ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MORTUARY ARCHITECTURE

2026/27. 1ST TERM

COURSE DETAILS			
COURSE TITLE	**Ancient Egyptian mortuary architecture**		
COURSE CODE(S)	YCROESFBNF – ER00		
DEPARTMENT	Óbuda University Ybl Miklós Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Institute of Civil Engineering		
PROGRAMME, TRAINING	civil engineering BSc architect BSc		Erasmus
COURSE DIRECTOR	Zoltán Horváth, lecturer	email: horvath.zoltan@uni-obuda.hu	Office hours over the term: Tuesdays, 14:00–15:00 Wednesdays, 13:00-14:00 contact via email for appointment
INSTRUCTORS, LECTURERS	Zoltán Horváth, lecturer		
PREREQUISITES	None		
LECTURES PER WEEK	3		
CLASSROOM / LAB PRACTICE PER WEEK	0		
FIELD AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING PER WEEK	0		
ASSESSMENT	End-term paper		
CREDITS	5		
BRIEF COURSE SUMMARY	The course offers an opportunity for those interested in ancient Egyptian civilization to obtain a more detailed view of the developments of tomb architecture from the Predynastic up to the end of the New Kingdom. Students may learn about the wide range of environmental, political, socio-cultural and technological conditions the internal dynamics of which have shaped the evolution of ancient Egyptian mortuary architecture for more than three thousand years, from the early pit burials, through the mastabas of pyramid complexes of the Old and Middle Kingdoms as well as the New Kingdom royal and private rock-cut tombs on the West Bank of ancient Thebes.		
RECOMMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTAL READING	Barry J. Kemp, *Ancient Egypt: Anatomy of a Civilization*, London 1989 Ian Shaw (ed.), *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford 2003 M. Lehner, *The Complete Pyramids*, London 1997 A. Dodson, *The Tomb in Ancient Egypt. Royal and Private Sepulchres from the Early Dynastic Period to the Romans*, London 2008 L. Manniche, *City of the Dead: Thebes in Egypt*, London 1987 N. Reeves – R.H. Wilkinson, *The Complete Valley of the Kings*, London 1996		
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS	None		

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	LECTURE	INSTRUCTOR	TYPE OF TRAINING	CONTENT OF PRACTICE
1	Major properties of the landscape and a brief historical overview. Ancient Egyptian language and scripts.	Zoltán Horváth		
2	Religion and key foundation myths.			
3	Afterlife beliefs and funerary culture. Functional components of an ancient Egyptian tomb. Biculturalism.			
4	Evolution of burial customs from the very beginnings to the formation of the unified Egyptian state.			
5	Early Dynastic royal tombs at Abydos and Saqqara. Funerary enclosures. The elite mastabas in Saqqara.			
6	The Step Pyramid Complex at Saqqara.			
7	From stepped to true pyramids: the building projects of King Snofru.			
8	The pyramid plateau at Giza: the Pyramid of Khufu and other royal mortuary enclosures of the 4th dynasty.			
9	Classic pyramid complexes until the end of the Old Kingdom.			
10	Archaism and innovation: royal mortuary complexes of the Middle Kingdom.			
11	New Kingdom burials: royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings, memorial temples and the cemetery of the nobles at Thebes.			
12	End-term paper			
13	End-term paper retake			

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION		
MID-TERM TASKS, ASSESSMENT AND GRADING CRITERIA		
REQUIREMENTS	**SPECIFICATION**	**ASSESSMENT WEIGHTING** *(points, %, mid-term grades)*
ATTENDANCE POLICY	In accordance with §46 of Obuda University Code of Studies and Exams.	-
EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM TRAINING AND ASSESSMENTS	In accordance with §46 of Obuda University Code of Studies and Exams. Attendance of lectures and practice classes is mandatory. Students are allowed a maximum of three absences per semester. Beyond these, no excuses – including medical certificates - will be accepted, and the student will be disqualified from course and denied credit for the course.	-
MID-TERM ASSIGNMENT (if any)		-
MINOR TASKS		-
MID- AND END-TERM TEST(S) OR EXAM(S)	The end-term paper assesses and measures the acquisition of material covered in the lectures. One retake is permitted.	100%
TOTAL VALUE		100%

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS	
REQUIREMENTS FOR SIGNATURE	The signature is granted if the student meets the attendance and assignment criteria as specified. A minimum score of 51% is required on the end-term test. In the event of a failed end-term test, one retake is provided. Students who attended both the end-term and the retake tests but failed to achieve the 51% threshold are eligible to take a signature-retake exam. In the case of absence from the end-term test, participation in the signature-retake exam is permitted only upon presentation of a valid medical certificate.
SANCTIONS FOR ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT (PLAGIARISM)	Any student found guilty of plagiarism – i.e., violating Article 4, Section (2) of the Code of Ethics of Obuda University – will be denied credit for the course by the instructor in charge. Furthermore, the University may initiate disciplinary proceedings in accordance with Section 90 of the university's Code of Studies and Exams.
GRADING	Course grade is derived from the result of the end-term paper. Grading is based on a 5-point scale, where 5 is the highest (excellent) and 1 is the lowest (fail). 51-59% = 2 60-74% = 3 75-85% = 4 86-100% = 5