

College of Charleston
SOCIAL HISTORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT

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History 270.080
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Tue., Thurs. 4:00-6:45 p.m., LCTR B08

Course Description: This course deals specifically with the life of the common man and woman in Egyptian society from the Old Kingdom through the Ptolemaic Period (c. 2600-30 BC). Topics are arranged conceptually (not chronologically) to provide insight into Egyptian social institutions and the solutions that the Egyptians devised to cope with life and its uncertainties. Subjects include language and writing (including elementary lessons in reading and writing Egyptian hieroglyphs), the decipherment of hieroglyphs, the educational system and issue of literacy, structure of society, the role of social initiation, economic structures and institutions, types of occupations and labor conditions, social advancement, function and practice of religion, medicine and medical magic, role and status of women in society (motherhood, marriage), love and sex, games and recreation, and conceptions of drama.

Course Requirements

Term Paper: Due: Feb. 18. Students are required to complete a term paper (**6-7 pages**) on a topic of their choice related to the subject of the class. They should consult the extensive course bibliography to identify a suitable topic, then confer with the instructor to ensure feasibility. All topics must be approved *in advance* by the instructor (i.e., before the student has actually begun to write the paper). The specific requirements are located below under "Paper Requirements." *Completion of the term paper is required to pass this course.*

Examinations: This course includes a midterm and a final examination, each containing objective questions and essays drawn from the lectures and readings, and videos. The final examination will be in the form of a take-home exam.

Reading Quizzes: Two quizzes on the class readings will be administered in this course, one prior to the midterm, the other after. The date of each quiz is noted in the section, "Reading Assignments and Course Schedule," below.

Reading-Assignment Schedule: See "Reading Assignments"-page on the course Web pages for the schedule of assigned readings, examinations, and other important dates:

<http://www.cofc.edu/~piccione/nehist270/nehist270papers.html>

The class will adhere to this course schedule. Even if we do not complete a particular unit in class on the date specified, we may move on to the next unit, and students will be responsible for the full material through the readings. The instructor still reserves the right to alter the schedule of lectures, discussions, and reading assignments at any time.

Attendance Policy: Discussion figures prominently in the class-program; hence, participation in discussions will constitute a significant percentage of the course grade. Although attendance will be taken regularly, it will not constitute a *formal* factor in the course grade. On the other hand, if students are not present, they cannot participate in class discussions. Students are responsible for all the material in the readings, lectures, discussions, and videos, whether they are present or not. Makeup exams are

never given. However, if students present a valid medical excuse through the Office of Undergraduate Studies, they will be permitted to complete a comparable research paper to make up for the lost grade. This assignment will not be easy or convenient, so be sure to attend all examinations.

Course Textbooks

The required textbooks for this course are:

Brewer, D. and E. Teeter. *Egypt and the Egyptians*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Parkinson, R. B. *Voices from Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Middle Kingdom Writings*. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991.

Simpson, W. K., R. O. Faulkner and E. F. Wente. *The Literature of Ancient Egypt*. Revised edition. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Web Sources and Library Reserve Readings: The required reading assignments for this course also include specialized articles and monographs pertaining to life and society in ancient Egypt. Multiple photocopies of these are placed on Reserve in the Library. These copies are the personal property of the instructor. Please treat them well. Other class readings are digitized and located on the Web Pages of the course (see the URL above), which students can download and print for reading and study. The location of each reading is noted in the “Reading Assignments”-schedule below which will be updated regularly in the course’s Web Pages. Consult the Web pages on a regular basis.

Grading Policy

Final course-grades will be constituted according to the following formula: quizzes 10%, mid-term exam 25%, term paper 25%, final exam 25%, class participation 15%. Grades in this course are issued according to the following numerical scale: A = 92-100; B+ = 87-91 [very good]; B = 82-86 [good]; C+ = 77-81 [above average]; C = 72-76 [average]; D = 60-71 [poor]; F = 0-59 [failure].

Paper Requirements

Term Paper. Due date: February 18. Topic: Choose a specific topic within the subject of Egyptian social history, economics, or some aspect of life of the common folk. To determine a specific topic, first should consult the extensive course bibliography among the course Web pages to identify possible topics, then confer with the instructor to ensure their feasibility. All topics must be approved in advance by the instructor before beginning to write the paper. Papers not approved in advance will not be accepted. *Completion of the term paper is required to pass the course.* **Paper length: 6-7 pages.**

Late Policy. Late papers will be penalized 5 points for each day late (including Saturdays), up to three days, after which they receive an automatic failure. All papers must be submitted *in person* to the instructor; failing that, they may be submitted to the History Department (Maybank 315), where the departmental administrators will certify and date-stamp their arrival.

