**ARCH 1630: Ancient Egyptian Warfare**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2:20pm, Rhode Island Hall lecture room (108)

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wiki: <http://proteus.brown.edu/fightingpharaohs14/Home>

password: pharaohs2014

readings page password: pharaohsprivate

**Course Summary**

This class will provide a survey of the Egyptian military from ca. 3000 B.C. through the decline of the Egyptian empire, ca. 1000 B.C. When and why did the ancient Egyptians engage in war?  Who was fighting, and whom were they fighting? What were their weapons like and what were their military strategies?  What were the political situations that caused them to go to war?  How did warfare and soldiery impact Egyptian society? What were the ideological and religious implications of warfare? In studying Egyptian history and society through the pervasive motif of war, we will gain an understanding of the forces that shaped Egyptian culture, and how Egypt responded to these forces over its lengthy history.

**Objectives**

The study of ancient warfare requires the utilization of several different types of evidence, and questioning these types of evidence will be a key goal of this class. In particular, written records, artistic records, burials of soldiers, and battlefield archaeology often present pictures that are notably at odds. By asking how each type of record was created and, in the case of written and artistic evidence, why it was created, we will come to a better understanding of not only what happened but how it was used and manipulated by the ancient Egyptians. Because many of these issues are of general concern to archaeologists approaching the topic of war, we will look at the anthropology of ancient war simultaneously with our focus on Egypt. In addition to learning to critically evaluate different types of sources, students in this class will hone their discussion skills and their research and writing skills.

**Textbooks** (available for purchase in the bookstore or on reserve in the library)

* ***War in Ancient Egypt*** by Anthony Spalinger (Blackwell Publishing)
* ***Tutankhamun’s Armies*** by John Coleman Darnell and Colleen Manassa (John Wiley & Sons)
* ***Warfare in the Ancient Near East to 1600BC*** by William J. Hamblin (Routledge)
* ***History of Ancient Egypt*** by Erik Hornung (Cornell University Press) - *only required if you have no previous background in Egyptology*
* ***Fighting Pharaohs***by Robert Partridge (Peartree Publishing) - *optional but recommended.* Not available in the bookstore but on reserve in the library.
* Additional reading assignments will be available as pdfs on the wiki one week in advance of the time they are to be read.

**Assessment**

Grades will be based on the following criteria:

Examination One (in-class) ..……………………………….. 30%

Examination Two (in-class) ………………………………….30%

Reconstruction research and participation…………………30%

Class participation/wiki discussions…………………..……. 10%

This class will have no cumulative final exam during exam period.

**Assignments and expectations**

* There will be two exams, both done in-class. Both exams will cover the general concepts and specific details that we have addressed through readings and in class discussions. Extensions for exams will be granted only in the case of illness or excused absence and MUST be arranged prior to the scheduled exam. The exam format will include short answer/IDs and an essay response to an original source text or image. The second exam is not a cumulative final; it covers only material from the second half of the class. It will be given the first day of Reading Period.
* Class attendance and participation are essential for this course. While attendance will not be taken in class, discussions and in-class group assignments will provide an opportunity for participation. I grade participation strictly.
* In April we will be staging a reconstruction of an ancient battle on the Main Green. This should be great fun but will require a great deal of research and coordination. There will be separate committees to learn about and arrange everything from tactics to weaponry. Each committee, on forming, will create, in consultation with the TAs, a one-page document outlining duties and expectations and listing a preliminary bibliography (your committee is expected to go considerably beyond this bibliography in researching the battle and your role in it, but this will provide a start). Also to be agreed at the time of forming committees will be the date on which your committee must assign a reading to the class (posted as a pdf to the wiki) and the date on which you will, as a committee, give a presentation to the class. Your participation in the preparation and enactment of this reconstruction constitutes a major portion of your grade. Half of this will be an individual grade based on four one page written updates about both the progress of your committee and your own individual contributions to the group, as well as your involvement in the reconstruction itself. Your updates should include reference to what you have read over the course of the past week in preparation for the reconstruction, and what in those readings you found helpful or unhelpful and why. The other half of the grade for this project will be a group grade given to your entire committee. This will be based on your committee’s report to the class prior to the reenactment as well as how well the things for which your committee was responsible function on the day of the battle.
* This is a moderately sized class; it will take work on the part of everyone to make sure we preserve an atmosphere where discussion as well as lecturing is possible. Because interaction with the material and course discussion is imperative, a discussion forum will be set up on our course wiki. Students are responsible for checking this board regularly and contributing to discussion throughout the semester. Students are encouraged to post their own thoughts as well as responding to the prompts of the instructor and TA.
* Readings are listed by week. You will understand lectures better and follow more closely if you have done the reading prior to Tuesday’s class. It is imperative that you have done readings by Thursday so that discussion can occur. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL READINGS ASSIGNED OVER THE COURSE OF THE SEMESTER. If this is the case, they will be mentioned in class and by email.

