Classical Civilization 348
Topics in Ancient Egypt
First Summer Session, 2011

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Office hours: M – F at 1 PM, and by appointment  
Waggener Hall 115

Textbooks:  
1. The Seventy Great Mysteries of Ancient Egypt  

2. The Penguin Historical Atlas of Ancient Egypt  
   Bill Manley (Penguin Books, 1996)

3. A History of Ancient Egypt  
   Marc Van De Mieroop (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011)

Course Description: This will be a comprehensive introduction to the story of ancient Egypt, beginning with the earliest evidence at Nabta Playa, ca. 6000 BC, and continuing as far down as the Greco-Roman centuries (300 BC – AD 300). In each era we shall emphasize the culture distinctive of the time. Our first text (Mysteries) will bring us up to date on the “hot” issues of historical and archaeological research; the second text (Atlas) provides informative historical analysis grounded in detailed maps. These will enable you to become familiar with locations in Egypt, the Near East, and Africa, which are important for our study. I have added a third text (History). This book has just been published and surveys the material concisely and with great fairness. Added side discussions are valuable. I shall also build in instruction in the reading of hieroglyphics, as our regular work may warrant.

Important: Students who have already taken CC 304 C are not allowed to count CC 348 as a separate three hours toward an area credit. In such a case, CC 348 will be registered as a redundant elective.

Grading: There will be two Hour Examinations, each of which will count one-half of the Final Grade. There will be no comprehensive “Final Exam” given during the Final Examination Period! The final grade will be made up as an
average of the two Hour Examination marks. The range of grades will be as follows: A, 92-100; A-, 90-91; B+, 88-89; B, 82-87; B-, 80-81; C+, 78-79; C, 72-77; C-, 70-71; D+, 68-69; D, 62-67; D-, 60-61. The grades 89.5, 79.5, 69.5, 59.5 will be rounded up.

Make-Up Tests: To make up a missed test, a student must present a medical excuse confirmed by a visit to a doctor, or, in the case of a crisis, a letter verifying what has happened.

A test missed because of a religious service will be made up. You are asked to notify the Instructor as soon as possible that such a conflict may occur.

Academic Dishonesty: Students caught cheating will receive a 0 for that test.

LECTURES

Th June 2 African Backgrounds. Skulls, Stars, the Flight of Souls.

F June 3 Star Science at Nabta Playa (6000 BC). FILM. Discussion: H 1-22, M 17-23, A 12-14

M June 6 The flowering of Pre-Dynastic Nilotic Civilization: Naqada (4000-3500 BC). Discussion: H 23-26, A 15-23

Tu June 7 Capital of the DAY-FALCON, Hierakonpolis (Nekhen): the first god, the first temple, the first mummy. The Proto-dynastic Period (3200-3100 BC): Dynasty 0, the SEREKH; the SCORPION KING, the earliest Hieroglyphics (3500-3200 BC). Discussion: H 1-26, M 28-32, 24-27


Th June 9 FILM: The Lost Mummy of Imhotep. The first great pyramid. Dynasty Three: King Djoser (ca. 2650 BC)

**FILM: Building the Great Pyramid.** Dynasty Four (2500-2400 BC), King KHUFU (“Cheops”). **Discussion: H 52-77, M 49-56, 61-66.**

**Tu June 14**

**W June 15**
The greater context of the Great Pyramid. The Southern Shafts in The “Queen’s Chamber” and the “King’s Chamber”. ORION (Sahu). Herodotus’ “underground lake” and Khufu’s tomb. OSIRIS (Ausir, Asar). **November, a link between Orion and Osiris.** Skewing the pyramids at Giza. **Discussion: M 71-73.**

King Snefru (Snofru, Seneferu), father of Khufu: the Step Pyramid at Meidum, the Bent and Red Pyramids at Dahshur. “Egypt is the image of Heaven” – Thoth, in the **Corpus Hermeticum.** Sky-images mirrored at Giza and Dahshur and in the scene on Narmer’s Palette. Draco the Dragon at Angkor Wat in Cambodia. Parallels to Giza: Cydonia (Mars), erosion forms in the White Desert (Egypt).

**Th June 16**
Khafra (Cephren), son of Khufu, Dynasty Four (2400’s BC). In religion, **HOR** joins **OSIRIS.** For the dead king as “Osiris”, we have the CARTOUCHE of King Unas (Wenis), Dynasty Five, mid 2300’s BC. See the Pyramid Texts in general and the “Cannibal Text” specifically. Riddles of the Sphinx: Its Face and Identity; its Date and Purpose. The importance of Djed-ef-Ra, the brother of Khafra. **Discussion: M 67-70**

**F June 17**
Menkaura (Men-Kau-Re, or “Mycerinos”) and the goddess **HAT-HOR.** The third pyramid at Giza. **REVIEW FOR TEST**

**M June 20**

*  **FIRST TEST**

**Tu June 21**
W       June 22  Death and the Tomb. The deceased as “Osiris”. Osiris as Judge. Magic for the tomb: the Coffin Texts, spells, the mutilation of hieroglyphs to keep demons from coming to life in the graves; apotropaic eyes. The parts of a human magically named: the Ka, Ba, Khaibit; also Khat, Sekhem, and Ren. Mummification and the importance of 70 days. The tombs of Asyut (2000 BC). ANPU (Anubis), the great god of Asyut (Lycopolis), of the canyons of the west at Abjou (Abydos), and of the Dead. Rock cut tombs and the great tomb of Montjuhotep II. (2000 BC). Pyramids in the Middle Kingdom: the capstone of the Black Pyramid of Amenemhat III (1800’s BC).


Tu      June 28       Women in Egyptian Society. Egypt compared with Greece and Rome.

W       June 29       Hatshepsut, King. Tutmoses I and III. Discussion: H 151-183, A 59-63, 74-75; M 173-175, 114-121

Th      June 30       Amenhotep III and the ATEN. Queen Tiye. Amenhotep IV (Akhenaten, the “Heretic Pharaoh”) Discussion: H 184-200
F  July 1  
Akhenaten, Nefertiti, the “City of the Disk” (Akhetaten)  
**FILM:** “Nefertiti Resurrected”  
**Discussion:** H 200-206,  
M 84-87, 122-131, 137-139, 274-276  


M  JULY 4  


Tu  July 5  
End of the Amarna Revolution: “SCOTA” (Meryt Aten), Tomb of the boy king TUT.  
**Discussion:** H 206-212, M 132-136  


W  July 6  
**FILM:** “Women Pharaohs”  
The “Wives of God”  


Th  July 7  
**Discussion:** A 110-114, 118-119, 124-125;  
M 142-145;  


F  July 8  
CLEOPATRA. The fusion, or **syncretism**, of Greek, Roman, and Egyptian elements in the Catacombs of Alexandria. The syncretism of Greek and Egyptian in the Coptic language and iconography. ISIS, and IO from Greek mythology, and the Madonna, as Comforters.  


* **CLASS EVALUATION**  


S  JULY 9  
* **SECOND TEST**