

Classical Civilization 304 C
Introduction to Ancient Egypt
Fall, 2018

Instructor: William R. Nethercut
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Office hours: M W F, 1 – 2 PM, and by appointment
Waggener Hall 113

- Textbooks: 1. **The Seventy Great Mysteries of Ancient Egypt**
Bill Manley, editor (Thames & Hudson, Ltd. London, 2003)
2. **The Penguin Historical Atlas of Ancient Egypt**
Bill Manley (Penguin Books, 1996)

Course Description: This will be a comprehensive introduction to the story of ancient Egypt, beginning with the earliest evidence for the African context in which the Nile Valley civilization took root (10,000-5000 BC) and continuing down to Ptolemaic and Roman centuries (300 BC – AD 300). In each era we shall emphasize the culture distinctive of the time. Our first text (**MYSTERIES**) will bring us up to date on the “hot” issues of historical and archaeological research; the second text (**ATLAS**) provides Informative historical analysis grounded in detailed maps. These will enable you to become familiar with locations in Egypt, the Near East, and Africa, which are important for our study. I shall build in, also, an introduction to Egyptian hieroglyphics, as our regular class work makes this study relevant. *Special Emphasis:* ancient mysteries in Egyptian religion, the gods and monuments of the earliest days; the most famous rulers of the Golden Age (Egypt’s New Kingdom), Tutankhamun, Tutmosis, Seti, Ramesses; Hatshepsut, Nefertiti, and the place of women in Egyptian thought; Nubia (the Sudan), its history, culture, great kings (Taharqa) and military commanders (Queen Amanitore), Nubian footprints today.

Grading: There will be three Hour Examinations, each of which will count one-third of the Final Grade. **There will be no comprehensive “Final Exam” given during the Final Examination Period!** The final grade will be made up as an average of the three Hour Examination marks. The range of grades will be as follows: A, 92-100; A-, 90-91; B+, 88-89; B, 82-87; B-, 80-81; C+, 78-79; C, 72-77; C-, 70-71; D+, 68-69; D, 62-67; D-, 60-61. The grades 89.5, 79.5, 69.5, 59.5 will be rounded up.

Make-Up Tests: To make up a missed test, a student must present a medical excuse confirmed by a visit to a doctor, or, in the case of a crisis, a letter verifying what has happened.

A test missed because of a religious service, athletic competition, or a professional interview will be made up. You are asked to notify the Instructor as soon as possible that such a conflict may occur.

Academic Dishonesty: Students caught cheating will receive a 0 for that test.

TESTING DATES

Exam 1 - Wednesday, October 3

Exam 2 - Monday, November 5

Exam 3 - Monday, December 10

W	Aug. 29	Introduction to the Course. African Backgrounds: a first glimpse.
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F	Aug. 31	LABOR DAY WEEKEND
M	Sept. 3	

W	Sept. 5	Earlier African civilization (I) : The “Black Mummy” 4500-4000 BC : far to the west of the Nile in southwestern Libya has been found the first mummy to be discovered in Africa. This mummy is earlier than the oldest Egyptian mummy we have so far (3500 BC) Are Egypt’s mysterious secrets descended from western Africa?
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- F Sept. 7 Review and summary of the principal points of “The Black Mummy”
- M Sept. 10 Earlier African civilization (II) : a Saharan “Stonehenge”! **(6400-4900 BC)**. The alignment of stone markers with the stars of Orion at NABTA PLAYA in the western desert is seen again in the placement of the Great Pyramid and its fellows at Giza by the Nile , 2500 years later. (In hieroglyphics the word for pyramid means “star”; and the hieroglyphic image of a star means “**GATE**” ! or entry point
- W Sept. 12 Early Backgrounds (III) : *Asian* Egypt? What can we say is “original” and “native” to Nilotic civilization? (The **Pre-Dynastic Period** is especially from **4300 – 3300 BC**) . The later pre-dynastic consolidation of culture (**ca. 3500 BC**): a great god, the first temple, a capital city, the development of hieroglyphics - all have been credited to the arrival into the Nile valley of an “advanced” civilization from the East.
Reading: Seventy Mysteries, pp. 17-23
- F Sept. 14 The **Protodynastic Period** (**3400 – 3100 BC**). Hierakonpolis, Capital of the DAY-FALCON; the first “Mummy”; the SEREKH; the SCORPION KING; Dynasty 0; Hieroglyphics
Reading: Atlas of Ancient Egypt, pp. 12-23
- M Sept. 17 The **Archaic Period**: the First and Second Dynasty (**3100? – 2686 BC**). “Menes” the “Establisher”, King “Catfish Chisel”
- W Sept. 19 (Narmer), Human Sacrifices, Burial Alive – King Djer, King Aha, King Qaa, **Queen Meryt Neit**. Funeral Architecture: the Mastaba; Khasekhemwy’s Enclosures as a link to the pyramids
Reading: Seventy Mysteries, pp. 33-41, 111.
- F Sept. 21 **FILM: “The Lost Mummy of IMHOTEP”**
- M Sept. 24 Review of Film: the Step Pyramid of King Djoser (Dynasty 3, 2650 BC). How to tell Mesopotamian Ziggurats and Imhotep’s pyramid apart. Heliopolis and the god **RA**. A new burial orientation. Egyptian Medicine.
Reading: Seventy Mysteries, pp. 43-56; Atlas, pp. 24-29
- W Sept. 26 **FILM: “Building the Great Pyramid”**

