

## When Animals Are Not Animal. When Humans Are Not Human.

Honors College Seminar V: Aesthetics, Values and Authority

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IDH 3034-U04 (84838) Honors Seminar V

Wednesdays 2-4:45 Graham Center 286

Fall August 22 -December 3, 2016

### Course Description

Egyptian animal mummies might be votive offerings to the gods, a representation of a god, a beloved pet or food for the afterlife. We easily accept Goofy as a human and Pluto as a dog in the same cartoon. One of the earliest depictions of a human is a bird-headed shaman figure. This class will combine the approaches of the art studio (mark-making, observation, creativity) and the science lab (experimentation, research, investigation) to play, practice, find, create, test, experiment, act and reenact, the artistic, historic, cultural, religious and scientific depictions of animals and humans from all disciplines with examples as wide ranging as cave paintings to YouTube videos. Students will be required to participate in an experimental mummification project. There will be non-traditional and traditional research assignments weekly, three book-reading assignments and an article by the director of the Animal Mummy Project, Salima Ikram. This class considers how we look at ourselves, how we look at animals, and how this influences how we think of both. Participation, attendance and discussion are imperative. Activities will often be collaborative and cooperative. We will have a public exhibition in GC gallery. Whenever possible we will abandon the traditional classroom.

#### Course Objectives

1. To participate in experimental projects or re-enactments that reflect known methodologies and outcomes of ancient art forms.
2. To examine the role animal and human imagery has played in forming our attitudes and knowledge and to consider how our attitudes and beliefs have influenced the aesthetics of human and animal imagery historically and in popular culture.
3. To investigate the aesthetic language of the presence or absence of the animal and the human in art, science, philosophy, literature, religion, in politics and in culture.
4. To practice play, creative activities and experimentation in knowledge gain, synthesis, innovation and dissemination.

#### Learning Outcomes

1. To have a better understanding of ancient art practices with possible contributions to research on the subject.
2. To learn to recognize what we are looking at when thinking about the role animal and human imagery has played in forming our attitudes and knowledge.
3. To be able to form questions.
4. To broaden the skills and possible strategies applicable to cognitive exercises.

### FALL Grading

**-5 points** - Per class: Absence, Tardiness more than 15 minutes, Use of phone or pad or laptop for social communication or any other than class business (no exceptions), Unprepared for class, Non-participation.

**45 points** - Mummification Project (Including readings, lab activities, presentations, supply acquisition)

**25 points** – JOURNAL - Written responses, notes, research, in class art projects and other. This should be a clear record of your attendance, your participation and thinking, research, homework and other including all book presentations and films. Connect the dots.

**25 points** - BOOK Presentations

**5 points** - Final Exam Question

**\*Most tasks will be assessed as: Done well: full points (or) Done: half points (or) Not done: zero points.**

**The experimental nature of this class must allow for valiant effort with dubious outcome. Just do it.**

#### Final Grade points

100.0 – 93.00: A□	86.00 – 83.00: B□	76.00 – 73.00: C	□ 66.00 – 63.00: D
92.00 – 90.00: A-□	82.00 – 80.00: B-□	□ 72.00 – 70.00: C-□	□ 62.00 – 60.00: D-□
89.00 – 87.00: B+□	79.00 – 77.00: C+□	69.00 – 67.00: D+	59.00 – 00.00: F

**Extra credit will never be offered contractually. But extra credit will be given to students whose projects or performance warrants special consideration. Do not ask for extra credit. Extra credit cannot not be an anticipated substitute for assigned tasks.**

### Fall Required Supplies:

1. USB Drive 32GB + (Flash drive or Thumb drive) for this class only.
2. Moleskine notebook. (Pens, pencils, other)
3. Supplies for mummification project as will be discussed in class. Research required. Can be expensive. Will include:

frankincense, myrrh, *linen*, sand, alum, baking soda, salt, terracotta pot or substitute, stockings or socks, food animal from butcher, grocery or pet shop, rubber gloves, brushes, paper towels, dissection kits or alternative, plastic bags, plastic bowls, paint, *gold leaf*, container (as per display requirements discussed in class), etc. Hotplate, painting stirring sticks and glass cooking pot. Collaboration is recommended to save money.

