

**ART 320: Art and Architecture of Egypt and the Ancient Near East**

Prof. Francesca Tronchin

Fall 2010  
Clough Hall 417  
MWF 11:00-11:50 PM

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Office hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9-10:30 AM,  
or by appointment

**Course description**

This course will explore the art and architecture of ancient Egypt and the cultures of the Near East—Sumerian, Assyrian, Akkadian, and Persian. The chronological survey will examine the material remains of these cultures with a significant emphasis on the social, political, and religious contexts in which they were created. The rediscovery and study of these cultures in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and museological issues related to this material will also be discussed.

Students will approach Egypt and Near East through the eyes of art historians, archaeologists, and anthropologists. Active reading, researching, and participation in class discussions are the means by which students will access and learn course content. Among some of the course goals are the following:

- To gain an understanding of Ancient Egypt and the Near East, and the material world these peoples created and valued
- To learn to read critically, both introductory texts and scholarly articles
- To achieve the ability to discuss and write about art objects with appropriate and effective vocabulary

**Course texts**

Henri Frankfort, *The Art and Architecture of the Ancient Orient*, Yale University Press, 1996.  
Gay Robins, *The Art of Ancient Egypt*, Harvard University Press, 2008.

Earlier editions of these books are acceptable, but be advised that page numbers and some images will be different. These books are also available on reserve in Barret Library.

Additional course materials will be posted on Moodle.

This material is for study purposes only and students should observe the honor code and copyright restrictions while making use of them.

### **Course requirements and grading**

The requirements of this course are regular, punctual attendance, regular participation in class discussion, the completion of each day's reading assignment prior to the class meeting, and the completion of all assignments and exams by the date indicated here on the syllabus.

Monday and Wednesday class meetings will be primarily lectures by Dr. Tronchin. Fridays will be devoted to discussion of reading assignments, led by students. (Some exceptions to this pattern are made due to exams or holidays.)

There will be **two exams**—one during the term and one during the final exam period (see course schedule below for dates and times). The exams will be comprised of slide identification and discussion, compare and contrast, and connoisseurship questions. *The exams are closed-book and are not cumulative* (i.e. the final covers the material from the class after the midterm to the last day of class). More details about the exams will be presented in class.

The exam material comes from class lectures, class discussion, and reading assignments.

There will be **two short** (5-10 minute) **quizzes** given in class regarding geography (a map quiz) and art historical vocabulary. A list of terms will be provided well before the dates of the quizzes.

All students will write a **paper** proposing a museum exhibition regarding art and culture in ancient Egypt, including objects from the University of Memphis' Egyptian Collection. The paper is due December 10 in class and will be 1500-2000 words. This assignment will involve some library research and at least one visit to the museum on the student's time. More details about the paper topic will be presented in class.

Each student will lead a **discussion** of a reading assignment during the Friday class meetings. Students will meet with Dr. Tronchin during office hours (or other scheduled appointment) to prepare a set of reading questions which will be then submitted to the professor as an electronic document (email of text doc) by noon Wednesday the week of the discussion. Dr. Tronchin will then post these reading questions on the course website by Wednesday evening. In class on Friday, the student will be responsible for leading the discussion on the reading assignment. The content of the discussions and readings will be included in the exams.

### **Evaluation/Basis of grading**

10%	Quizzes
25%	Paper
20%	Discussion leading & Participation
20%	Midterm Exam
25%	Final exam

If at any point in the semester you are concerned about your grade, please contact Professor Tronchin to receive an estimated evaluation of your standing.

### **Attendance policy, make-up exams, and extensions**

Class attendance is *essential* for your understanding of the material. Monuments and objects not pictured or discussed in the textbook will frequently be addressed in class, so presence in lecture will be beneficial to your grade. Attendance will be taken on a regular basis, especially at the beginning of the semester so that Professor Tronchin can get to know you. Participation in class discussions is also a significant part of your grade.

Students with extracurricular activities (athletics, mock trial, etc.) that will require them to miss one or more classes during the semester should speak to Prof. Tronchin before anticipated absences.

