

CULTURES & CONTEXTS
EGYPT OF THE PHARAOHS: THE NEW KINGDOM
CORE-UA.545 – Fall 2021



Lecture and Recitation Sections:

-001	Lecture	MW 3:30 PM-4:45 PM	5 Washington Pl. 101	Ann Macy Roth
-002	Recitation	T 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Tisch LC 3	Danielle Zwang
-003	Recitation	T 9:30AM – 10:45AM	Tisch LC 7	Elizabeth McGovern
-004	Recitation	T 12:30 PM – 1:45AM	Bobst LL 142	Elizabeth McGovern
-005	Recitation	T 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Bobst LL 145	Danielle Zwang

Course Faculty:

Professor: Ann Macy Roth – ann.macy.roth@nyu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays 2:00 – 3:15 pm & Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:15 pm, and by appointment

Office Location: Silver 303-A8 (in the Grey Art Library); Office Telephone: (212) 998-8991

Section Instructor, Sections 3 & 4: Elizabeth Feery McGovern – eaf295@nyu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm, and by appointment

Office Location: Silver 303-A8 (in the Grey Art Library); Office Telephone: (212) 998-8991

Section Instructor, Sections 2 & 5: Danielle Zwang – dmzvang@gmail.com

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:00 – 3:15 PM and by appointment

Office Location: Silver 303-A8 (in the Grey Art Library); Office Telephone: (212) 998-8991

Course Description:

This course will introduce the culture of ancient Egypt in the New Kingdom period, 1550-1069 BCE. During this time of imperial conquest, the ancient Egyptian civilization, already more than sixteen centuries old, increasingly interacted with the peoples and civilizations beyond its borders. The course will examine the remains of this newly cosmopolitan pharaonic culture, through a variety of primary sources—texts (literature, popular stories, religious writings, letters, and administrative documents), as well as material culture (works of art, architecture, archaeological remains). It will follow the arguments scholars use to reconstruct New Kingdom cultural life using this evidence, and students will use these methods themselves to gain insight into the Egyptians' religious beliefs, social forms and organizations, and the conventions and achievements of their literature, art, and architecture. In addition, students will critically evaluate the interpretations and reconstructions in the secondary scholarship.

Course Aims:

By the end of the course, students should be familiar with ancient Egyptian civilization in the New Kingdom, including the outline of its history, its social forms and organizations, the basic tenets of its religious and cosmological beliefs, and the conventions and achievements of its literature, art, and architecture. Moreover, students will understand how scholars have used the remains of the long-vanished culture to reconstruct it. They will be able to employ these methods to analyze texts and artifacts themselves, to construct and present analyses based on written and material sources, and to argue for their conclusions.

Course Requirements and Grading:

All grades will be assigned on a 100 point scale and calculated according to the weight of the grade. The scale is given at the end of the syllabus for your reference, along with details on the course policies. Students are expected to attend all lectures and do all assigned readings, which will average around 100 pages per week, including readings assigned by your section instructor.

Attendance (5%): You will be asked to sign an attendance sheet for each lecture. Initially, your grade is 100%. Once your unexcused absences have exceeded a (low) threshold, your *total* absences will be multiplied by 5% and subtracted from this. So, eight unexcused absences gives you a grade of 60% in this category.

Section Grade (15%): This grade will be assigned by your section instructor, based on section attendance and participation and completion of section assignments. See the section syllabus for details.

Midterm Exam (15%): There will be a midterm exam given in class on **Monday, October 18**. It will include both objective and essay components, and it will cover material from the readings, lectures, and sections up to that point. **DO NOT** miss this class session: Make-up exams can only be taken with a verified medical excuse approved by Prof. Roth.

Final Exam (30%): A final exam, of the same format as the Midterm Exam but slightly longer, will be given in our regular classroom on **Monday, December 20, 2021, 4 PM – 5:50 PM**. This is the scheduled exam time for this class, and it cannot be changed. As with the Midterm Exam, any make-ups must be approved by the instructor, and they will only be approved for a very pressing, usually medical, reason. **DO NOT** make airline reservations to leave town before the exam. This will not be regarded as a valid reason to take the exam early.

