

ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF EGYPT AND THE NEAR EAST
ART 320

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Office Hours: MW 4:15-5:15 and Tues. 2-4
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COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is a survey of the artistic and other material remains of Egyptian and Near Eastern cultures, beginning with the pre-dynastic era in Egypt and ending with the last of the Persian courts in the 7th c. and the last of the Egypt's dynasties in the 1st c. BCE. The lectures will be concerned primarily with funerary and public artworks, but will include some consideration of private art. Our examination will cover a variety of media, including architecture, sculpture, and painting. We will consider the works within their cultural and political contexts with an eye to understanding how these cast light and the goals of the patron and on the lived experience of an ancient viewer.

TEXTS: Class texts will be Gay Robins, *The Art of Ancient Egypt* Cambridge, 1997 (AAE); and Dominique Collon, *Ancient Near Eastern Art*. London, 1995 (ANEA). Occasionally, you will be required to read an article on reserve in Burrow Library.

REQUIREMENTS: Reading assignments will be indicated in the schedule of topics. You are strongly advised to keep up to date with the readings as the semester progresses. Please read your assignments *before* the lectures. You are responsible for *all* the material discussed in class. Your grade will be based on your successful completion of four tests (17.5% each), one 5-7 page paper on an object in the University of Memphis' Egyptian collection, due on April 14 (20%), and classroom participation and periodic pop quizzes (10%). In order to pass this course, a student must complete all assignments and receive a passing grade.

As in all aspects of life at Rhodes, while engaged in any aspects of your studies related to this class, you are to adhere to the tenets of the Rhodes Honor Code.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS: Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed 2 unexcused absences. Your third unexcused absence will result in a half-letter grade drop in your final average. Every unexcused absence beyond the third will drop consecutive points from the final grade. Absences due to medical emergencies must be accompanied by an excuse from authorized medical personnel. Use your freebies wisely!

Approximately mid-way through the semester we will visit the University of Memphis' Egyptian collection. You will select one of the objects in the collection on which to write your paper. Feel free to visit the collection before our visit as a group.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact me after class or during office hours. Additionally, students should contact Disability Support Services.

The following is a *tentative* schedule of subjects to be covered in class and assigned readings. I reserve the right to adjust this syllabus if necessary:

Part I: Ancient Egypt

Week 1:

Jan. 15, Wed.: Introductions and general information

Jan. 17, Fri.: Origins of archaeology in ANE and Egypt: From Napoleon to Carter.

Readings: ANEA, 7-40; AAE, 1-11

Week 2

Jan. 20, Mon.: **MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY**

Jan. 22, Wed.: Understanding Egyptian Art

Readings: AAE, 12-29

Jan. 24, Fri.: Pre-Dynastic and Early Dynastic periods

Readings: AAE, 30-39

Week 3.

Jan. 27, Mon.: Old Kingdom: the making of kings, Dynasty III-IV

Readings: AAE, 40-57

Jan. 29, Wed.: Old Kingdom: pyramids, Dynasty V-VI

Readings: AAE, 58-79

Jan. 31, Fri.: Death and After life

Readings: TBA

Week 4

Feb. 3, Mon.: Intermediate Period and rise of the Middle Kingdom

Readings: AAE, 80-109

Feb. 5, Wed.: Middle Kingdom cont'd

Readings: AAE, 110-121

Feb. 7, Fri.: *****Test One*****

Week 5

Feb. 10, Mon.: A New Kingdom rises

Readings: AAE, 122-147

Feb. 12, Wed.: Gender Bending: King Hatshepsut

Readings: Gay Robins, "Dress, Undress, and the representation of Fertility and Potency in New Kingdom Egyptian Art," in *Sexuality in Ancient Art*, ed. by Natalie Kampen, (Cambridge, 1996), pp. 27-40. (On reserve in Burrow Library)

Feb. 14, Fri.: Heresy and Change: Akenaten and the Amarna Period.

Readings: AAE, 148-165

Week 6

Feb. 17, Mon.: Akenaten cont'd.

Feb. 19, Wed.: Return to empire, New Kingdom

Readings: AAE, 166-193

Feb. 21, Fri.: Tutankhamun

Readings: TBA

Week 7

Feb. 24, Mon.: Ramses

Readings: review ch. 10 [Ramses material]

Feb. 26, Wed.: Third Intermediate Period

Readings: AAE, 195-229

Feb. 28, Fri.: **Museum Trip**

Week 8

Mar. 3, Mon.: Egyptian Book of the Dead

Readings: TBA

Mar. 5, Wed.: Ptolemaic Period

Readings: AAE, 231-251

Mar. 7, Fri.: *****Test Two*****

Week 9

March 7-16 *****SPRING BREAK, NO CLASSES*****

Part II: Ancient Near Eastern Art and Architecture

Week 11

Mar. 17, Mon.: Introduction to Ancient Near East and Egypt:?

Readings: ANEA, 7-40;

*****Paper Subject Due*****

Mar. 19, Wed.: Origins of Writing

Readings: TBA

Mar. 21, Fri.: Evidence for Early Communities: Jericho

Readings: ANEA, 41-45

Week 12

Mar. 24, Mon.: Early Near Eastern Epic

Readings: Gilgamesh,

Mar. 26, Wed.: Urbanism: Rise of Towns: Uruk

Readings: ANEA, 45-55

Mar. 28, Fri.: Women in Sumerian culture

Readings: Susan Pollock "Women in a Men's World: Images of Sumerian Women," in Joan M. Gero and Margaret W. Conkey, *Engendering Archaeology* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1991)

Week 13

Mar. 31, Mon.: Life at Temple

Readings: ANEA, 56-63

Apr. 2, Wed.: Catch up and review

Apr. 4, Fri.: *****Test Three*****

Week 14

Apr. 7, Mon.: Ur and the Royal Cemetery

Readings: ANEA, 64-75

Apr. 9, Wed.: Rise of the Akkadian Empire

Readings: ANEA 75-90

Apr. 11, Fri.: Akkadia cont'd.

Week 15

Apr. 14, Mon.: Old Babylonia

Readings: ANEA, 99-127

*****Paper Due*****

Apr. 16-20 **EASTER RECESS**

Week 16:

Apr. 21, Mon.: Narratives in Ancient Near Eastern Art

Readings: TBA

Apr. 23, Wed.: Rise of Assyria and Assurnasirpal II

Readings: ANEA, 128-140

Apr. 25, Fri.: Successors to Assurnasirpal: Sennacherib and Ashurbanipal and the end of Assyrian hegemony

Readings: ANEA, 141-160

Week 17:

Apr. 28, Mon.: Neo-Babylonia and Nebuchadnezzar

Readings: ANEA, 162-187

Apr. 30, Wed.: Persia

May 2, Fri.: Final wrap up

Final exam during regular exam period

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!