

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
Ancient Egyptian Medicine and Medical Practice

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History 370.01

Fall 2011

Time: T, Th 12:15-1:30 pm, Maybank 306

Course Web Page: URL <http://www.cofc.edu/~piccione/history370/>

Username: **+++++++** Password: **+++++++** (necessary for accessing reading assignments and images)

A copy of this syllabus is also located on the class Web pages, and students should consult it regularly for any changes in the reading and assignment schedule.

Course Description: This upper-level lecture and discussion course explores the role of medicine in ancient Egyptian society. Through an understanding of the Egyptian healing arts and their social aspects, we comprehend the ancient Egyptians' views toward health and the nature of the human organism and its place in the cosmos. This course sets the practice of Egyptian medicine within the ancient Egyptian ethos and world-view, placing it within the framework of Egyptian cosmology, standards of morality and magico-religious beliefs. The focus of this course is the essential nature of Egyptian healing in which deep seated religious notions and so-called magical practices wholly integrated with empirico-rational approaches to form an integrated but multi-faceted medical therapy.

Topics of study include: the fusion of magical and rational therapies; the theoretical bases of disease, both divine and physical; Egyptian therapeutical practices and techniques, including, the nature of surgery, surgical tools, and the uses of trepanation; medical specializations; pharmacology and pharmacopoeia; mummification; the influence of Egyptian medicine and pharmacology on the Greeks; the background and training of the Egyptian physician and his role as physician-priest, the issue of female physicians, and the existence of sanatoria, i.e., Egyptian temples as centers for medical treatment and pilgrimage.

The course will pay special attention to the practice of magical medicine, the ancient Egyptian medical papyri, their form and content, and what these indicate about the Egyptian approach to treatment, to women's health, including gynaecological and obstetrical practices, and to dentistry and dental therapies. In this regard, students might read translations of the papyri. Finally, the class will examine the techniques and findings of modern palaeopathology, i.e., the pathological study of mummies and ancient human remains. Here the purpose is to determine the general physical condition of the Egyptians, their standards of health, the biological evidence of disease, and causes of death--all through the use of forensics, X-ray, Computer-aided Tomography (CT scanning), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), molecular biology (e.g., DNA cloning), etc.

Course Requirements

Panel Symposium on Medicine and Pathology in Ancient Egypt: The final project is a student symposium held in the last four weeks of the term beginning November 3. Students will form panels of 5-6 students each and present written studies to the class on the various medical and religious issues in ancient Egyptian medicine, medical practice, etc. Each panel will focus on a different issue, specialization or related pathology from the perspectives of both the textual and archaeological evidence, including the texts, archaeology, and the study of human remains. Each student will draft a 5-6 page white paper on a specific issue that contributes to the panel, and will present that paper to the class as part of the panel's presentations. The specific requirements and late policies are located under the "Symposium Paper"-link on these Web pages. Completion of the presentation and panel white paper is required to pass this course. No student will be exempt from the oral presentation. Assembled panel papers are usually due one week after the classroom presentation.

Reaction Papers: At various intervals in the course, students will be required to write short but informed reaction papers to various assigned readings or videos. These will be enunciated in class and on the "Reading Assignments"-web page.

Examinations: This course includes a midterm exam containing objective questions and essays drawn from the lectures, readings, and videos. There is no final examination. (See "Reading Assignments"-page on the Web for specific time).

Attendance and Participation: Discussion figures prominently in the class-program, and class participation and attendance do constitute a percentage of the course grade. Attendance and participation improve the functioning of the class as well as students' grades. According to College policy, attendance will be taken daily; any and all unexcused absences will result in automatic grade reductions (see below for policies on athletes and consequences on missing 30% or more of classes).

Absences are excused by presenting written documentation to the Office of Associate Dean of Students. Undocumented and self-documented ("self-reported") excuses are not acceptable. Running errands is not a valid excuse. Students are responsible for all the material in the readings, videos, lectures, etc., whether they are present or not in class. Students should never telephone the instructor on the same day to say they will be absent, nor should they ever(!) call the History Department office to report their absence.

If the instructor does not call the daily roll, an attendance sign-in sheet will be circulated. Students are also marked as absent for the following reasons: they do not sign the attendance sheet; they sign the sheet then leave class; they leave class for an inordinate period of time without valid excuse. Any student who leaves class without permission and does not return after taking a quiz or exam will be recounted as absent, and the quiz/exam will receive an automatic failing grade (0 = F).

