

CC304C - Introduction to Ancient Egypt

Professor - William R. Nethercut

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Course Description: The study of Egyptian history and culture from 6000 BC to AD 300. Study units include the astronomical henge at Nabta Playa in the Sahara (6000 BC); petroglyphs in the canyons east of the Nile which help us to decide whether Mesopotamian intruders brought innovations to Egypt (3500 BC) which became a foundation for the astonishing achievements of the Old Kingdom, or whether Nile Valley dwellers, culturally connected to "deeper" African regions, deserve credit; the first hieroglyphic signs and how to read them; King Scorpion and Dynasty 0 (3250 BC); the pyramids of the Fourth Dynasty and their connections with star patterns (2500-2400 BC), temple spacing at Ankor Wat, the Nazca lines of Peru, the "Thunderbird" mounds of native Americans; the Pyramid Texts and the cult of Osiris; the popular literature of the Middle Kingdom (2000-1700 BC) and the "vulgarization" of Egyptian grammar and idioms during this time; the Hyksos, the blending of Hebrew with Egyptian in the language of 1700-1600 BC, the story of Joseph in Genesis; royal lives of the New Kingdom (1539-1069 BC) - Ahmose, Ahmose-Nefertari, Hatshepsut, Tutmosis III, Amenhotep III, Akehnaton and Nefertiti, Tutankhamun, Ramesses II and Nefertari; the Am Duat ("What exists in the underworld") pictured in the tomb of Tutmosis III, the significance of scenes on the north and west walls of King Tut's tomb, the remarkable beauty of Nefertari's tomb, Egypt's "Sistine Chapel", in the Valley of the Queens; the role of women in ancient Egypt, contrasted with their position in classical Greece and in Rome; Egyptian medicine and women physicians; the Nubian rulers of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty (780-656 BC) - Taharqa, Amen Irdis Wife of God, and the Nubian pyramids of Sudan; the Nubian hieroglyphic system; secret symbolisms among Egypt's priests during the Assyrian, Persian, Greek and Roman occupations; magical formulae 150 BC to AD 300; Cleopatra VII; the "Golden Mummies" and mummy portraits of the Roman empire; the catacombs of Alexandria; early Christianity and the Coptic church; Christian and Egyptian fusions - "Saint" Anubis, Isis and the Virgin Mary.

Texts: *The Seventy Great Mysteries of Ancient Egypt* (Bill Manley, London 2003), and *The Penguin Atlas of Ancient Egypt* (Manley, 1996). "Mysteries" presents the most recent reasoning on the "hot" issues of historical and archaeological research, e.g. Were those close to the king buried alive to pass with him on to the Field of Reeds? "Atlas" provides informative historical analysis grounded in detailed maps.

Grading: The grade will be established on the average of three multiple-choice examinations. The first test will count 32%, the second will count 43%, the third will count 25%. THERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAMINATION during the University examination period. The grade for each test will be based on the percentage of correct answers. There will be no curve. NO EXTRA CREDIT IS ACCEPTED. "A" will be 92-100; A- will be 89.5 to 91; B+ will be 88 and 89; B will be 82-87; B- will be 79.5 to 81; C+ will be 78 and 79; C will be 72 to 77; C- will be 69.5 to 71; D+ will be 68 and 69; D will be 62-67; D- will be 59.5 to 61. Grades lower than 59.5 will be Fs.

NO MAKEUPS ARE ALLOWED FOR MISSED EXAMINATIONS, EXCEPT FOR A MEDICAL EXCUSE, OR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES.

Exam & test dates: The first examination will be during the class period on Friday, October 9; the second test will be 11 AM, Monday, November 16; the third exam will be given 11 AM, Friday December 4. There will be no Final Examination given during the examination period proper.

URL(s): The address for CC 304 C is <http://www.utexas.edu/courses/egypt> An outline for each day's lecture will be here, and also the slides discussed during the class meeting.

Disability policy: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY, <http://www.utexas.edu/disability/> In less complicated cases, the teacher will be glad to arrange suitable circumstances for testing.

Scholastic dishonesty policy: Cheating on tests (looking on another student's answers, using information brought into the testing room) will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic F for the test. For further information, http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

Religious holidays policy: Students can make up work missed for a religious holiday if they bring a request and documentation of the holiday fourteen days ahead of time.