Submission of Early Drafts. Students are strongly encouraged to submit a preliminary draft of their essay and paper to the instructor for comment. The instructor will review it to ensure clarity, direction,

and adherence to format. *The draft will not be graded.* Students should submit a draft not later than two (2) weeks before the paper's deadline.

Form and Format. All papers should be submitted in paper format only. Please do not submit term papers electronically on disk or through e-mail, since formatting changes can occur when transferring files between computers. See "Paper Requirements"-link on the course Web pages:

(<http://www.cofc.edu/~piccione/nehist270/papers.html>)

for detailed information, advice, and suggestions on form, format, and grading criteria for the term paper

IMPORTANT!! Papers should contain 1-inch margins on all sides, top and bottom. They should be typed or printed double space in a 12-point type. The term paper must include citations, such as: footnotes or endnotes plus a separate "Bibliography." *The cover page and the bibliography do not count toward the required number of pages.*

In the preparation and execution of all essays and papers for the class, students are required to follow the format presented by **Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996)**, especially in regard to the style of block quotations, footnotes, and bibliographies. Look over Chapters 8-10 on how to cite references and their formats. Choose the type of reference you want: footnotes or endnotes (+ "Bibliography"). Read Chapter 11 (pp. 185-213) to compare their forms and styles:

foot/endnote style: "N" bibliographical style "B"

Use the bibliographical style found only in Turabian, pp. 280-281 (*but not pp. 278-279!*).

Note: students should not employ "parenthetical references" ("PR") and "reference list" ("RL") for any paper or essay in this course, nor may they--under any circumstances--may use the MLA style of notes and references. All papers must have a separate cover page, although students need not follow Turabian closely on the format of this page.

Do not employ the MLA style in writing your history papers.
Do not put references in parentheses at the ends of sentences.

Execution. As a rule of thumb, do not quote class-lecture notes in your paper. If you wish to quote material mentioned in class, you must find it in published sources among the course readings and quote from there. If you cannot find any source among the readings, see the instructor for advice. Please feel free to consult the instructor at any time for advice on preparing the paper. Alternatively, students may consult writing counselors in the Writing Lab, Rm. 216 Education Center (<http://www.cofc.edu/~csl/>).

Form and spelling are factors in grading the paper. If you are uncertain of your spelling, use a dictionary or a spell-check program. **Proofread your paper before submitting it, and make any final corrections cleanly in ink, if necessary!!** *Why the emphasis on form?* A research paper is a means of communication. The purpose of any paper is to convey an argument as logically as possible according to standards of form that facilitate its communicative function. Form is not merely format and correct spelling; it also includes the logical arrangement of an argument and the rational ordering of historical and textual data to support a particular historical interpretation. Poor form can impede the communication of a valid point of view. When a paper cannot communicate due to a lapse of form, it has failed in its purpose.

Using the World Wide Web for Researching the Paper

Students should confine the bulk of their research to printed publications. They may use the World Wide Web selectively to help research the paper topic. However, there is a great deal of trash on the Web that does not conform to modern academic standards. The World Wide Web contains four types of materials pertaining to the ancient Near East:

1. primary sources, i.e. editions of original ancient inscriptions translated and presented by reputable scholars, often used as classroom resources on the Web;
2. original archaeological reports and field data by archaeologists and bona fide researchers;
3. synthetical studies and essays prepared by Egyptologists and Assyriologists (often as Web versions of reputable printed publications);
4. materials, idiosyncratic essays, and polemical tracts of uneven and inconsistent quality, prepared by non-professionals, dilettantes, radical Afro-centrists, and self-proclaimed prophets of the New Age revelation.

Sadly, this latter Assyrio-Egypto-crypto-trash [no. 4] constitutes the bulk of Egyptological and Assyriological materials on the Web.