VERY IMPORTANT: Any students who have missed 30% of class meetings or more, i.e., nine (9) or more individual classes, regardless of whether they have excused absences or not, will be subject to automatic withdrawal from the course by the professor with a grade of WA which computes into the GPA as a grade of "F". Why? Because the professor's lectures contain more materials than are found in the textbook and course readers, and discussion and question-and-answer constitute important parts of the curriculum. If students have missed 30% of lectures, it is clear they are not getting all the materials, and they are not participating in classroom discussions in any significant manner. Therefore, if it is because of a medical reason that any student has missed nine (9) or more classes, he/she should discuss the matter with the professor and consider seeking a medical withdrawal from the course in the Registrar's Office.

Makeup Policy: This course does not regularly provide make-up exams. However, if students present a valid medical excuse documented in writing and processed through the Office of Associate Dean of Students, they will be permitted to complete a comparable written assignment to make up the lost work. This assignment will not be easy nor convenient, and it will be graded with considered attention. Except by special arrangement with the instructor, students have only one (1) week to complete and submit any makeup assignment for a quiz before the grade reverts to zero (unless there is continuing documented illness). It is the responsibility of the student to assume the initiative in pursuing any make-up assignment within that time deadline.

Athletes and Special Needs: Participation in athletic events or practices is NOT(!) a valid excuse to miss quizzes, term-paper due dates, or midterm and final examinations; make-up work will not be granted. When athletes check their schedules of away-games against the course assignment schedule, they must also check the travel schedule for each game. Athletes are responsible for the academic consequences of missing quizzes, exams, and due dates. Any athletes who expect to miss quizzes, or exams should see the professor, and they should very seriously reconsider taking this class.

SNAP-Program students who are enrolled in this class specifically to replace a foreign language requirement should be aware that much of the course's content pertains to ancient foreign languages and words, as well as Egyptian and Mesopotamian terms, expressions personal names, etc.. Students will be evaluated on how well they master these as part of their studies, including correct spelling and pronunciation. If they feel these issues might hinder a successful outcome in this course, then they should see the professor and reconsider the appropriateness of this course for themselves.

Due Dates and Topics: The dates of all assignments, including: readings, exercises, midterm exam, and panel papers, are noted on the "Reading Assignments"-Page.

Course Textbook and Readings

Required textbooks:

Nunn, John F. *Ancient Egyptian Medicine*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996.
 Pinch, Geraldine. *Magic in Ancient Egypt*. Rev. ed. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2010.
 Ghalioungui, Paul. *The Ebers Papyrus: A New English Translation, Commentaries and Glossaries*.
 Cairo: Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, 1987. [Available digitally].

Readings:

A variety of primary sources, monographic extracts and journal articles are also required reading for this course. Most of these readings are available for downloading and printing from the course Web pages or are located on Reserve in the Addlestone Library. Others are located in the journal collections and electronic databases of the library (e.g. Jstore, etc.)

Grading Policy

Final course-grades will be constituted according to the following formula: theme paper 20%, mid-term exam 30%, final examination 30%, class participation and attendance 20%.

According to College policy, the grading scale is as follows: A = 93-100; A- = 91-92; B+ = 88-90; B = 83-87; B- = 81-82; C+ = 78-80; C = 73-77; C- = 71-72; D+ = 68-70; D = 61-67; D- = 60; F = 0-59; WA = administrative withdrawal due to excessive absences (= F); XF = failure due to academic dishonesty.

Paper Requirements

Due dates: Panels begin November 3, 2011 (*See Web pages for dates*)

Panel papers due: One week after each presentation (*see Web pages for dates*)

Length: 5-6 pages each, contributing to 25-30 pages.

Group Project: Panel Symposium on Medicine and Pathology in Ancient Egypt: Students will form panels and present written studies to the class on the subject of ancient Egyptian medicine and medical practice, etc. Each panel will develop an over-arching theme, based on a subject worked out with the professor. Panel members will divide the topic and choose and research the relevant issues or approaches to the topic. Each member will contribute to his/her panel by drafting a 5 to 6-page white paper on their specific issue or dataset that contributes to the whole, and each will present that paper to the class as part of the panel's presentation. The essence of a white paper is that it is an authoritative report, i.e., a research paper reporting on a specific issue or series of related issues. Here they might divide the topic by the type of evidence (e.g., texts, archaeology, palaeopathology, pharmacopoeia, religion and magic, etc.).

