**Ancient Egyptian Art II: The New Kingdom**

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**EGYT 1510**

Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-2:20pm

Sayles 104

Professor: Laurel Bestock

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-3:00pm and by appointment, Joukowsky Institute, 70 Waterman St. room 308

wiki: <http://proteus.brown.edu/ancientegyptianart2/7100>

**Course Description:**

Called Egypt's “Golden Age,” the New Kingdom is renowned for monuments commissioned by and for monarchs whose names - including those of Hatshepsut, the queen who became king; Akhenaten, Egypt's so-called monotheist; and Tutankhamun, the famed boy-king - still capture the imagination today. The approximately 500 years covered by this period saw Egypt at the height of its power in an increasingly complex world, and the art and architecture commissioned by these rulers and others serve as testament to their endeavors and world views.

The types of works that will be discussed in the course include sculpture in the round and relief, temple, tomb and palace architecture, paintings and, to a lesser extent, jewelry. We will be looking at issues of style, iconography, architectural context, and related inscriptional material. And we will be looking for meaning, that is, how the works of art, architecture, and related texts and objects were integrated to give religious and political meaning to given monuments. Egyptian art was serious business: it was about allowing the cosmos to function properly and enabling the dead to live for eternity. While the works we will study in this course were made to be beautiful, they were, first and foremost, intended to be functional forever.

**Goals:**

Using the surviving art and architecture of this period, students will critically examine a range of topics in this course, including how art was made, what functions it served, and how it reflected and furthered both cultural and political trends within Egypt and Egypt’s negotiation of its own place in an international world.

Students will leave this course with a thorough thematic and chronological understanding of the art and architecture of the New Kingdom. The breadth gained in class and in studying for exams will be supplemented with a depth acquired in writing a paper on a focused topic, which will also allow students to hone their research and writing skills.

**Assessment:**

There will be a midterm and a final (cumulative) for this course, as well as a 10-12 page paper and a 10-15 minute presentation. Exams will consist principally of single slide identifications as well as paired slides that will serve as the basis of short essays. Students will determine their own paper topics in consultation with the professor, and will submit a bibliography one week before the paper is due. Bibliography and paper should be submitted by e-mail to the professor before midnight on the due date. Presentations will be on the topic of the paper.

Midterm: 25%

Final: 30%

Paper: 25%

Presentation: 10%

Class participation: 10%

**Books**:

The required text for this course is:

Robins, Gay. *The Art of Ancient Egypt,* revised edition. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008.

This is available through Amazon but has not been ordered through the bookstore.

Readings from the following and other texts will be posted to the wiki one week or more before they are to be read. The books may be worth buying if you intend to study Egyptology in depth.

Fazzini, Richard, James Romano and Madeleine Cody. *Art for Eternity:* *Masterworks from Ancient Egypt*. The Brooklyn Museum, in conjunction with Scala Books, 1999.

Freed, Rita, et al., eds. *Pharaohs of the Sun: Akhenaten, Nefertiti, Tutankhamen*. Boston: Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 1999.

Hodel-Hoenes, Sigrid, David Warburton (trans.), *Life and Death in Ancient Egypt: Scenes from Private Tombs in New Kingdom Thebes.* Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2000.

Kemp, Barry J. Ancient Egypt: Anatomy of a Civilization. New York: Routledge, 2006.

Roehrig, Catharine H., ed. *Hatshepsut, From Queen to Pharaoh*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2005.

Strudwick, Nigel and Helen Studwick. *Thebes in Egypt*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999.

**Schedule** (subject to change – keep up to date with the wiki!)**:**

**Week 1: Introduction**

Jan. 22

**Week 2: The Legacy of Pre-New Kingdom Egypt**

Reading: Robins 12-29; 90-120

**Week 3: Early 18th Dynasty Royal Art**

Reading: Robins 122-148

Russmann and Roth in Roehrig *Hatshepsut*.

**Week 4: Early 18th Dynasty Elite Art**

Reading: Hodel-Hoenes 1-84

**Week 5: Amenhotep III**

Feb. 17 NO CLASS

**Week 6: Amarna**

Reading: Robins 149-165; Redford, Lacovara and Mallinson in Freed, et al

**Week 7: Amarna II and Late 18th Dynasty**

Reading: Freed in Freed et al.

**Week 8: Deir el-Medina**

Mar. 12 **Midterm Exam**

Reading: Strudwicks 174-197; Hodel-Hoenes 247-289

**Week 9: Theban Temples**

Reading: Strudwicks 44-91; Bryan “Designing the Cosmos: Temples and Temple Decoration” in *Egypt’s Dazzling Sun*

**SPRING BREAK Mar. 21-29**

**Week 10: Post-Amarna Private Art**

Apr. 2 **Paper Bibliographies due**

Reading: Robins 181-193

**Week 11: Ramesside Art, including Valley of the Kings**

Apr. 9 **Paper due**

Reading: Robins 166-181; Brand “Veils, Votives and Marginalia” in *Sacred Space and Sacred Function in Ancient Thebes*

**Week 12: Student Presentations**

**Week 13: Foreigners in New Kingdom Art; New Kingdom art outside of Thebes and Amarna; presentations as needed**

Reading: tba

**Final Period: Final Exam**