Make-up exams are only allowed *under compelling circumstances* (e.g., a death in the family) or in the case of illness. In the event of the latter, excused absences will be granted only with a physician's note. Please plan your semester wisely as make-up exams will not be granted for students leaving early for vacations or traveling for weddings, for example.

Extensions for paper assignments will only be granted under compelling circumstances and *before* the due date of the paper.

### **Academic Integrity and the Honor Code**

All work for this course is to be completed in accordance with the Rhodes College Honor Code. Plagiarism in particular will not be tolerated. If you have questions about plagiarism, please speak to Prof. Tronchin.

### **Courtesy policies**

To avoid disturbing your classmates and instructor, please observe the following policies:

- Arrive to class on time.
- Please set all cell phones and other communication devices to a silent mode. Any student responding to a cell phone call while in class will be asked to leave and will not be allowed to return to that class meeting. No texting during class.
- Using laptop computers is permitted in class. Using such a computer for IMing, gaming, Facebook, etc. is not allowed.
- Drinking (water, coffee) is permitted in class; eating is not.
- Be respectful of other points of view expressed by your fellow classmates.
- Be present—in both mind & body—at class meetings. You will get a much better rest in a bed than at your desk during a lecture. In other words: no sleeping in class.
- A good grade in this course comes from hard work, not from just showing up.

### **Suggestions for success** in this course (and others)

- Keep up with reading assignments.
- Spend time looking at the artworks included in the reading assignments and review material on a weekly basis. In other words: don't plan to cram the night before the exam.
- Begin written assignments early.
- Exchange email addresses or phone numbers with a few classmates; arrange a study group.
- Take advantage of instructor's office hours.
- Do not hesitate to ask questions or clarify points during class meetings.

### **Special Needs**

If a student has a documented disability and wishes to receive academic accommodations, the student should first contact the Office of Student Disability Services (x3994) and then provide the professor with an accommodation form *as soon as possible*.

**Course schedule (subject to change)**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
	<b>August 25</b> Introduction to the course	<b>August 27</b> Introduction to Ancient Egypt Reading: Robins, pp. 12-29
<b>August 30</b> Introduction to the Ancient Near East Reading: Frankfort, pp. 11-12	<b>September 1</b> The rediscovery of Egypt and the Near East	<b>September 3</b> Sumerian Art: The Protoliterate Period Reading: Frankfort, pp. 17-37
<b>September 6</b>    <b>NO CLASS - LABOR DAY</b>	<b>September 8</b> Sumerian Art: The Early Dynastic Period  Reading: Frankfort, pp. 39-82	<b>September 10</b> Discussion: The Iraq War & Archaeology  Reading: Rothfield, "A Punctual Disaster: The Looting of the National Museum of Iraq"
<b>September 13</b> Sumerian Art: The Early Dynastic Period  Reading: Frankfort, pp. 39-82	<b>September 15</b> Predynastic & Early Dynastic Egypt  Reading: Robins, pp. 30-39	<b>September 17</b> Discussion: Ancient Near Eastern Aesthetics  Reading: Winter, "Aesthetics in Ancient Mesopotamian Art"