Essays (35%): You will be asked to write four short essays on assigned topics, due **September 27, October 25, November 17, and December 8**. The first essay will be 1000 words and worth 5% of your grade; the remaining essays will be 1800–2000 words, and each will be worth 10% of your grade.

Spelling, grammar, writing style, organization, and argumentation are important for these essays. Your section instructors will help you with the analysis necessary. Brief summaries of these assignments are given at the end of this syllabus, but the full descriptions of the assignment, as well as suggestions for choosing topics and additional materials where relevant, will be posted on the BrightSpace Course Site Assignments page.

Required Books:

Lichtheim: *Ancient Egyptian Literature* – Volume 2. This book may be purchased used in local bookstores, or downloaded from the net (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/j.ctt1ppr00>; you may need to log in to NYU to download.) There is a newer edition that combines all three editions, and has slightly different page numbers but is otherwise identical. For this reason, I have given an abbreviated title of the works in parentheses after the page numbers in the assignments.

Hatshepsut: *Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh*, a 2005 exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Available for free download at:

http://metmuseum.org/art/metpublications/Hatshepsut_From_Queen_to_Pharaoh

Amarna: *Royal Women of Amarna*, a 2005 exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Available for free download at:

http://metmuseum.org/art/metpublications/The_Royal_Women_of_Amarna_Images_of_Beauty_from_Ancient_Egypt

PDFs: Many additional readings will be posted on the BrightSpace site for download. These PDFs will be grouped by week under Content/Readings, with short comments appearing in the description of the weeks' readings. The file titles of these readings begin with the author's name(s). Full citations in the order of the reading assignments will be given in a bibliography posted on BrightSpace: Content/Weekly Readings, although this bibliography is still under construction. Some of the later readings are also not yet posted.

Note: Other Reading Assignments may be assigned for your sections, from Lichtheim, the catalogues, or as PDFs.

Schedule of Lectures & Reading Assignments

Week 1: Classes start Thursday, so no classes this week

Week 2:

Monday, September 6 – No Class – Labor Day

Wednesday, September 8: Introduction and the Egyptian Landscape

PDF: Manley 18-19

Week 3:

Monday, September 13: Egyptian Writing and Texts

Lichtheim 168-178 (pLansing, pChester Beatty IV); PDFs: McDowell Education;

Fischer Reversals (3-8); Wimmer Hieroglyphs; Manley 32-33

Wednesday, September 15: Egyptian Literature I and Analyzing Egyptian Texts

Lichtheim 135-162 (Any, Amenemope), 21-24 (Installation of the Vizier); PDF: Isis & the Secret Name; Manley 56-57

Week 4:

Monday, September 20: Art and Artistic Conventions

Manley 82-83; PDFs: Baines Status & Purpose; Brunner-Traut Aspective; Freed Pharaonic Art

Wednesday, September 22: Gender in Ancient Egypt

Lichtheim 203-211 (Two Brothers) 81-16 (Osiris Hymn), 181-193 (Love Songs); PDFs: Roth Gender; McDowell Family; Robins Dress Undress

Week 5:

Monday, September 27: Egyptian Literature II and New Kingdom History – **Essay #1 due**

Lichtheim 12-21 (Abana Paheri); PDF: Kessler NK Political History; Manley 66-67; Simpson Apophis & Sekenenre; Simpson Kamose Texts

Wednesday, September 29: Egyptian Conceptions of Kingship and Political Organization

Lichtheim 214-223 (Horus & Seth); PDF: Hornung Pharaoh, Schneider Sacred Kingship

Week 6:

Monday, October 4: Egyptian Administration and Economy

PDFs: Pardey Administration; Gutgesell Strauss-Seeber Economy/Agriculture

Wednesday, October 6: Egyptian Kings I: Hatshepsut

Hatshepsut 8-14, 87-91, 135-189; PDFs: Hatshepsut Coronation; Hatshepsut Obelisk

Week 7:

Monday, October 11 – No Class – Fall Break

Tuesday, October 12 – *Legislative Day, Monday Schedule*: Egyptian Kings II: Thutmose III

Lichtheim 29-43 (T III, Annals, Poetical Stela; All Sphinx); 351-355, 25-44; Hatshepsut 49-82, 101-2; PDF: Simpson Joppa, Manley 66-75