As of now, there very few peer-reviewed professional--specifically Near Eastern--journals published on the Web. Publicly available primary sources on the Web [no. 1] are usually out of copyright and obsolete translations superceded by modern translations in print. For the purposes of this course, students are permitted to quote from these, *but only with the approval of the instructor and only if the texts are not available in print!* Because Near Eastern secondary sources on the Web are rarely peer-reviewed, students may quote from [nos. 2 & 3] *but only after consulting with the course instructor on each source!* Web pages for [nos. 1 - 3] are usually identifiable by the domain-markers ".edu" or ".ac" in their Web addresses, and sometimes also by ".org" (denoting educational or charitable organizations).

Students may freely consult these Web pages in their research to identify issues and research direction or printed sources of data. **However, under no circumstances may students quote from the unprofessional Assyrio-Egypto-crypto-bilge [no. 4]** (usually identifiable by the domain-marker ".com" in their Web addresses). If in doubt about the appropriateness of any research source--either on the Web or in print--please feel free to consult the instructor. He will be happy to examine or discuss individual Web sites with you.

Students should *never* quote from any *encyclopedias*, whether from the Web or in paper format.

Policy on Plagiarism, Cheating, and Disruptive Behavior

As you prepare the term paper for this course, be careful not plagiarize any of your sources. Any plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, whether blatant or merely inappropriate paraphrasing, will not be tolerated. If you have any questions as you prepare your assignments, please feel free to ask the advice of the instructor. **If in doubt about anything, quote it--even indirect quotations!** The Honor Code of the College of Charleston strictly prohibits plagiarism, cheating, and attempted cheating. A student committing these offenses will be reported to the Honor Board and will fail the course. Additional

penalties may include suspension or expulsion from the college at the discretion of the Honor Board. See the *College of Charleston Student Handbook*, p. 11 for definitions of these offenses: (<http://www.cofc.edu/student-life/handbook/handbook02-03.pdf>). For examples of proper and improper quoting and paraphrasing, see also "A Guide to Freshman English": (<http://www.cofc.edu/~english/Guide.html>).

Students are reminded that eating, drinking, and smoking are prohibited in the classrooms of the College of Charleston. Students may not make or receive cellular telephone calls or accept electronic pages during the class period. Turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc. at the start of class. **Anytime a cell phone or pager goes off in class, it will result in a 3-point grade reduction for the student.** The classroom is an inappropriate venue for reading newspapers, personal grooming (such as combing hair, applying makeup, etc.), or even sleeping (.

Reading Assignments and Course Schedule

Note: The course readings listed below consist of the textbooks and readers, as well as assorted readings to be found in the following locations: on Reserve in the campus Library (marked **Rs**); on the Reference shelves in the Library Reference Room (marked **Ref**); on the course's own Web Pages available for downloading (marked **W**) under the link named, "Reading Assignments," URL: http://www.cofc.edu/~piccione/hist_270/hist270assign.html. The full bibliographical citations of all the readings in the listing are found in the course bibliography located on the course's Web pages.

Most of the Web-based readings are in HTML-format. Others might be in PDF-format. To download and open the PDF-files, students need the program *Adobe Acrobat Reader*® resident on their computers and installed as a plug-in to their Web browser. This program is freely available for downloading and installing from the College of Charleston's Web page, "Software Depot," at the following address: <http://www.cofc.edu/technology/depot.html>.

Abbreviations of Reading-List Citations (for "Lectures and Reading Assignments")

- ANET* Pritchard, James. B., editor. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Related to the Old Testament*, 3rd ed.. Princeton. Princeton University Press, 1969.
- AEL* Lichtheim, Miriam. *Ancient Egyptian Literature: A Book of Readings*. Vol. 1, *The Old and Middle Kingdoms*. Vol. 2, *The New Kingdom*. Vol. 3, *The Late Period*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1975, 1976, 1980.
- CANE* Sasson, Jack M., editor-in-chief. *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. Four volumes. New York: Scribner, 1995 onward.

Class will adhere to the following assignment and lecture schedule. If we do not complete a unit in class on the date specified, we must move on to the next unit, and students will be responsible for the full material through the readings. The instructor reserves the right to alter the schedule of lectures, discussions, video presentations, and reading assignments, quizzes, exams and presentation at any time.

Schedule:

Week 1: January 9
Introduction

Week 2: January 14
Nile Valley and the Development of Culture

Brewer-Teeter, *Egypt and the Egyptians*, 16-26;
W/Rs [Kees, "The Countryside," sects. A-B, including: "The Nile and the Seasons," "Irrigation and Soil," 47-61 \(click to open\);](#)
Parkinson, *Voices*, 36-37, 81-84, 101-107 [nos. 3, 22-25, 34]
W ["Hymn to the Nile Inundation" \(click to open\).](#)
(1/15) Drop/Add Deadline

January 16

Synopsis of Egyptian History
Brewer-Teeter, *Egypt and the Egyptians*, 27-51;
Ref Kitchen, "The Chronology of Ancient Egypt," in *Anchor Bible Dictionary*.
Simpson et al., *Literature*, 81-84.

