Instructor: Peter Bedford
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Office Hours: M/W/F 4:15-5:30; others times by appointment

Please make use of office hours. Please stop by too if you are interested in advice about other offerings in Religious Studies or how Religious Studies might fit into your undergraduate program. I am very happy to arrange to meet outside of office hours: just contact me!

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course offers an overview of the history of ancient Egypt from the rise of the state under the first pharaohs (3200BC) to its incorporation into the Hellenistic and Roman empires. Attention is given to political and social organization, foreign relations, and religion based on a study of relevant ancient texts (in translation) and archaeological evidence.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
First exam (1 hour) in class on Wednesday, Jan 25th  25%
Second exam (1 hour) in class on Friday, Feb 17th  25%
Third exam (1 hour) in class on Monday, March 12th  25%
Paper (5-8 pages) due Wednesday, March 14th  25%

The first exam covers the first three weeks of the curriculum: Pre-Dynastic, Early Dynastic, Old Kingdom. The second exam covers the next three weeks: First Intermediate Period, Middle Kingdom, Second Intermediate Period, and the first half of the New Kingdom. The third exam covers the later New Kingdom, the Third Intermediate Period and the Greco-Roman period. The exam questions will be directly related to the class readings, lectures and the primary texts discussed in class. The exams will consist of short answers (one or two paragraphs, or notes) rather than essay. You will also be asked to identify and to comment briefly on some of the texts we have discussed in class, and also identify important sites on a map.

The paper asks you to write on a set question that invites you to write an essay that reflects on long-term trends in ancient Egyptian history. The questions is: Outline the continuities and changes in mortuary practices and beliefs in ancient Egypt from predynastic times until the end of the New Kingdom. To what extent do these signify changes in Egyptian culture and society?
TEXTBOOKS (can be purchased from the bookstore)
Tutorial texts to be handed out in class.

ABSENCES AND LATE WORK
No tests may be made up unless arrangements have been made in advance of the scheduled exam. Sick? Going on a field trip? Have an intercollegiate sports commitment? These things happen, but if you wish to have an opportunity to make up a test, you must contact your instructor ahead of time!

HONOR CODE
Union College recognizes the need to create an environment of mutual trust as part of its educational mission. Responsible participation in an academic community requires respect for and acknowledgement of the thoughts and work of others, whether expressed in the present or in some distant time and place. Matriculation at the College is taken to signify implicit agreement with the Academic Honor Code, available at honorcode.union.edu.

It is each student's responsibility to ensure that submitted work is his or her own and does not involve any form of academic misconduct. Students are expected to ask their course instructors for clarification regarding, but not limited to, collaboration, citations, and plagiarism. Ignorance is not an excuse for breaching academic integrity. Students are also required to affix the full Honor Code Affirmation, or the following shortened version, on each item of coursework submitted for grading: “I affirm that I have carried out my academic endeavors with full academic honesty.” [Signed, Jane Doe]

ADA REQUIREMENTS
It is Union College policy to make accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you have any disability or special concern, please let me know what your needs are in order that they may be accommodated. All discussions will remain confidential to the extent permissible by law.

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must also:
1. Register with and provide documentation to the Dean of Students Office.
2. Bring a letter to the instructor from the Dean of Students Office indicating what academic accommodations you require. This must be done within the first two weeks of term

For more information about services available to Union College students with disabilities, please contact the Dean of Students Office:

Shelly Shinebarger, Director of Student Support Services
Dean of Students Office
shinebas@union.edu; (518) 388-6116
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

The readings for each week are not complete. I will certainly be handing out primary texts for discussion in class. There will also be additional readings in secondary literature.

Week 1  Jan 4, 6
Introduction to course; overview of geography and history of ancient Egypt; chronology/periodization; the character and use of textual and archaeological evidence for the study of ancient Egypt.

Week 2  Jan 9
Pre-Dynastic Egypt
Reading: Bard, pp. 84-108; David, pp. 37-64.