**Class structure**

In a normal week, Tuesday will be an interactive lecture and Thursday will be devoted to a mixture of lecture, discussion and/or group projects.

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| **Week** | **Topics** | **Assignments** |
| Week 1  **(Jan. 23)** | Course introduction and syllabus | * First half Hornung |
| Week 2  **(Jan. 28)**  **(Jan. 30)** | Intro to Egyptian history and chronology; terminology of the study of ancient warfare; sources for warfare | * *Ancient Warfare*, edited by Carman and Harding, Ch. 1-4 (pp. 1-55) * Darnell and Manassa Ch. 1 (pp. 1-12) |
| Week 3  **(Feb. 4)**  **(Feb. 6)** | Predynastic-Old Kingdom warfare  The ideological role of warfare in Egyptian society | * Second half Hornung * Hamblin Ch. 12-14 (pp. 308-367) * Selections from *Material Harm: Archaeological Studies of War and Violence* |
| Week 4  **(Feb. 11) (Feb. 14)** | First Intermediate Period-Middle Kingdom warfare | * Hamblin Ch. 15-18 (pp. 367-463) (skim) * Spalinger Ch. 1-2 (pp. 1-45) |
| Week 5  **(Feb. 18) (Feb. 20)** | Middle Kingdom special topics and Second Intermediate Period | * Schulman “Battle Scenes of the Middle Kingdom” JSSEA 12 (1982) 165-183 * Williams “Serra East and the Mission of Middle Kingdom Fortresses in Nubia” in *Gold of Praise*, 435-453 * Smith “State and Empire in the Middle and New Kingdoms” in  *Anthropology and Egyptology*, 66-89 |
| Week 6  **(Feb. 25)**  **(Feb 27)** | **First Exam**  Weapons, fighting tactics, technology, techniques, and military organization | * Hamblin Ch. 5 (pp. 129-153) * Darnell/Manassa Ch. 3 (pp. 58-90) * Spalinger Ch. 3 (pp. 46-69) * Faulkner “Egyptian Military Organization” JEA 39 (1953) |
| Week 7  **(Mar. 4)**  **(Mar. 6)** | Intro to New Kingdom warfare and traditional enemies  Megiddo and Kadesh: what to fight? | * Redford “The Early 18th Dynasty” in *The Wars in Syria and Palestine of Thutmose III* * O’Connor “Egypt’s Views of ‘Others’” in *Never Had the Like Occurred* 155-185 * Darnell/Manassa Ch. 4-5 (pp. 91-186) * Spalinger Ch. 4 (pp. 70-82) |
| Week 8  **(Mar. 11)**  **(Mar. 13)** | The Egyptian Empire: creating and managing  **First personal update due** | * Spalinger Ch. 5-8 (pp. 83-139) * Bryan “The Egyptian Perspective on Mitanni” in *Amarna Diplomacy* (pp. 71-84) * Knapp “Independence and Imperialism: Politico-economic Structures in the Bronze Age Levant” in *Archaeology, Annales, and Ethnohistory*, 83-98 |
| Week 9  **(Mar. 18)**  **(Mar. 20)** | Role of the army in early New Kingdom society  **Second personal update due** | * Darnell/Manassa Ch. 6 (pp. 187-210) * Spalinger Ch. 9 and 11 * Lorton “Terminology Related to the Laws of Warfare in Dynasty XVIII” in JARCE XI (1974), 53-68 |
| Week 10  **(Apr. 1)**  **(Apr. 3)** | Amarna period and aftermath  **Committee postings to wiki re: battle with outline and bibliography**  **Committee presentations begin**  **Third personal update due** | * Darnell/Manassa Ch. 2 (pp. 12-57) * Spalinger Ch. 10 and 12 * *Amarna Diplomacy* Ch. 7-11 (pp. 85-153) * Readings as posted by committees |
| Week 11  **(Apr. 8)**  **(Apr. 10)** | Ramesside Warfare: Libyans, Sea Peoples etc.  **Committee presentations continue**  **Final personal update due** | * Spalinger Ch. 14-16 (pp. 235-277) * Snape “The Emergence of Libya on the Horizion of Egypt” in *Mysterious Lands*, 93-106 * Cline and O’Connor “The Mystery of the ‘Sea Peoples’” in *Mysterious Lands*, 107-138 * Readings as posted by committees |
| Week 12  **(Apr. 15)**  **Apr. 17)** | Battle reconstruction  (weather permitting: short dry run Tuesday followed by discussion)  **Battle reconstruction**  FULL BATTLE WITH GEAR | * Readings as posted by committees |
| Week 13  **(Apr. 22)**  **(Apr. 24)** | Post-New Kingdom warfare and course conclusions  **Second Exam** | * No reading – prepare for exam |