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.

**Institutional Statements and Policies**
All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies on Academic Rights and Responsibilities with regards to academic appeals, accommodation, scholastic discipline and code of conduct. These policies are outlined in the [Academic Calendar under Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#).