Wednesday, October 13: Egyptian Kings III: Amenhotep III (½ Guest Lecture by Ms Zwang)

Lichtheim 43-48 (A III Building Stela), others TBA

Week 8:

Monday, October 18: **Midterm Exam**

Wednesday, October 20: Egyptian Religion I: Gods

Lichtheim 86-89, 100-116 (Hymns); PDFs: Goerg Gods & Deities; Teeter: Religion; The Book of the Heavenly Cow

Week 9:

Monday, October 25: Egyptian Religion II: Cosmology – **Essay #2 due**

PDFs: Burkard Conceptions of the Cosmos; Hornung Non-existence

Wednesday, October 27: Egyptian Religion III: Temples of the New Kingdom

PDF: Schultz Sourouzian Temples; Snape NK Temples; Willetner Festivals
http://osirisnet.net/tombes/pharaons/e_pharaons_vok.htm (T IV and A III)

Week 10:

Monday, November 1: Egyptian Religion IV: Mortuary Religion & The Book of the Dead
Lichtheim 119-132; PDFs: Assmann Death; BD Chapters; Faulkner BD
Sampler

Wednesday, November 3: Theban Tomb Chapel Paintings

PDF: Kampp-Seyfried Private Tombs; http://osirisnet.net/tombes/nobles/e_nobles.htm

Week 11:

Monday, November 8: Clothing in Tomb Paintings (Guest Lecture by Dr McGovern)
Readings TBA

Wednesday, November 10: Egyptian Kings V(a): Akhenaton and his Religious Revolution
Lichtheim 89-100 (Aten Hymns), 48-57 (Amarna Boundary Stela); Amarna 3-15

Week 12:

Monday, November 15: Egyptian Kings V(b): Akhenaton: his Art and his City
Amarna 17-83 PDFs: Manley 80-81; PDF: Freed Art in the Service of Religion
Explore: <http://www.amarnaproject.com/>;

Wednesday, November 17: The Tomb of Tutankhamun – *Essay #3 due*

PDF: Carter; Explore: <http://www.griffith.ox.ac.uk/discoveringTut/>

Week 13:

*Monday, November 22: Egyptian Kings VI: Ramesses II and Ramesses II
Lichtheim 52-72 (Seti I, Kadesh), 224-230 (Wenamun); PDF Simpson Bentresh;
Murnane MH Temple Proper; Murnane MH War Reliefs; Manley 92-92, 96-101

*Wednesday, November 24: The Valley of the Kings

PDF: Seidel Valley of the Kings; McDowell Work Epilogue;

explore: http://osirisnet.net/tombes/pharaons/e_pharaons_vok.htm (KV 16, 9, 19)
and <http://www.thebanmappingproject.com/> (Atlas of the Valley of the Kings)

Week 14:

Monday, November 29: Houses and Palaces

PDF Endruweit Houses Cities Palaces; Manley 78-79, 94-95

Wednesday, December 1: Deir el-Medina I: the Town and the Cemetery

Manley 84-91; PDF: McDowell Intro; http://osirisnet.net/tombes/artisans/e_artisans.htm

Week 15:

Monday, December 6: Deir el-Medina II: Village Life & Religion – *Essay #4 Due*

PDFs: ; McDowell Religion; McDowell Daily Life; McDowell Law

Wednesday, December 8: Deir el-Medina III: the Artists & their Art

PDF: Romer Painters

Week 16:

Monday, December 13: The Afterlife of the New Kingdom

PDF: Schulz Travelers & Scholars

Final Exam: Monday, December 20, 2021, 4 PM – 5:50 PM; Do not plan to leave NYC before the final.

Policies:

Attendance at lectures and sections is required. If students find it necessary to be absent, they must present documented excuses. A very small (and undisclosed) number of absences will be allowed before a grade is affected, but if there is a good (i.e., medical or similarly dire) reason for your absence, you would be better off documenting it. This documentation should be shown to your section instructor, if a recitation section was missed, or to the instructor, if a lecture was missed.

Students are responsible for the material and information presented in lectures and sections, whether they are present or not. PowerPoints will *not* be made available, although individual slides can be posted if students request it.

