

**San José State University**  
**COSS/ANTH**  
**ANTH159, Mummies, Section 1, Fall 2021**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor(s): Professor Elizabeth Weiss  
Office Location: N/A  
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Office Hours: By phone, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10:30 to 11:30 AM  
Class Days/Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 to 10:15 AM  
Classroom: CL204  
Prerequisites: ANTH012 or Instructors Consent

**Course Description**

Explore mummies from around the world. Examine the archaeological and biological evidence of how and why mummification was practiced in these cultures, plus what the examination of mummies can tell us about past peoples' cultures, diseases, and lifestyles.

**Course Materials and Updates**

Course materials, such as handouts, notes, assignment instructions, will be sent to your email address (the one which is stored on MySJSU). I may also hand out materials in class. In this class, I do not use Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking your email to learn of any updates.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

In this course, students will explore the science of mummies from ancient Egypt, China, the Andes, and many other civilizations. We will examine the archaeological and biological evidence of how and why mummification was practiced in these cultures. We will use the scientific literature to understand how scientists employ mummy data to reconstruct past populations, including what people died of, what differences existed between various groups in populations, how people lived their daily lives, and many more.

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

- CLO 1 describe the different mummification processes that are found around the world.
- CLO 2 explain how anthropologists use mummies to assess health and status of past populations.
- CLO3 identify from sight pathologies that are found in mummies.
- CLO4 locate on unlabeled maps key mummy sites.

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbooks

Cockburn TA et al., 1998. *Mummies, Disease and Ancient Cultures*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-10: 0521589541; ISBN-13: 9780521589543

(A free ebook version is available through SJLibrary: [https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CAL\\$SJO/1lilnl5/alma991013837219802919](https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CAL$SJO/1lilnl5/alma991013837219802919))

Quigley C. 1998. *Modern Mummies: The Preservation of the Human Body in the Twentieth Century*. Jefferson NC: McFarland Press. ISBN-10: 0786428511; ISBN-13: 9780786428519

(A free ebook version of this book **may be** available through HathiTrust Digital Library: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003983482?>)

### Other Readings

- Weiss E., Springer J.W. 2020. *Repatriation and Erasing the Past*. University Press of Florida. ISBN-10: 1683401573; ISBN-13: 978-1683401575
  - This book is available for free through SJLibrary through either link:  
[https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CAL\\$SJO/1lilnl5/alma991013903119802919](https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CAL$SJO/1lilnl5/alma991013903119802919)  
<https://www-jstor-org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/stable/j.ctv15vwjv4>
- Additional readings, which are also listed in the schedule with their links, include:
  - Ikram, S. (2005). The loved ones: Egyptian animal mummies as cultural and environmental indicators. In *Proceedings of the Sixth International Symposium on the Archaeozoology of Southwestern Asia and Adjacent Areas* (p. 240).  
[https://www.academia.edu/download/42935158/Ikram\\_2005\\_Animal\\_Mummies\\_as\\_Cultural\\_Indicators.pdf](https://www.academia.edu/download/42935158/Ikram_2005_Animal_Mummies_as_Cultural_Indicators.pdf)
  - Hussein, W. (2021). Egypt mummies pass through Cairo in ancient rulers' parade. BBC.  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-56508475>
  - Langlois, K. (2021). Inked Mummies, Linking Tattoo Artists With Their Ancestors. New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/05/science/mummies-tattoos-archaeology.html>
  - Metcalfe, T. (2021). Shrunk head artifact used as prop in John Huston film revealed to be human. Yahoo! News. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/once-display-ceremonial-head-returning-143223313.html>
  - Yashari, L. (2021). Cult Leader “Mother God” Was Found Dead & Mummified. Why Are Her Followers Celebrating? Refinery 29. <https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2021/05/10463849/love-has-won-cult-amy-carlson-death-history-details>
  - Metcalfe, T. (2021). In the frugal last meal of a man 2,400 years ago, scientists see signs of human sacrifice. Yahoo! News. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/frugal-last-meal-man-2-133741733.html>

## Course Requirements and Assignments

- There will be 4 quizzes (15% each) and a comprehensive final exam (25%).
- There will be two required trips: one to the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and the other to the Body World's exhibit at the Tech Museum of Innovation; each trip will require proof of visit and an exhibit review (5% each).
- There will be two map (New World and Old World) assignments (2.5% each).
- There will be extra credit opportunities based on preparedness for the review sessions; extra credit is worth one exam question.
- Read the assignments before class and ask questions when something is unclear.

## Guidelines for Museum Review Papers

- Visit the Rosicrucian Museum of Ancient Egypt and the Tech Museum of Innovation (Body Worlds Exhibit):
  - Make sure to have either your ticket or a photo as proof of visit; the visit must occur in this semester.
  - Write a review of your visit, which should be between 250 to 500 words in length.
    - What did you like (or dislike) about the museum?
    - What did you learn?
    - Are there things that contradict what we went over in class? Why might this be?
    - Would you recommend the museum to others and why? Consider different age groups?
    - I suggest, but it is not required, that you post your review on Yelp.
  - You will be graded on grammar, spelling, style, and specificity.

