

## HSS Course Syllabus

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### ANTH 0538: THE ARCHAEOLOGIST LOOKS AT DEATH

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### Course Information

Credit hours: 3	Instructor: Professor Emily Jane O'Dell
	Email: Emily.odell@scupi.cn
	Office: 317
	Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday (4:30-6 pm); and by appointment Wednesday (2-5 pm) & Friday (2-5 pm)
Room: Zone 3-103	Prerequisites: None

Required Texts: See Blackboard

Many of the most famous archaeological discoveries – the Lord of Sipan, the Qin Terracota Army, Tutankhamen's Tomb, the Celtic Bog Bodies, and the Ukok Princess – have been human graves. In modern archaeology, analysis of ancient mortuary remains and behavior aims at reconstructing past cultural patterns, social structure, economic relations, and value systems.

Pyramids, tombs, burial mounds, graves, skeletons, mummies; the stuff of gothic romance. But the way people disposed of their dead also tells us an amazing amount about life in the past. We will look at the wide range of burial practices in the world, and then concentrate on the physical remains themselves. Investigation of these practices will expose the role of funerary customs in these diverse societies, reveal the cultural beliefs underlying their treatment of the dead, and allow us to consider the social construction of death.

### Student Learning Outcomes

With successful completion of this course, students will:

- identify major archaeological mortuary sites
- analyze funerary goods, mortuary art, and death rituals
- understand the social, economic, and cultural aspects of death
- compare and contrast death traditions and material culture around the globe
- grasp the ethical and political dimensions of human and material remains
- appreciate the ethical considerations of conducting archaeology globally

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

You will be evaluated in many activities according to the grading policy. Activities include:

Assignment	Course Outcome	Percent of final grade
Class Participation: Readings and Forums	Weekly readings, and participation on course discussion boards; your homework and forum activity will be graded holistically	10%
Group Presentations (Weeks 3-9) [Hour 1]	Group Presentations to summarize materials and post visuals. Each group has to present on a selected date for 15-20 minutes. Your group will have a chance to select from a list of possibilities.	20%
Weeks 3-9 [Hour 3]	Collaborative presentation on your group's assigned "site" or "ritual." Your group should store all presentation materials to your group blog; and have a balanced group delivery. Each presentation will be 15-20 minutes in length, longer if your group wants to conduct a workshop on design or digital production.	20%
Final Group Digital Humanities Project	Digital Humanities Project involving the representing the archaeology of death on a digital platform. Narrative or analysis using integrated and interactive digitized images and sound files; these should be made into a podcast; the content should be summarized and presented in class; the podcast is due at week 14	50%

Class Participation: The class participation grade is intended to encourage an atmosphere of respect, curiosity, and active academic engagement. The bulk of the participation grade will be based on participation in class discussions and group activities. You must come to class prepared and ready to participate fully. You may not use laptops, cell phones, or other devices for personal use during class. If you dare to do so, one point will be subtracted from your participation grade for each occurrence.

**Schedule:**

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic(s)</i>	<i>Materials</i>	<i>Major Assignments</i>
<b>1</b>	Introduction	Parker Pearson, M. (1999). <i>The Archaeology of Death and Burial</i> . College Station,	We will go over the syllabus together and course themes.

		Texas A&M. Duda, H. (2009).	
<b>2</b>	Dinosaurs (Mongolia)	See Blackboard	We will look at some examples from Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Ethiopia, Egypt, Sudan, China, and Mali to contextualize the course and course themes.  We will also consider the archaeology of animal remains.
<b>3</b>	Human Sacrifice (Egypt and Mexico)	Conklin, B. A. (1995). "Thus are our bodies, thus was our custom': mortuary cannibalism in an Amazonian society." <i>American Ethnologist</i> 22: 75-101.	We will look at human sacrifice in ancient Egypt and South America, along with cannibalism. Students will do group projects on the Capacocha of the Inca Provinces; Chinchorro Mummies of Northern Chile; Royal Mummies of Inca Cuzco; Nasca Trophy Heads
<b>4</b>	Egypt (Pyramids)	See Blackboard	We will study the evolution of pyramid architecture in ancient Egypt and the professor will share her experience of excavating at the Great Pyramids
<b>5</b>	Egypt (Mummies)	See Blackboard	We will analyze the process of mummification and the rituals associated with it, as well as how mummy masks evolved over time
<b>6</b>	Egypt (Temples)	See Blackboard	We will study royal mortuary temples from the New Kingdom
<b>7</b>	Sudan	See Blackboard	We will cover the Royal Pyramids of Meroe using the professor's experience of her excavation in Sudan
<b>8</b>	Rome	See Blackboard	We will look at Pompeii and other preservations of mortuary remains and practices from the Roman Empire
<b>9</b>	Persia & India	See Blackboard	We will investigate the tomb of Cyrus and the professor will share her slides of tombs in and near Persepolis. We will look at Towers of Silence in Iran and India
<b>10</b>	China	See Blackboard	We will discuss the Terracotta Warriors and

			other burial wonders in China. We may also have a guest lecture about modern mortuary practices.
<b>11</b>	Ethics (Native Americans, Russia, Ethiopia, and Algeria)	See Blackboard	We will have debates related to controversies over the return of human remains.
<b>12</b>	Europe: Scandinavia, Great Britain, and the Czech Republic	See Blackboard	We will look at burial practices in European history, such as a 10th-century Volga Viking funeral recorded by Arab traveller Ibn Fadlan, Bog people and the Bone Church in Kutna Hora
<b>13</b>	Silk Road Cemeteries	See Blackboard	We will travel along the Silk Road in Central Asia to explore medieval and Soviet graves
<b>14</b>	Class Presentations		
<b>15</b>	Class Presentations		
<b>16</b>	Final Meetings		

Note: Scheduled assignments, lectures, materials, and activities may be subject to change based on the needs of the class at the instructor's discretion.