Completion of the panel white paper is required to pass this course.

Panel Organization: Each panel will select a chairperson to coordinate the panel's activities. Members of the panels will devise the individual topics or approaches to be included, then assign them among themselves. During each panel's presentation, the chairperson will describe the overall issues and direction of the panel, present the thesis statement or theme, and introduce each white paper. Then each student (including the chair), will present his/her own white paper to the class as part of their panel's program. A question and answer session with the class will follow.

Written Paper: Students will write up their white papers formally under their own names and combine them with the other white papers of their panels into one package (25-30 pages) with **common introductory pages** and a **single comprehensive bibliography** (not included in the 25-30 pages).

Late Policy. Late papers will be penalized 5 points for each day late (including Saturdays), up to three days, after which they will be graded no higher than a 59% (F). Symposium paper packets must be submitted in person to the instructor in a binder or folder; failing that, they may be submitted in person to

the History Department (Maybank 315), where the departmental administrators will certify and date-stamp their arrival. The instructor is not responsible for any papers simply dropped off at his office or shoved under his door. Regrettably, such papers cannot be deemed to have been submitted on time. Note that day 2 and day 3 after the submission date is Thanksgiving holiday, and nobody will be in the History Department to accept your paper.

Form and Format. See "Symposium Paper"-link on course Web pages for full information on formatting requirements, guidelines for form, including writing aids, helpful suggestions, sample paper, paper correction key, historiographical explanations, etc.:

<http://www.cofc.edu/~piccione/history370/hist370papers.html>

Using the World Wide Web for Research

Students should confine the bulk of their research to printed publications, although they may use the World Wide Web selectively to help research the paper topic and to identify valid issues. A great deal of information exists on the Web pertaining to ancient Egypt. However, the Web also houses a whole lot of trash that does not conform to modern academic standards. In general, the World Wide Web contains four types of materials pertaining to Egypt:

1. primary sources, i.e. editions of original Egyptian inscriptions translated and presented by reputable Egyptologists, often used as classroom resources in teaching Egyptology;
2. original archaeological reports and field data by archaeologists and Egyptologists;
3. synthetical reports and essays prepared by Egyptologists (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 Egyptotrash [no. 4] constitutes the bulk of Egyptological materials on the Web.

As of now, very few peer-reviewed professional--specifically Egyptological or Near Eastern--journals are published on the Web (see below). Publicly available primary sources on the Web [no. 1] are usually out of copyright, 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 prior approval of the instructor and only if the texts are not available in print!** You will find all or most of the primary sources you need in Egyptological/Near Eastern literature-anthologies in the College library. Because such 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).

Also, some professional peer-reviewed academic journals do exist on the Web. They are usually Web-versions of paper journals, and they are collected together into archives for easy searching and consultation, such as: Jstore® (<http://www.jstor.org/>), Project Muse™ (<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/>), and Infotrac™ (<http://web7.infotrac.galegroup.com/>). The College of Charleston Library subscribes to many of these archives, and they are found in the College's library catalogue under the heading, "Electronic Journals by Title" (http://www.cofc.edu/library/ej_title.html). **Students do not need the instructor's approval to consult and quote from these electronic journals archived in the College Library catalogue.**

While students can consult Web pages for [nos. 1 - 3] and quote **with prior permission**, under no circumstances may they quote from the unprofessional Egypto-crypto-bilge [no. 4] (usually identifiable by the domain-markers ".com" or ".net" in their Web addresses). **Students should never quote from any world encyclopedias, whether from the Web or in paper medium.** 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 the strengths or weaknesses of individual Web sites with you.

Any papers that contain Web-citations without prior arrangement with the instructor will be reduced in grade five (5) points for each unapproved citation appearing in the paper.

Policy on Plagiarism, Cheating, and Disruptive Behavior

Plagiarism. As you prepare your papers for this course, be careful not plagiarize any of your sources. Plagiarism is copying or paraphrasing the words and ideas of others and passing them off as your own or misleading the reader into thinking that the words and ideas of other writers are your own. Any plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, whether blatant or merely inappropriate paraphrasing, will not be tolerated.

