

INT 94GZ – Summer 2010

Mummies, Myths, and Magic: Surviving Death in Ancient Egypt

Tuesdays 3:30-5:00 pm, HSSB 2201

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The ancient Egyptians spent a great deal of time and effort preparing for the Afterlife, making mummies and providing them with the equipment that would allow them to live forever. Mummies have been a source of fascination for centuries - witness most recently the success of Universal's remake of "The Mummy." So what makes a mummy? What was the most important funerary equipment for a successful afterlife? Just how much did immortality cost an average or above average ancient Egyptian? Drawing upon my own work for the recent Mummy movies, and archaeology at Luxor's Theban Necropolis and in Sudanese Nubia, we will explore some modern myths and the fascinating insights we can gain from mummies and their equipment.

Readings are available on-line through ERes at the UCSB Library web site.
Course # INTE 094GZ, ERes Password = veto.




Course Requirements: Attendance & Discussion, Mummy Movie Critique.

Aug. 3 Mummies

-  Film: "The Mummy who would be King."
-  Bob Brier, "A Thoroughly Modern Mummy."
-  Clifford and Wetherbee, "Making a Duck Mummy."





Aug. 11 Hollywood Mummies – Watch Boris Karloff in Universal's "The Mummy," Film Series.

Aug. 17 Myths – Why Mummies? Osiris the first Mummy & other myths.





-  Look up the Osiris myth using the web sites listed below (the myth relates to the gods Osiris, Isis, Horus and Seth).
-  Find a mummy on one of the web sites below and be prepared to describe it and the technique used for mummification.
-  Bob Brier, "Unknown Man E," be prepared to discuss - how is he different? Who or what did him in?

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Aug. 24 Magic – How to equip yourself for eternity. What we can learn from Mummies & their stuff.

-  Stuart Tyson Smith, "They did take it with them."
-  Salima Ikram, "The Animal Mummy Project."
-  Bob Brier, "Case of the Dummy Mummy."
-  Find an object that was placed with a mummy on one of the web sites and be prepared to discuss its religious symbolism.

Aug. 31 Tomb Raiding and Mummies. New analytical techniques.

-  Lacovara, D'Auria, and O'Gorman, "New Life for the Dead."
-  On your own – watch a mummy film, on reserve at Kerr Hall.
-  Web Article: "Out of Egypt" - be prepared to discuss issues of ethics and heritage: e.g., should Ka-nefer-nefer be returned?
<http://www.riverfronttimes.com/2006-02-15/news/out-of-egypt>
-  Web Article "Unwrapping Brooklyn's Mummies."
http://www.archaeology.org/online/interviews/brooklyn_mummies/

Sept. 7 Mummy Mania! Critique a Mummy film.

-  Bob Brier, "Egyptomania."
-  Presentations and short paper - mummy movie critique!

Web Resources

Interactive maps of the Valley of the Kings and loads of info on the Theban Necropolis

<http://www.thebanmappingproject.com/>

The Egyptian Museum, Cairo, <http://www.egyptianmuseum.gov.eg/home.html>

and for animal mummies: <http://www.animalmummies.com/>

The British Museum - Search for mummies and check out their virtual mummy!

<http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/menu.html>

<http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass/>

The New York Metropolitan Museum of Art Egyptian Department

http://www.metmuseum.org/Works_of_Art/department.asp?dep=10

The Petrie Museum at University College London

<http://www.digitalegypt.ucl.ac.uk/>

University of Chicago, digital Smith, *Royal Mummies*.

http://enlil.lib.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/eos/eos_title.pl?callnum=DT57.C2_vol59

Everything (and more) you wanted to know about New Kingdom royal mummies

http://anubis4_2000.tripod.com/mummypages1/introduction.htm

Lots of general info about ancient Egypt

<http://members.tripod.com/~ib205/book.html>