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

## Final Examination or Evaluation

The final will be a comprehensive in-class exam worth 25% of your grade; it will be closed book and no notes. The final exam will take place in the regular class location (CL204) and be held on scheduled final exam day. The University has not yet published its final exam schedule for Fall 2021, please see this link for more information and updated information: <https://www.sjsu.edu/classes/final-exam-schedule/fall-2021.php>

“Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

## Grading Information

A	B	C	D
97% - 100% = A plus	87-89% = B plus	77-79% = C plus	67-69% = D plus
91-96% = A	81-86% = B	71-76% = C	61-66% = D
90% = A minus	80% = B minus	70% = C minus	60% = D minus

Make-up Work: Only students with a valid documented excuse will be able to take an exam late or turn in an assignment late. If you know in advance that you should be unable to attend a quiz or the final, contact me immediately by e-mailing.

## University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## Anth 159 / Mummies, Fall 2021, Course Schedule

### Course Schedule

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)
R, 8/19	Mummy in Popular Media; Cockburn et al., 1998: Introduction
T, 8/24	Egypt: General; Cockburn et al., 1998: Ch. 1
R, 8/26	Egypt: Pathology; Cockburn et al., 1998: Chs. 2 & 3
T, 8/31	Egypt: Animal Mummies; <a href="https://www.academia.edu/download/42935158/Ikram_2005_Animal_Mummies_as_Cultural_Indicators.pdf">https://www.academia.edu/download/42935158/Ikram_2005_Animal_Mummies_as_Cultural_Indicators.pdf</a>
R, 9/2	Egypt: Class Differences; Cockburn et al., 1998: Chs. 4 – 6; <a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-56508475">https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-56508475</a>
T, 9/7	Wrapping Up Egypt; <b>Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum Review Due</b>
R, 9/9	<b>Quiz 1</b>
T, 9/14	New World Mummies: USA; Cockburn et al., 1998: Ch. 7
R, 9/16	New World Mummies: Alaska & Cold Regions; Cockburn et al., 1998: Chs. 8 & 15; <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/05/science/mummies-tattoos-archaeology.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/05/science/mummies-tattoos-archaeology.html</a>
T, 9/21	New World Mummies: Repatriation; Weiss & Springer, 2020: Chapter 2
R, 9/23	New World Mummies: Peru; Cockburn et al., 1998: Ch. 9
T, 9/28	New World Mummies: Culture & Pathology; Cockburn et al., 1998: Ch. 10; <a href="https://www.yahoo.com/news/once-display-ceremonial-head-returning-143223313.html">https://www.yahoo.com/news/once-display-ceremonial-head-returning-143223313.html</a>
R, 9/30	Bundling Up New World Mummies

T, 10/5	<b>Map 1 Due; Quiz 2</b>
R, 10/7	European Mummies: The Bog Bodies; Cockburn et al., 1998: Ch. 11; <a href="https://www.yahoo.com/news/frugal-last-meal-man-2-133741733.html">https://www.yahoo.com/news/frugal-last-meal-man-2-133741733.html</a>
T, 10/12	Mummies of Italy, North Africa & the Canary Islands; Cockburn et al., 1998: Ch. 12
R, 10/14	Australian & Melanesian Mummies; Cockburn et al., 1998: Ch. 13
T, 10/19	Asian Mummies; Cockburn et al., 1998: Ch. 14
R, 10/21	Laying To Rest Ancient Mummies
T, 10/26	<b>Map 2 Due; Quiz 3</b>
R, 10/28	Modern Mummies: Famous Mummies; Quigley 1998: Ch. 2
T, 11/2	Mummies of Outlaws and Victims; Quigley 1998: Ch. 3
R, 11/4	Forensic Cases of Mummies; Quigley 1998: Ch. 4
T, 11/9	Mummification & Immortality in the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century; Quigley 1998: Ch. 5
R, 11/11	No Classes – Veteran’s Day
T, 11/16	Accidents of Nature; Quigley 1998: Ch. 6
R, 11/18	Religious Mummies, Quigley 1998: Chs. 7; <a href="https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2021/05/10463849/love-has-won-cult-amy-carlson-death-history-details">https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2021/05/10463849/love-has-won-cult-amy-carlson-death-history-details</a>
T, 11/23	Thawing Out Modern Mummies
R, 11/25	No Classes – Thanksgiving Break
T, 11/30	<b>Quiz 4; Body Worlds Exhibit Review Due</b>
R, 12/2	<b>Final Exam Review.</b>
F, 12/10	<b><u>FINAL EXAM at 7:15 AM to 9:30 AM: CL204</u></b>