WARNING: Never ever(!) copy and paste from the Internet !!

If you have any questions as you prepare your assignments, please 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. Students found by the instructor to commit these offenses will automatically fail the course with an "F", or else they will be reported to the College Honor Board and receive an "XF"-grade ("Failure due to Dishonesty"), which will appear as such on the college transcript. Additional penalties can include suspension or expulsion, depending on the severity of the plagiarism, as determined by the instructor, the Dean and/or the Honor Board. For definitions of these offenses and explanations of sanctions, see: "The Honor Code," in *College of Charleston Student Handbook*, §9.6-7, pp. 11-12

You are responsible for informing yourself of all definitions and regulations on this subject. Ignorance is not an acceptable excuse before the College Honor Board. Protect yourself; when in doubt, footnote it!

Classroom Behavior. Students are reminded that eating, drinking, and smoking are prohibited in the classrooms of the College of Charleston. The classroom is an inappropriate venue for eating meals, reading newspapers, personal grooming (such as combing hair, applying makeup, etc.), or even sleeping. The instructor reserves the right to expel any student from the classroom for unruly or disruptive behavior, and to contact Campus Police in extreme circumstances.

Electronic Devices in Class. Students may not operate ANY type of personal electronic device in class, especially: *Blackberrys*, *Androids* and *Android*-like devices of any kind, iPods, MP3 players, iPhones, cell phones, smart telephones, cameras of any kind, and any similar devices. Students may not use voice or video recorders of any kind, nor may they record any lectures without the prior authorization of the instructor.

Computers in Class. Students are not normally permitted to employ laptop, hand-held computers, digital notebooks, netbooks, iPads, nor any other electronic computing device in class without prior permission of the instructor. Any student authorized, but who abuses this privilege by engaging in activity unrelated to the class (checking e-mail, messaging, surfing the Web, recording, gaming, etc.), will forfeit permission to use the device in class for the rest of the term and will receive a 3-point reduction in the final course grade.

Cell Phones in Class and Exams. Students may not make or receive cellular telephone calls, podcasts, text messages of any kind, nor accept any electronic pages during the class period. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, iPods, iPads, and all other devices at the start of class.

Each time a cell phone or pager goes off or is activated in class during lectures and discussions, it will result in a 3-point reduction in the final course-grade for the student. However, if a student is found to be texting or receiving a text, it will result in a 5-point reduction in the final course-grade.

Any cell phone, pager or electronic device going off or activated during an exam, in addition to the 3-point course-grade reduction, will also result in a 15-point grade reduction for that exam. Any student found even handling a cell phone or electronic device, texting or receiving a text, during an exam will be considered cheating and will be remanded to the Honor Board for institutional sanction, as well as receive an automatic failing grade for the entire course.

Copyrights, Class Access, etc. All lectures are the copyright of the instructor. He is their owner, and he reserves all rights to their content. Students do not purchase the lectures, but similar to computer software, they license access to them and their content for study purposes. Students may take and keep written notes from them, as detailed as they wish, and make all necessary use of them for their studies and to meet the academic requirements of this and other courses. Only registered students (or students in the process of registering) and those formally auditing are permitted to sit in this class. Any unregistered persons and guests must have the prior permission of the instructor to sit in on any class.

Lectures and Assignments Schedule

The complete schedule of lectures and assigned readings for this course are found on the course Web pages under the link, "Reading Assignments," URL:

<http://www.cofc.edu/~piccione/history370/hist370assign.html>

The readings consist of the texts and Internet source described above, as well as a large selection of other documents available for downloading (marked "W" in the Reading Assignments-schedule).

Class will adhere to the assignments and course schedules found there. *The instructor reserves the right to alter the schedule of lectures, discussions, video presentations, and reading assignments, quizzes and exams at any time.* Students are responsible for the full course material through the readings listed on the Web pages. Students should keep up with the schedule of weekly reading assignments, regardless of any deviation in the schedule of classroom lectures. Students must obtain or acquire access to all the textbooks and readings, since the exams and quizzes include significant amounts of reading material not covered in class lectures. Thank you. Have a nice course!

BIBLIOGRAPHY

An extensive bibliography for this course, categorized by subject area, is found among the course Web pages, URL: **<http://www.cofc.edu/~piccione/history370/biblio.html>**