4. Display/exhibition materials and services needed for GC Gallery public exhibition of project results; for instance, printing of posters, frames, shelves, boxes, display accessories, signage.
5. Possible travel expenses and entry fees to various art venues.

### **Fall Required and Recommended Reading (To be discussed in class)**

#### **Required:**

Killing Animals. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2006. Print. ISBN-13: 978-0252072901

Daston, Lorraine, and Gregg Mitman. Thinking with Animals: New Perspectives on Anthropomorphism. New York: Columbia University Press, 2005. Print. ISBN-10: 0231130392 | ISBN-13: 978-0231130394

Poliquin, Rachel. The Breathless Zoo: Taxidermy and the Cultures of Longing. University Park, Pa: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2012. Print. ISBN-13: 978-0271053738

#### **Recommended:**

Derrida, Jacques, and Marie-Louise Mallet. The Animal That Therefore I Am. New York: Fordham University Press, 2008. Print. Excerpts of other texts provided.

There may be changes and additions to this list. Books and supplies will be discussed the first day of class.

#### **Attendance:**

**Attendance without preparation and participation will be treated as an absence. Tardiness will be treated as an absence. Awake, alert and participating defines attendance – this is not simply signing a sheet or having your body present.**

Class attendance is an important component of your grade. You will be excused one absence or one instance of tardiness with no penalty as long as all work is made up by the next class time. Note: this is one absence OR one lateness, not one of each. Any additional absence will incur a 5-point penalty per occurrence. Additional lateness occurrences are penalized as follows; after 15 minutes you are absent. If you notify your professor the day the class is missed or before, these penalties may be excused for emergency situations at the discretion of the professor. If you do not notify the professor the day of the absence or before there is no possibility of waiving the penalty. Since professors will only consider waiving the penalty for extreme emergencies, we suggest that you save your one excused absence until the end of the semester.

Although the one unexcused absence will not affect your class participation grade, there will be no make-ups for missed work. You have to be in class or you will receive a zero for the assignment. You are responsible for all material presented and all announcements made in class. Make sure you have contact information of at least one other student to find out what you have missed. It is not the job of the professor to repeat lessons or announcements to students who missed class time. Students are responsible to read all emails sent by the professor and it will be assumed that the student is aware of all material and calendar changes and other information communicated through email.

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students who are so challenged. Should you require accommodations, contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC), if you have not done so already.” Please note that if you have a student who is registered with the DRC, you will receive notification about the student’s disability and a detailed description of accommodations the student will require. Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students whose religious practices coincide with class requirements scheduling. Please make sure to notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester of which dates you will be absent or any anticipated problems with completing course work.

#### **Electronic Device Policy**

Using your electronic devices to enhance our discussions or for note taking will be permitted. Any Facebook, e mail checking, shopping, texting, studying for other classes or any other unauthorized use within class time will result in a (-5) points for that day.

#### **Honors College Requirements**

**Registration in this course implies an acceptance of and compliance with the Honors College policies for students and the FIU Code of Academic Integrity.**

#### **Honors Citizenship Requirements**

**Beginning in Fall 2014, Honors College students are required to accumulate at least 20 citizenship points each academic**

year (Fall and Spring) by attending Honors College activities. Students attending only one semester (Fall or Spring) are required to accumulate 10 citizenship points. See <http://honors.fiu.edu/academics/policies/citizenship/>.

#### Student Portfolios

The Honors College will be using a portfolio method to assess students' learning outcomes. The portfolio allows for maximum flexibility in gauging student learning. Students decide (with instructor consultation) what "artifacts" or assignments to include for consideration in their portfolios to demonstrate successful achievement of each of five key student learning outcomes over the 4-year Honors experience. See [www.honors.fiu.edu/portfolios](http://www.honors.fiu.edu/portfolios).

#### Honors Education in the ARTS (HEARTS)

The HEARTS program is designed to give Honors College students opportunities to "explore and appreciate different artistic and cultural traditions and modes of artistic expression. HEARTS will also serve as a clearinghouse (and curatorial framework) for our students to experience the arts on campus and in the community by providing them with information about cultural activities and access to performances with free or discounted tickets. See <http://honors.fiu.edu/hearts/>.