Dynasty 4 (2500 – 2400 BC): the Pyramids at Giza. King KHUFU (“Cheops”).
Reading: Seventy Mysteries, pp. 49-56, 61-66; 71-73.

F Sept. 28 **“Building the Great Pyramid”**, continued. Review of film

Passages inside the Great Pyramid. The alignment of the Pyramids at Giza. ORION and OSIRIS. The underground island and **cenotaph** of Osiris. Off-setting (skewing) of the Red and Bent Pyramids by King Snefru at Dahshur. Sky Images mirrored at Giza + Dahshur and the scene on Narmer's Palette. Angkor Wat (Cambodia) and the Nazca Lines (Peru).

Reading: Seventy Mysteries, pp. 57-60, 71-73

M Oct. 1 The Great Pyramid, final discussion. REVIEW FOR TEST

W Oct. 3 **FIRST HOUR EXAMINATION**

F Oct. 5 OSIRIS in Egyptian Astronomy: (1) the “Big Dipper” (“the Thigh”), the “Opening of the Mouth” (2) Orion as OSIRIS (3) in the Pyramid Texts of King Unas (Wenis) in Dynasty 5 2300's BC, the king is said both to be OSIRIS, and he is also called SAHU, the Egyptian name for the bright stars of Orion (4) King Khafra (Cephren), son of Khufu in Dynasty 4, supposed ruler of the second pyramid at Giza, and the king whose face is on the Sphinx, appears as OSIRIS.

M Oct. 8 **Riddles of the Sphinx:** Whose face do we see? What is the date and purpose of the Sphinx? King Djed-ef-ra (Djed-ef-Re), son of Khufu, brother of Khaf-ra.

Reading: Seventy Mysteries, pp. 67-70

W Oct. 10 The third pyramid at Giza. Menkaure (Men-Kau-Re) and the goddess Hathor (HAT – HOR)

F Oct. 12 The First Intermediate Period (2100's-1900's BC, Dynasties 7-11).

FILM: “The Book of the Dead” (Part 1)

**Reading: Atlas of Ancient Egypt, pp. 30-31, 42-43, 34-37, 44-51 ;
Seventy Mysteries, pp. 224-231.**

M Oct. 15 **FILM: “The Book of the Dead” (Part 2)**

W Oct. 18 Follow-up on Film. The Middle Kingdom (1900's to the 1700's BC, Dynasties 11-13). A new creation story, a new morality. Changes in the Egyptian language. The beginnings of western

literature.

- F Oct. 19 Egypt and Palestine. The story of Joseph in *Genesis*. The fusion of Canaanite and Egyptian languages. The HYKSOS. The Fifteenth Dynasty (1640-1540 BC). The city of Avaris. **King Apophis**. The revolt of the Seventeenth Dynasty at Wast (Thebes). A NEW DYNASTY (the Sixteenth ?) HAS NOW BEEN DISCOVERED at ABYDOS ! Ahmose establishes The New Kingdom (Dynasties 18-20, 1539-1069 BC).
Reading: Atlas of Ancient Egypt, pp. 37-41, 52-55, 58-60 and 66; Seventy Mysteries pp. 162-169, 239-242, 271-273.
- M Oct. 22 The early New Kingdom famous for prominent women: Tetishari, Ahmose's grandmother and divine first lady of the New Kingdom; Ahhotep, Ahmose's mother and fellow-commander of the army of Wast; Ahmose-Nefertari, sister and wife of Ahmose and grand sorceress.
Reading: Seventy Mysteries, pp. 74-79 For Ahhotep, see pp. 105-107.
- W Oct. 24 The position of women in Egyptian society. Comparisons with Greek and Roman views about women.
- F Oct. 26 Hatshepsut. Tutmosis I, Tutmosis III, and Senenmut. The first account of a UFO.
Reading: Seventy Mysteries, pp. 114-121; Atlas, pp. 74-75.
- M Oct. 29 "Catch-Up" Class Meeting
- W Oct. 31 **HALLOWEEN TREAT**

