

Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 2239A-001:

Mummies: The Scientific and Cultural Analysis of Human Mummies

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2024

Date: July 19, 2024

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Nelson

Method of delivery: In person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: 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 Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

No textbook.

Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- 1 midterm test (multiple-choice questions and true-and-false questions) to take place in October
 - worth 35% of the final grade
- Reflection paper – a 1,250 word on the topic of one of the course readings and two related articles that you will find in refereed academic journals.
 - worth 30% of the final grade
- Final Exam (multiple-choice questions, true-and-false questions) to take place during the December exam period)
 - worth 35% of the final grade

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