Students are expected to show consideration for their fellow students (and the faculty!) in lectures and sections. All cell phones and pagers should be turned OFF during *all* your classes. Lectures may *not* be recorded; if you are taking notes on a computer during a PowerPoint presentation, sit at the back of the class so the light from your screen does not prevent the students behind you from seeing the slides. (Note: NO electronics will be allowed in discussion sections.) You should not eat or drink in class or anywhere inside a university building, per Covid rules. You should not leave trash on the floor or the seats. This should all be obvious.

Essays will not be accepted after the due date without excellent excuses. Extensions will not be granted unless there are genuinely exceptional circumstances that warrant them. (Poor planning and last-minute illnesses are not, alas, exceptional.) If you see an exceptional circumstance on the horizon, e-mailing your section instructor or professor about it *before* the paper is late (or the exam is missed) will make the acceptance of your excuse more likely.

Papers may be submitted for comments in advance of the due date. Papers may be submitted to Prof. Roth or your section instructor at least a week before the paper is due. Note that your paper will not necessarily be graded by the same person who offered preliminary comments, and therefore that fixing the flaws pointed out does not necessarily guarantee you an A (or even a B), although it will almost certainly improve your grade.

The grade of A is given only for papers and exams that exceed the requirements of the assignment and begin to approach perfection in content and presentation. If you feel a grade is unfair and would like to re-submit the paper or exam to Prof. Roth, be aware that your grade can be lowered as well as raised.

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. They will result in a significant reduction of the grade and they will be reported to the deans, as the faculty handbook requires. In extreme cases, students will fail the course. Students are strongly advised to avoid even the appearance of cheating during exams and to be extremely careful about their use of sources. Changing around the words of a source does *not* “make it your own.”

NYU Grading Scale:

89-87 = B+	79-77 = C+	69-66 = D+
100-95 = A	86-83 = B	76-73 = C
94-90 = A-	82-80 = B-	65-63 = D
		72-70 = C-
		62-60 = F

Outline of Assignments: These are very summary descriptions of the short essay assignments that will be required for this class. You will be given much more guidance in handouts that will describe the required format and suggest more specific topics and organization.

Essay #1 – (1000 words) – The Basics of Egyptian Culture

Due September 27th

In a very brief essay, discuss the triumphal stela of a 19th dynasty king, Merneptah, in terms of the Egyptian cultural concepts introduced during the introductory lectures. Use short excerpts from the text to illustrate some of these concepts. A translation of this monument, the so-called Israel stela, can be found on pp. 73-78 the Lichtheim volume. You will also be provided with a large picture of the stela on the Brightspace site, and information identifying the figures and texts on the lunette.

Essay #2 – (1800-2000 words) – Egyptian-Western Comparison I: Texts

Due October 25th

New Kingdom Egyptian texts sometimes fulfilled purposes that are familiar to western readers: stories entertained, the wisdom of old men advised young men how to succeed in life, hymns extolled the power and mercy of the divine, lovesick poets tried to express their feelings, and official texts made the head of state look good. For this assignment, you are asked to choose an example of these types of literature and to compare it to a corresponding example from a western tradition, pointing out similarities and differences, and discussing what is distinctly Egyptian about the Egyptian example. You will be given a list of likely Egyptian texts and suggestions about where to look for comparative examples.

Essay #3 – (1800-2000 words) – Amarna Epilogues: A Critique

Due November 17th

Readings will be provided from the concluding chapters of four modern Egyptologists who have written extensively on Akhenaton and his religious revolution (Aldred, Redford, Hornung, and Reeves). You have also read several documents from his reign: his boundary stela inscription and several hymns to his new, possibly monotheistic, sun god. Your essay will be a brief critique of one or more of these authors, using the evidence of the texts and your basic knowledge of the period (from readings and lectures).

Essay #4 – (1800-2000 words) – Egyptian-Western Comparison II: Art & Artifacts

Due December 8th

Like texts, objects created by the New Kingdom Egyptians are often similar in the purpose or function to those used in western cultures. As with the texts, a comparison of similar objects can be used to bring out the distinctive characteristics of Egyptian culture. To do this assignment, you will choose an object from the Egyptian galleries at the Metropolitan Museum and an object with the same function in the from a western culture and write a comparison of the two objects, explaining what their differences tell you about the differences in culture. (Suggestions about possible pairings will be given.)