Green Witches and Black Cats, the Devouring of the Dead, Baphomet and the Horned God: the Egyptian Connection
- F Nov. 2 Greek Mythology in Egypt. Bull Leapers from Knossos at Avaris. An international tribute from the time of Hatshepsut and Tutmosis III (1400's BC).
Reading: Mysteries, pp. 166-169. REVIEW FOR TEST
- M Nov. 5 **SECOND HOUR EXAMINATION**

- W Nov. 7 Amenhotep III, father; Queen Tiy, mother. The **ATEN**. Amenhotep IV becomes "Akh-en-**Aten**."
- F Nov. 9 **FILM: "Nefertiti Resurrected" (Part 1)**
- M Nov. 12 **"Nefertiti Resurrected" (Part 2)**
- W Nov. 14 Akhenaten and Nefertiti. A new capital: "Horizon of the Aten"
Reading: Mysteries, pp. 122-131, 137-139, 84-87.
- F Nov. 16 Survivors of Amarna (1): the First and Favored Daughter, Merit-Aten, and the remarkable story of "SCOTA" ("She who came from the sea"). **Kingdom of the Ark** by **Lorraine Evans**.
- M Nov. 19 Survivors of Amarna (2): TUT-ANKH-ATEN (- **AMEN**) and his sister-wife, ANKH-ES-EN-PA-ATEN (- **AMEN**) King Tut's burial and treasure. The **Am Duat** , or the "book" of "What is in the Underworld" – images of the soul's night voyage through the chambers of darkness and its rebirth into light. (Illumination by K. G. Jung, from **The Red Book**) **Khepri**, the Scarab at Dawn. **Ser (I) ket**, the Scorpion Protector of the Dead. **Mehet Weret** ("Great Fullness"), Goddess of the Great Pool of Life. ** Mysteries surrounding Tut's death and his funeral chamber: Was he assassinated in a conspiracy? Is Nefertiti buried in a secret, undiscovered room here?
- W Nov. 21 No class; begin Thanksgiving holidays
- THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS**
- F Nov. 23
- M Nov. 26 **FILM: "Women Pharaohs"** The "Wives of God".
- W Nov. 28 Review of Film. Ramesses the Great and Nefertari. The special message of her judgement before the composite god Osiris-Ra-Khnum

- F Nov. 30 NUBIAN TOPICS. The god Amen. Djebel Barqal, the Holy Mountain and Serpent Spire. Pyramids of Meroe. Isis and Hathor Gold and Horses. Hieroglyphics. Fooling foreign occupiers. The Twenty-Fifth (Nubian) Dynasty, Amen Irdi and Taharqa. The Sack of Thebes in 664 BC. Nubian warrior Queens: Amanitore stands off the Romans ca. AD 100
Reading: History, pp. 213-228, 230-239; Atlas: pp. 110-114, 118-119, 124-125; Seventy Mysteries, pp. 142-145.
- M Dec. 3 The Ptolemaic occupation of Egypt (322-30 BC). A new god: SERAPIS. Underwater archaeology off Alexandria. Isis. CLEOPATRA. The fusion, or **syncretism**, of Greek, Roman, and Egyptian elements in the Catacombs of Alexandria. The syncretism of Greek and Egyptian in the Coptic language. ISIS, IO, and the Madonna, as Comforters. ISIS and CARNIVAL
Reading: Seventy Mysteries pp. 148-151.
- W Dec. 5 “Catch-Up” Class Meeting
- F Dec. 7 **Class Evaluation and REVIEW FOR TEST**
- M Dec. 10 **THIRD HOUR EXAMINATION**