### **Attendance Policy**

After two unexcused absences students will lose 3 points or half a letter grade from their final grade. Students with more than five absences will fail the course. Students who are late or leave early three 3 times or more will be counted as one absence.

### **Student Use of Electronic Technology Policy:**

Students must use electronic technology (including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and iPads) in appropriate ways during classes. Out of respect, cell phones should generally be turned off or on silent and stored out of sight. They should not be used during classroom activities unless the instructor has given permission. Electronic devices are forbidden during quizzes, tests or other in-class graded assignments, unless the instructor has given permission.

Technology use in this class is meant to improve the learning environment for all students. Please be respectful of your instructor and classmates and use the technology appropriately.

If you have questions about what this means, please talk to your individual instructor.

### **Recording:**

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may NOT record classroom lectures, discussions, and/or activities without the advance permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly recorded in advance can be used solely for the student's own private study.

Any reposting of recorded course materials may result in expulsion from course.

### **Make-up Policy for Missed Assignments and Tests:**

Students are responsible for the assignments in their classes. Assignments include in-class activities, quizzes, tests, homework, and any other work related to classes.

- If you are absent from class, you should try to contact one of the students in your class to find out what work was missed.
- If you cannot find out from another student about what work you have missed, when you return to class you must talk to your instructors about the missed work and if/when you can make up the work. You are responsible for talking to your teacher; your teacher is not responsible for reminding you about missed work.
- If you are absent from class on the due date of an assignment, you must hand in the assignment and be prepared to make up tests the day that you return to class or on a date decided with your teacher.
- If you know you will be absent, talk to your teacher before you leave or email your teacher to find out about the work that you will miss while you are away.
- If you have not been absent from class and you want to hand in an assignment late, you must first discuss the reason with your teacher before or on the due date. Do not assume that your teacher will accept late assignments. Also, you may lose points for late work based on teacher discretion.
- If you and your teacher arrange to meet so that you can make up an assignment and you miss that meeting, you may receive a “o” for that assignment.

### **Use of Machine Translation and Other Online Writing and Language Tools**

While students are encouraged to use dictionaries and other language resources, they should not rely on machine translators for large sections of text. Papers must be written in English. Any paper that is written in Chinese and then processed through an online translator will be considered unacceptable.

If an instructor believes that a paper was written using machine translation, the instructor reserves the right to ask the student to re-write (potentially with a different topic), or give an alternative assignment, which may include a timed-writing essay assignment. Until the re-write is submitted the student will have an F for the assignment.

### **Use of non-English sources**

All non-English sources must be cited. The translation of non-English sources is equivalent to quoting. When using Chinese sources, use quotation marks to directly quote the sources and include the original text in brackets. For example:

Wang Chao in describing nanocarriers says, “Interaction between nanomaterials and organisms, especially Interaction between the Immunological Effect of Nanomaterials and the Immune System in vivo further clarification is needed to optimize the shape, physicochemical properties, size and surface of nanocarriers [纳米材料与生物机体内的相互作用, 特别是纳米材料本身的免疫学效应与体内免疫系统的相互作用需要进一步阐明, 优化纳米载体的形状、大小、表面、理化性质等]” (Wang 96).

### **Policy on Graduating Seniors Course Requirements During the Spring Semester of Their Senior Year**

Seniors taking HSS courses during the spring semester will have to complete course assignments by week 14. The instructor will provide an alternative final project/exam for graduating seniors

that will be due by week 14. If a senior does not submit all work, fails assignments, or does not attend class regularly, the student may not graduate, and will have to retake the course in its entirety in a later semester in order to graduate. This may delay graduation for a complete calendar year.

### **SCUPI Honor Code:**

Students in this course must follow the SCUPI Honor Code. This includes:

- must not get help from anyone to do his/her work without the teacher's permission.
- must not get help from any outside sources to do his/her work without the teacher's permission.
- must not copy the words of another and present those words as his/her own work.

Participating in these activities can result in an F. Turning in work that is not your own can result in an F.

Writing Center Policy on Plagiarism: first instance will result in a failing grade with option of re-writing the assignment; a second instance will result in failure of assignment and meeting with Writing Center director and no option for re-writing the assignment; a third instance will result in failure in the course and referral to university officials for Honor Code violation.

### **Participation:**

Active participation is crucial for language learning. Participating in class makes you an engaged learner of English. In this class, participation means:

- arriving to class on time
- staying on task (including appropriate use of technology)
- actively listening to your classmates and teacher when they speak in class
- asking questions
- bringing all class materials
- attending class regularly
- completing all homework on time
- actively and constructively participating in class activities
- being prepared to answer questions
- using English in class

### **Student Responsibility**

This syllabus is a contract between you and the instructor. It is the first place you should look for answers to your questions about course requirements, expectations, and policies. By enrolling in this course, you are agreeing to adhere to the requirements, expectations and policies outlined in this syllabus, including sections on the SCUPI Honor Code. Students who fail to submit their work on time or miss more than 5 classes could receive a failing grade and may not graduate.