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<p><b>September 20</b></p> <p>The Akkadian Period</p> <p>Reading: Frankfort, pp. 83-91</p>	<p><b>September 22</b></p> <p>Old Kingdom Egypt</p> <p>Reading: Robins, pp. 40-57</p>	<p><b>September 24</b></p> <p>Discussion: Egyptian Sculpture</p> <p>Reading: Bianchi, "Ancient Egyptian Reliefs, Statuary, and Monumental Paintings"</p>
<p><b>September 27</b></p> <p>Old Kingdom Egypt</p> <p>Reading: Robins, pp. 58-79</p>	<p><b>September 29</b></p> <p>Old Kingdom Egypt</p>	<p><b>October 1</b></p> <p>Discussion: Pyramid building</p> <p>Reading: Smith, "The Workforce" and Fitchen, "Building Cheops' Pyramid"</p>
<p><b>October 4</b></p> <p>Old Kingdom Egypt</p>	<p><b>October 6</b></p> <p>Old Kingdom Egypt</p>	<p><b>October 8</b></p> <p>Discussion: Zahi Hawass</p> <p>Reading: Slackman, "Egypt's Tomb Raider"; watch episode of <i>Chasing Mummies</i></p>
<p><b>October 11</b></p> <p>The Neo-Sumerian Period</p> <p>Reading: Frankfort, pp. 93-107</p>	<p><b>October 13</b></p> <p>The Isin-Larsa Period and Hammurabi</p> <p>Reading: Frankfort, pp. 107-126</p>	<p><b>October 15</b></p> <p>The First Intermediate Period of Egypt, the Middle Kingdom, Second Intermediate Period</p> <p>Reading: Robins, pp. 80-121</p>
<p><b>October 18</b></p> <p><b>NO CLASS - FALL RECESS</b></p>	<p><b>October 20</b></p> <p>Discussion: Egyptian Queens</p> <p>Reading: Troy, "She for Whom All That Is Said Is Done: The Ancient Egyptian Queen"</p>	<p>October 22</p> <p><b>Exam review</b></p>

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<p><b>October 25</b></p> <p><b>MIDTERM EXAM</b></p>	<p><b>October 27</b></p> <p>Discussion of paper topics</p>	<p><b>October 29</b></p> <p>New Kingdom Egypt</p> <p>Reading: Robins, pp. 122-147</p>
<p><b>November 1</b></p> <p>New Kingdom Egypt</p> <p>Reading: Robins, pp. 166-193</p>	<p><b>November 3</b></p> <p>New Kingdom Egypt</p>	<p><b>November 5</b></p> <p>Discussion: Amarna Period Relief</p> <p>Reading: Davis, "Two Compositional Tendencies in Amarna Relief"</p>
<p><b>November 8</b></p> <p>New Kingdom Egypt</p>	<p><b>November 10</b></p> <p>The Amarna Period</p> <p>Reading: Robins, pp. 148-165</p>	<p><b>November 12</b></p> <p>Discussion: The Tomb of Tutankhamun</p> <p>Reading: Reed and Osborn, "Taxonomic Transgressions in Tutankhamun's Treasures"</p>
<p><b>November 15</b></p> <p>The Amarna Period</p>	<p><b>November 17</b></p> <p>The Aftermath of the Amarna Period, New Kingdom Egypt</p>	<p><b>November 19</b></p> <p>The Assyrian Period</p> <p>Reading: Frankfort, pp. 131-142</p>

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<p><b>November 22</b></p> <p>The Assyrian Period</p> <p>Reading: Frankfort, pp. 143-199</p>	<p><b>November 24</b></p> <p><b>NO CLASS - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b></p>	<p><b>November 26</b></p> <p><b>NO CLASS - HAPPY (day after) THANKSGIVING!</b></p>
<p><b>November 29</b></p> <p>Third Intermediate Period and Late Period Egypt</p> <p>Reading: Robins, pp. 194-229</p>	<p><b>December 1</b></p> <p>Discussion: Assyrian Relief</p> <p>Reading: Russell, "Bulls for the Palace and Order in the Empire: The Sculptural Program of Sennacherib's Court VI at Nineveh"</p>	<p><b>December 3</b></p> <p>Ptolemaic Egypt</p> <p>Reading: Robins, pp. 230-251</p>
<p><b>December 6</b></p> <p>Neo-Babylonian and Persian Art</p> <p>Reading: Frankfort, pp. 200-205, 333-378</p>	<p><b>December 8</b></p> <p>Discussion: Egypt and Rome</p> <p>Reading: Swetnam-Burland, "Egyptian Objects, Roman Contexts: A Taste for Aegyptiaca in Italy."</p>	<p><b>December 10</b></p> <p>Exam review <b>PAPERS DUE</b></p>
<p><b>TUESDAY, December 14</b> <b>FINAL EXAM - 5:30PM</b></p>		