Week 2  Jan 11, 13
Early Dynastic Egypt
Reading: Bard, pp. 109-120; David, pp. 64-76.

Week 3  Jan 16, 18, 20 and Week 4  Jan 23
Old Kingdom
Reading: Bard, pp. 121-162; David, pp. 77-136.
Tutorial: Autobiography of Weni: What is the value of this text as a source for (this period of) Old Kingdom Egypt?
- Pyramid texts; ‘Memphite theology’; instruction literature; other tomb autobiographies.

Week 4  Jan 25
FIRST EXAM

Week 4  Jan 27 and Week 5  Jan 30
First Intermediate Period
Reading: Bard, pp. 162-166; David, pp. 137-148.
Tutorial: The Admonitions of Ipuwer: How does this text represent the First Intermediate Period? (Assume for this purpose that the text is reflecting on this period.)
- The Prophecy of Neferti: The legitimization of a usurper
- Autobiography of Ankhtifi

Week 5  Feb 1, 3 and Week 6  Feb 6
Middle Kingdom
Reading: Bard, pp. 167-194; David, pp. 148-177.
Tutorial: The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant: What does this text inform us about Middle kingdom values and bureaucracy?
- Loyalist instruction; Building inscription of Sesostris I; Stela of Intef son of Sent
Week 6   Feb 8, 10
Second Intermediate Period
Reading: Bard, pp. 195-206; David, pp. 170-211.
Tutorial: The Kamose Stele: What information can we extract from this text regarding the Second Intermediate Period and the transition to the New Kingdom?

Week 7   Feb 13, 15
New Kingdom I
Reading: Bard, pp. 207-262; David, pp. 212-291.
Tutorial: Obelisk Inscriptions of Queen Hatsepsut: Representation of a Female Pharaoh

Week 7   Feb 17
SECOND EXAM

Week 8   Feb 20, 22, 24 and   Week 9   Feb 27
New Kingdom II
Reading: Bard, pp. 207-262; David, pp. 212-291.
Tutorial: Aten Hymns: Theology of a ‘New’ Religion  
    Amarna Letters: A Troubled Empire?  
    The Battle of Qadesh: Image of the Pharaoh and Propaganda

Week 9   Feb 29, March 2 and   Week 10   March 5
Third Intermediate Period and Late Period
Reading: Bard, pp. 263-288; David, 292-317.
Tutorial: The Story of Wenanum: Changing fortunes in international relations.  
    Victory Stele of King Piye: Its significance as both an historical source and propaganda piece.  
    Statue Inscription of Udjahorresne: A collaborator’s testament?

Week 10   March 7, 9
Greco-Roman Egypt
Reading: Bard, pp. 289-321; David, pp. 318-344.
Tutorial: Apuleius’ Hymn to Isis: To what extent is Apuleius’ Isis an Egyptian Goddess?

Week 10   March 12
THIRD EXAM

Exam Week
PAPER DUE. Question: Outline the continuities and changes in mortuary practices and beliefs in ancient Egypt from pre-dynastic times until the end of the New Kingdom. To what extent do these signify changes in Egyptian culture and society?
WEB RESOURCES
Just to remind you, the WWW is not edited by anyone so all sorts of nonsense manages to get posted on it. Ancient Egypt fares pretty badly on this score. It’s important to consult reputable sites for information. You can normally trust site that have /.edu/ in the address since these are educational institutions. Here are a few good sites to get you going:

http://www.newton.cam.ac.uk/egypt/index.html
(The site is the most important starting point for all matters Egyptological. It’s based at Cambridge University)

http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/menu.html
(The British Museum in London has an excellent web site. Do check it out!)

http://www.emuseum.gov.eg/home.html
(The Cairo Museum in Egypt is also an excellent site)

http://academic.memphis.edu/egypt/about.html
(The Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology at the University of Memphis has an interesting site. You should look at the ‘tour’ they offer at http://academic.memphis.edu/egypt/egypt.html)

BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY


