CLAS 170-01 Ancient Near Eastern Civilization I

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Classics 170- Ancient Near Eastern Civilization I: Ancient Egypt
Fall 2014

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Objectives
This course will provide an introduction to the ancient Egyptian civilization from the pre-dynastic periods to the time of Roman occupation. The student will learn about the richness and complexity of Egyptian culture and its contact with Nubia and other countries in the Ancient Near East. During the course, we will learn about the historical events, personages, monuments, literature, art, and religion of Ancient Egypt.

We will also have opportunity to ask much broader questions in the context of Ancient Egypt such as the following: What is culture? Why do the beliefs of the Ancient Egyptians seem strange to us?

Required Materials
The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt (2002) by Ian Shaw

Ancient Egyptian Literature (2001) by John L. Foster

Top Hat Subscription ($20.00) can be purchased at www.tophat.com; to be used in conjunction with a cell phone, smart phone, laptop, iPhone, or iPad.

Assignments and Grading
Three In Class Exams (40% of the final grade): There will be three exams this semester (see dates below). They will be non-cumulative. The format will consists of multiple choice and essay.

Two Geography Quizzes (20% of the final grade): We will have two geography quizzes during the semester (see dates below). These will be administered in class.

Paper (30% of final grade): Using the Wikipedia entry for Ancient Egyptian Names (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ancient_Egyptians) pick one and write as if you were this person. This will involve going beyond the Wikipedia entry for that person. In the paper, describe the broad historical period, the architecture of the period, the art, religious beliefs, and facets of everyday life. In other words, you must ask yourself: if I were this person, what would my life be like? The paper should be 3-5 pages plus bibliography. The rough draft will be due in the middle of the semester.
Attendance and participation (10%): Attendance will be kept via TopHat. If you miss more than 6x you will receive a 0 for the attendance and participation part of the course. The participation grade will consist of in-class discussion, and projects. This will happen occasionally and you will not know in advance.

Plagiarism and Cheating
Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to plagiarism. If you have any doubts about whether you are plagiarizing, please contact me. Plagiarism will result in an “F” for the course with your advisor being notified, and a record of misconduct will be placed on file with the university.

Cheating will also result in an “F” for the class and a report to the dean.

Grading Scale for REL 204

92 – 100 % = A  
82 – 91 % = B  
72 – 81 % = C  
62 – 71 % = D  
Below 62% = F

Terminology

In the class we will attempt to use terms that are not theologically loaded. I will use B.C.E. (before the common era) instead of BC (before Christ) and CE (common era) instead of AD (anno domini- “year of the Lord”).

Schedule, Assigned Readings, and Assignments¹

1- August 26, 28  
Welcome and Introduction  
Geography and Land  

2- September 2, 4  
Chronologies and Cultural Change  

Shaw 1–16  
Writing and Language; Primary Sources  
Foster xi –xxi

¹ Note: This schedule is subject to revision. Such changes that influence you will be made known.
3- September 9, 11
Prehistory and the Naqada Period  Shaw 44 –60
The Emergence of the Egyptian State  Shaw 61–88

4- September 16, 18
The Old Kingdom  Shaw 89 –117
The Pyramids at Giza

5- September 23, 25
The Old Kingdom  Foster The Maxims of Ptahhotep

Exam 1

6- September 30, October 2
Religion  Foster The Resurrection of King Unis
The Afterlife  Foster Prayer to the King to Rise Up

7- October 7, October 9 (No Class)
The First Intermediate Period - Geography Quiz 1  Shaw 118 –147; Foster, The Eloquent Peasant

8- October 14, October 16
Middle Kingdom  Shaw 148 –183
Middle Kingdom  Foster, Tale of Sinehue, The Shipwrecked Sailor

9- October 21, October 23
Second Intermediate Period  Shaw 184 –217
New Kingdom  Shaw 218 –271; Foster, Two Spells

Rough Draft of Paper Due

10- October 28, October 30
New Kingdom  Shaw 272 –313; Foster, The Leiden Hymns
New Kingdom  Foster, Love Songs (17 –25)

11- November 4, November 6
Exam 2

Egypt and the Outside World  
Shaw 314 –329

12- November 11, 13

Third Intermediate Period  
Shaw 330 –368

Third Intermediate Period  
Foster, *The Wisdom of Amenemopet*

13- November 18, 20

Late Period  
Shaw 369 –394

Ptolemaic Period  
Shaw 395 –421

14- SBL and Thanksgiving (No Class)

15- December 2, 4

Ptolemaic Period

Roman Period  
Shaw 422 –445

Final Draft of Paper Due

16- December 9, 11

Conclusions

Open

Exam 3 (Finals Week)