#### Honors College Academic Misconduct Statement

In The Honors College, the term "honor" refers both to academic accomplishment and character. Students in Honors should therefore adhere to and be held to the highest standards of personal academic accountability. Academic dishonesty in any form, including plagiarism, is antithetical to the very definition of being an Honors student at FIU. Consequently, an Honors College student found responsible for academic misconduct will be dismissed from the College.

#### Procedures and Penalties

An Honors faculty member may bring charges of academic misconduct against an Honors student if the faculty member suspects plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct. The faculty member will decide whether to pursue informal resolution, file formal resolution charges, or take no further action, and will follow the procedures outlined in the Honors College website (<http://honors.fiu.edu/academics/policies/>), and the Academic Misconduct Procedures, available at <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm>.

Please refer to the following documents for additional information:

FIU Code of Academic Integrity – <http://www.fiu.edu/~dwyere/academicintegrity.html>.

FIU Honors College Student Handbook – <http://honors.fiu.edu/handbook0910.html>

FIU Honors College Plagiarism Policy – [http://honors.fiu.edu/current\\_policy\\_plagiarism.html](http://honors.fiu.edu/current_policy_plagiarism.html) Courses designated as **Global Learning** courses (IDH 3034-3035) must list specific Global Learning outcomes. Assignments must be able to assess the students' ability to demonstrate these outcomes. Questions on Global Learning should be addressed to Jose Rodriguez, [rodrigej@fiu.edu](mailto:rodrigej@fiu.edu).

#### Global Learning Outcomes

Upper Division classes have been designated as Global Learning courses. For questions regarding GL requirements, please contact Allen Varela at the Honors College.

#### GL Learning Outcomes for IDH 3034-5

- **Global Awareness:** Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems.
- **Course Learning Outcome:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of the interrelated global dynamics (social-cultural, political, economic, etc.) that shape aesthetics, values, and authority in diverse cultural contexts.
- **Global Perspectives:** Students will be able to develop a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems.
- **Course Learning Outcome:** Students will be able to analyze the multiple global forces that shape their understanding of aesthetics, values, and authority — economic, political, sociological, technological, cultural, etc.
- **Global Engagement:** Students will be able to demonstrate a willingness to engage in local, global, international, and

intercultural problem solving.

· **Course Learning Outcome:** Students will be able to develop solutions to local, global, international, and/or intercultural problems related to aesthetics, values, and authority.

1 August 24	<p><b>You cannot do well in this class with poor attendance.</b></p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> Go over syllabus. Assign book readings and presentations. Assign final question project due Finals Week. Discuss class journal.</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Reading assignment: Ikram Create digital project instructions from reading for next class.</p>
2 August 31 3 September 7	<p>Mummifying project videos.</p> <p>Discuss Reading. <b><i>Mummifying assignment discussed.</i></b> Create class project instructions. Form groups or alliances. Organize groups of mummification types. Students assigned gathering of materials and research. Outline research.</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Acquire all supplies and animal subject. Follow instructions carefully. Students start mummification of animal project.</p>
September 10 EXTRA CLASS	<p><b>Schedule: September 10 Saturday 10am until 1pm</b> <b>location - W-10 101 (Art Department)</b></p>
4 September 14	Film: Cave of Forgotten Dreams
5 September 21	<p>TBA</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Refresh Natron. Research.</p>
6 September 28	Individual status reports. Plans for mummy. Support, input and critique.
7 October 5	<b>Book 1</b> presentations
8 October 12	<p>Individual status reports. With revisions. Supply problems discussed.</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Possibly refresh Natron. Check status of desiccation of mummy. Research.</p>
9 October 19	<b>Book 2</b> presentations
10 October 26	<p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Organize next step in mummification process to be done for homework.</p>
11 November 2	<p><b>Book 3</b> presentations</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Poster graphics in to Juan. IMPORTANT: Please check spelling and grammar and accuracy before printing.</p>
12 November 9	<p>ART ACTIVITY</p> <p><b>HOMEWORK:</b> Final artwork and decoration and framing of mummy.</p>
13 November 16	<p>Organize installation</p> <p>Saturday November 19 - 9am until exhibit complete. <b>REQUIRED</b></p>
November 23	<b>Independent research. No formal class meeting.</b>
14 November 30	GC Gallery oral presentations: Mummification Project. <b>Final Exam Question</b>
Finals week	<b>No formal meeting (Show down December 16, please make arrangements in advance)</b>

NOTES: