

ARCH 0150: INTRODUCTION TO EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ART

MWF NOON-12:50PM

CLASSROOM: SALOMON 001

PROFESSOR: LAUREL BESTOCK, laurel_bestock@brown.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 10am-noon and by appointment, Rhode Island Hall Room 209

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

LINDA GOSNER linda_gosner@brown.edu

EMILY RUSSO emily_russo@brown.edu

ALEX SMITH alex_smith@brown.edu

COURSE WIKI: [HTTP://PROTEUS.BROWN.EDU/INTROTOEGYPT12/HOME](http://proteus.brown.edu/introtoegypt12/home)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introductory survey of the archaeology, art and architecture of ancient Egypt, ranging in time from the prehistoric cultures of the Nile Valley through the period of Roman control. While the course will examine famous features and characters of ancient Egypt (pyramids, mummies, King Tut!), it will also provide a wide-ranging review of the archaeology of this remarkable land.

OBJECTIVES:

The goals of this course are two-fold. First, it is intended to provide students with a general understanding of the development of Egyptian material culture over more than three millennia. It is expected that students will demonstrate a basic grasp of the types of objects and buildings made and used by the ancient Egyptians, and how they aid our understanding of social, political, religious and economic structures. Second, the course is intended to provide students with a set of critical thinking skills that are applicable to the study of the ancient world in general. We will continually examine what kinds of evidence are available and what kinds of questions can, and cannot, be answered on the basis of that evidence.

TEXTS (available at the Brown Bookstore)

Required:

An Introduction to the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt, Kathryn A. Bard (Bard, hereafter)

The Art of Ancient Egypt, Gay Robins (Robins)

Recommended (available sometimes used on Amazon, but out of print):

Cultural Atlas of Ancient Egypt, John Baines and Jaromir Malek (Atlas)

Additional articles and excerpts will be posted to the wiki when assigned.

Reading on this syllabus is assigned by week. It is expected that you will do the reading over the course of the week so as to keep pace with developments in class, with the week's reading to have been completed by class time on Fridays.

ASSESSMENT:

40% Writing assignments (2 x 20%) – see below

30% Midterm exams (2 x 15%) – see below

25% Final exam

5% Course participation

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:**FIRST ASSIGNMENT:**

Write a 800-1000 word paper based on an ancient Egyptian object in a museum that you have visited for the purpose of working on this paper. There is a fairly good selection at the RISD museum, and an excellent selection at the Boston MFA or in New York at the Met or the Brooklyn Museum. In your paper you should identify your object by its museum number and general type, describe it in detail, discuss its medium/media and technique of manufacture, discuss its date or probable date (and how that date was arrived at), and discuss how objects of this type were used in ancient Egypt and what contexts they are known from. You should refer to at least two books other than your required texts (websites are not acceptable sources), and you should include citations in one of the styles described in the Chicago Manual of Style (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). If you have any questions about the propriety of a source (there are some pretty horrible books and articles out there about Egypt), please don't hesitate to ask. Improper citation style will result in a full grade deduction. Late papers are not acceptable. Papers should be turned in by e-mail to the professor by 11:59pm on the due date.

SECOND ASSIGNMENT:

Social networking via the internet was obviously not available to the ancient Egyptians, but they probably would have taken to it like ducks to water. In this assignment we will help them bridge the gap. Students will choose an historical figure from ancient Egypt and create a Facebook-style page for that individual. This will involve both research and invention, and you get points for making it look pretty. Pages can be made in any word-processing or image processing or web software but should be saved as pdfs. Additionally students will write 1500-2000 words explaining their choices and documenting their sources (as in the first assignment). Late projects are not acceptable. The assignment is due by e-mail to the professor by 11:59pm on the due date.

EXAMS:

Two midterms of the same format will be given at approximately 1/3 and 2/3 of the way through the class. These will be in-class exams of 50 minutes each. They will consist of three parts: slide identifications/descriptions, short ID answers, and an essay question. The midterms are not cumulative, i.e. they will refer only to the material covered since the last exam. A two hour final exam will be given during the final exam period. This exam will consist of slide IDs, short answers and two essays. It will cover material from the entire semester.

A note on course policy:

Make-up exams and paper extensions will not be granted without a valid medical excuse signed by a doctor. The University has strict policies on plagiarism and cheating, with which you are expected to be familiar and to comply.

SYLLABUS:

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

Reading:

Bard, Chapters 1 and 2

Robins, Chapter 1

Atlas, pp. 10-29 (on the wiki)

Jan. 25: Introduction, syllabus

Jan. 27: History of Egyptology

WEEK 2: BACKGROUNDS AND BEGINNINGS

Reading:

Bard, Chapters 3-5

Robins, Chapter 2

Atlas, pp. 30-35; sites: Nagada and Tuhk; el-Kab; Kom el-Ahmar/Hierakonpolis; Abydos; Tell el-Fara'in/Buto (on the wiki)

Jan. 30: Geography, geology, climate and resources

Feb. 1: The archaeology of prehistoric and Predynastic Egypt

Feb. 3: Transition and unification: becoming "Egypt"

WEEK 3: EARLY DYNASTIC AND EARLY OLD KINGDOM

Reading:

Bard, pp. 121-137

Robins, Chapter 3

Atlas, pp. 56-64; sites: Saqqara, Meidum, Zawyet el-'Aryan, Dahshur, Giza, Abu Rawash

Feb. 6: Structure of society: Kings, nobles, human sacrifice

Feb. 8: Pyramid! The complex of Djoser at Saqqara and private tombs of the 3rd

Dynasty

Feb. 10: Meidum, Dahshur, Giza and Abu Rawash: royal and private art and architecture of the 4th Dynasty

WEEK 4: OLD KINGDOM

Reading:

Bard, pp. 137-151

Robins, Chapter 4

Atlas, pp. 209-221; sites: Abusir, Saqqara, Abu Ghurab

Feb. 13: Abu Sir, Saqqara

Feb. 15: Abu Ghurab and the rise of the cult of the sun

Feb. 17: Evolving ideas of the afterlife: 6th Dynasty pyramids and Pyramid Texts

WEEK 5: LATE OLD KINGDOM

Reading:

Bard 152-162

Lichtheim: assorted Pyramid Texts; autobiographies of Weni and Harkhuf from *Ancient Egyptian Literature*

Arnold: "Royal Cult Complexes of the Old and Middle Kingdoms"

Atlas, pp. 35-40; sites: Saqqara, Aswan, Denderah, el-Mo'alla, Gebelein

Feb. 20: NO CLASS

Feb. 22: Life and rebirth: private tombs of the late Old Kingdom

Feb. 24: **FIRST MIDTERM EXAM**

WEEK 6: FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD-MIDDLE KINGDOM I

Reading:

Bard, pp. 162-194

Robins, Chapters 5-6

Atlas, pp. 40-42, sites: Beni Hassan, el-Lahun, The Faiyum, Deir el-Bersha, Thebes

Feb. 27: Feast and Famine: political decentralization and regional ascent

Feb. 29: Middle Kingdom royal art (and a digression on Egyptian calendars for the leap year)

Mar. 2: Egyptians abroad: the fortresses of Nubia

WEEK 7: MIDDLE KINGDOM II

Reading:

Robins, Chapter 7

Kemp, "Model Communities", from *Ancient Egypt, Anatomy of a Civilization*

Mar. 5: Lahun: a model community of the Middle Kingdom

Mar. 7: Politics and provincials

Mar. 9: The peculiar 13th Dynasty and Foreigners in Egypt

WEEK 8: SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD – EARLY NEW KINGDOM

Reading:

Bard, pp. 195-206

Atlas, p. 4; sites: Tell el-Yahudiya, el-Khata'na, Tell el-Dab'a and Qantir

Mar. 12: The 17th Dynasty: reconquest and redefinition

FIRST PAPER DUE

Mar. 14: Overview of New Kingdom chronology; Early 18th Dynasty architecture and art

Mar. 16: Hatshepsut and Thutmose III

WEEK 9: NEW KINGDOM I

Reading:

Bard, read all of Chapter 8 but class this week will focus on royal material before the move to Amarna, namely 8.2, 8.3, 8.7, and 8.9

Robins, Chapter 8

Atlas, pp. 42-47

Mar. 19: Early to mid-18th Dynasty private life

Mar 21: Ideology and archaeology: Amenhotep III to Akhenaten

Mar. 23: **SECOND EXAM**

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10: NEW KINGDOM II: AMARNA TO RAMESSIDE KINGS

Reading:

Bard, reread Chapter 8, especially 8.4-8.5

Robins, Chapter 9

Kemp, "The city of el-Amarna as a source for the study of urban society in ancient Egypt", *World Archaeology* Vol. 9, No. 2 (1977), available on JSTOR

Haeny, "New Kingdom 'Mortuary Temples' and 'Mansions of Millions of Years'"

Atlas, el-'Amarna

Apr. 2: A new city at Amarna

Apr. 4: After Amarna: proscription, restoration, Tutankhamun

Apr. 6: Post-Amarna and Ramesside royal burials and mortuary temples

WEEK 11: NEW KINGDOM III: LIFE, DEATH AND RELIGION

Reading:

Bard, pp. 235-262

Robins, pp. 166-193

Bell, "The New Kingdom 'Divine' Temple: The Example of Luxor"

Atlas, pp. 84-105

Apr. 9: Deir el-Medina

Apr. 11: Private tombs from Thebes and Saqqara

Apr. 13: The Gods' temples of Thebes

WEEK 12: THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD-LATE PERIOD

Reading:

Bard, Chapter 9

Robins, Chapters 11-12

Kemp *Anatomy of a Civilization*, excerpt, pp. 345-366

Atlas, pp. 47-52; sites: San el-Hagar/Tunis

Apr. 16: Inherited and new landscapes: Thebes and Tanis

SECOND WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE

Apr. 18: Archaism and innovation

Apr. 20: Religion and animal cults in the Late Period

WEEK 13: GRECO-ROMAN EGYPT

Reading:

Robins, Chapters 13

Bard, Chapter 10

Apr. 23: Overview and Late Temples

Apr. 25: Alexandria

Final Exam: May 9, 9:00am