Week 3: January 21

Egyptian Language and Writing
Brewer-Teeter, *Egypt and the Egyptians*, 110-124;
Rs Gardiner, "Introduction," in A. H. Gardiner, *Egyptian Grammar*, 5-24c;
Parkinson, *Voices*, 13-27.

January 23

Literacy, Scribal Training and Social Advancement
W Baines, "Literacy, Social Organization, and the Archaeological Record: the Case of Early Egypt," 193-209;
W Baines and Eyre, "Four Notes on Literacy," 65-91;
Parkinson, *Voices*, 76-78, 90-95, 148-160 [nos. 18-19, 29-30, 60];
W Williams, "Scribal Training in Ancient Egypt," 214-21.

Week 4: January 28

Egyptian Society and Class Structure
Brewer-Teeter, *Egypt and the Egyptians*, 69-83, 95-109;
Parkinson, *Voices*, 99-107, 111-112 [nos. 33-34, 38];
Simpson et al., *Literature*, 159-179; 198-200; 241-265; 329-326
Reading Quiz #1

January 30

Economic Structures: Government and Temple Administrations
W Janssen, "The Role of the Temple in the Egyptian Economy during the New Kingdom";
Ref Leprohon, "Royal Ideology and State Administration in Pharaonic Egypt," in *CANE* 1, 273-287;
Rs/W Lichtheim, *AEL* 1, 28;
Ref Pritchard, *ANET*, 212, ("A Royal Decree");
W "Nauri Decree of Seti I".
Rs/W Wentz, *Letters from Ancient Egypt*, __.
(1/30) Last day to withdraw with grade of "W"

Week 5: February 4**Status of Women, Love and Marriage**

- W** Bryan, B. "The Evidence for Female Literacy from Theban Tombs of the New Kingdom," 17-32;
- W** Gaballa, "The Legal Text," 22-25;
- W** Meinardus, "Mythological, Historical and Sociological Aspects of the Practice of Female Circumcision among the Egyptians," 387-395;
- Parkinson, *Voices*, 107-110 [nos. 35-36];
- Simpson et al., *Literature*, 296-306;
- W** Ward, "The Egyptian Economy and Non-royal Women: Their Status in Public Life" [located on the World WideWeb];
- Rs/W** Wentz, "A Husband to His Deceased Wife (letter)," Papyrus Leiden I.371, 216-217.

February 6**Sexual Attitudes and Mores**

- W** Manniche, "Some Aspects of Ancient Egyptian Sexual Life," 11-23;
- W** Parkinson, "'Homosexual Desire' and Middle Kingdom Literature," 57-76;
- Parkinson, *Voices*, 54-56 [no. 11];
- Simpson et al., *Literature*, 315-323 [stanzas no. 31-40].

Midterm Examination (60 mins.)

Week 6: February 11**Medicine, Medical Practices and Obstetrics**

- W** Ghalioungui, "Medicine in Ancient Egypt," 52-79;
- Parkinson, *Voices*, 78-79, 129-130, 142-143 [nos. 20, 49, 55-56]
- W** Walker, "The Place of Magic in the Practice of Medicine in Ancient Egypt," 85-95

Reading Quiz #2

Week 7: February 18**Religion: Athletics, Games and Sports, and Drama**

- Brewer-Teeter, *Egypt and the Egyptians*, 84-94;
- Rs** Piccione, "The Gaming Episode in the Tale of Setne Khamwas As Religious Metaphor," 197-204;
- Rs** Piccione, "Sportive Fencing as a Ritual for Destroying the Enemies of Horus," 335-49.
- Parkinson, *Voices*, 40-43, 124-125 [nos. 5, 45];
- W** Ramesseum Papyrus, "Rites of Horus of Letopolis;"
- Rs/W** *Herodotus*, Book II, "Festival of Ares at Papremis;"

***** Term paper due February 18 (at start of class) *****

February 20

Last Day of Class: Course Summation

February 25

Final Examination: 4:00-6:45 pm