

**RLST 330 Society and Religion of Ancient Egypt**  
**Spring Semester 2014**  
**MWF 2:10 – 3:00**

Instructor: Dr. Susan Cohen  
Office: 2-161 Wilson Hall  
Office hours: MW 10:30-11:30 AM  
Email: [scohen@montana.edu](mailto:scohen@montana.edu)

- Learning outcomes:**
- 1) to become acquainted with the history, society and religion of ancient Egypt.
  - 2) to examine the ancient Egyptian worldview and the Egyptian view of history, culture, and religion.
  - 3) to read the texts – historical, social, religious, etc. – produced by this ancient culture in order to understand its perception of itself, its views of the divine, and its religion.
  - 4) to learn to analyze the religion, history, art, and literature of ancient Egypt as an expression of a distinct culture and society.

**Required texts:** *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*. I. Shaw, ed.  
*Ancient Egypt*. D. Silverman, ed.  
*The Literature of Ancient Egypt*. W. Simpson, ed.  
*Art of Ancient Egypt*, G. Robins.  
*Akhenaton and the Religion of Light*. E. Hornung.  
*Religion and Ritual in Ancient Egypt*, E. Teeter.  
Additional readings on D2L.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Course requirements:</b> midterm exam | 20% |
| 5 short response papers                  | 20% |
| long paper                               | 30% |
| final exam/paper                         | 30% |

The specific days and times that each assignment is due are listed below in the weekly schedule. There will be **no extensions** on papers or assignments unless arrangements have been made at least one week in advance.

**NOTE:** there are **SIX** possible response papers; you are required to turn in **FIVE** of them – you may choose whichever paper you write based on interest, schedule, due date, etc. Regardless of which papers you choose to write, ultimately it is up to you to keep track of how many response papers you have done throughout the semester

Half a letter grade will be deducted per day for late papers and assignments; no assignment more than two days late will be accepted.

## Course Policies:

- 1) This is a course about the religion of another society and culture that is markedly differently from the one in which we live. We will be examining religious ideas and beliefs in an academic and secular setting, and as material open to questioning, examination, and interpretation, not moral judgment. An open mind and a willingness to examine new ideas and different perspectives on religion is essential. **This class is not a forum for expressions of personal theology.** Statements of personal theological convictions, especially at the expense of others' interpretations or opinions, will not be tolerated.
- 2) Plagiarism – the presentation of others' work as your own – is an offense punishable by expulsion. All work submitted in this class must be your own, and all references to ideas from books, articles, or other sources must be cited correctly. If you do not know how to properly reference your work, or you are in doubt whether or not you should cite material, refer to the *Student Academic and Conduct Guidelines*, or make an appointment to see the instructor to discuss the problem. **Anyone found guilty of plagiarism, cheating, forgery, falsification or any other form of academic dishonesty will fail this course and the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students.**

## Course Schedule:

### Week One:

Jan. 8: Introduction to the study of ancient Egypt  
Read: Silverman, Chapter 2.  
Teeter, Chapter 1.

Jan. 10: The geography and world of ancient Egypt  
Read: Silverman, Chapters 1 and 5.

### Week Two:

Jan. 13: Writing and literature  
Read: Silverman, Chapter 15.  
Simpson, The Satire on the Trades.  
Simpson, The Scribal Traditions.

Jan. 15: Arts and sciences  
Read: Robins, Chapter 1.  
Silverman, Chapter 7.

Jan. 17: **Response paper due**  
Death and afterlife  
Read: Silverman, Chapter 10  
Teeter, Chapter 7  
Simpson, Book of the Dead 125: "The Negative Confession"

**Week Three:**

Jan. 20: **UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY – NO CLASS**

Jan. 22: Pre-Dynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt.

Read: Silverman, Chapter 4  
Robins, Chapter 2.

Jan. 24: The Old Kingdom

Read: Shaw, Chapter 5.

**Week Four:**

Jan. 27: Introduction to the gods.

Read: Hornung, Depictions and Manifestations of the Gods, D2L.

Jan. 29: Cosmogonies and cosmologies

Read: Silverman, Chapter 9.  
Egyptian creation traditions, D2L.

Jan. 31: **Response paper due in class**

Wisdom and didactic literature

Read: Simpson, Three Autobiographies of the Old Kingdom.  
Simpson, The Maxims of Ptahhotep.  
Simpson, The Teaching for the Vizier Kagemni.

**Week Five:**

Feb. 3: Worshipping the gods

Read: Teeter, Chapter 5

Feb. 5: Humans and the gods.

Read: Teeter, Chapter 6

Feb. 7: **Response paper due in class**

Kings, priests, gods, and temples

Read: Silverman, Chapter 8.  
Teeter, Chapters 2 and 3.

**Week Six:**

Feb. 10: Pyramids and Old Kingdom art and architecture

Read: Robins, Chapter 3-4  
Silverman, Chapter 12  
Simpson, Selections from the Pyramid Texts.

Feb. 12: The First Intermediate Period

Read: Robins, Chapter 5.  
Shaw, Chapter 6.  
Simpson, The Teaching for King Merikare.  
Simpson, The Stela of Tjetji

Feb. 14: **TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE 3:07 PM**

**Week Seven:**

Feb. 17: **UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY – NO CLASS**

Feb. 19: The Middle Kingdom

Read: Shaw, Chapter 7.  
Robins, pp. 110-114.  
Simpson, Cycle of Songs in Honor of Senwosret III.  
Simpson, The Semna Stela

Feb. 21: Middle Kingdom art and literature

Read: Robins, Chapters 6-7.  
Simpson, The Tale of Sinuhe

**Week Eight:**

Feb. 24: Life and order in the Middle Kingdom

Read: Simpson, The Teaching of King Amenemhet I for His Son Senwosret.  
Simpson, The Instruction of a Man for his Son  
Simpson, The Eloquent Peasant

Feb. 26: The Second Intermediate Period

Read: Shaw, Chapter 8.

Feb. 28: **Response paper due in class**

Soul, spirit, and afterlife  
Read: Teeter, Chapter 8  
Simpson, The Man Who Was Weary of Life.

**Week Nine:**

March 3: Magic, spells, and incantations

Read: Teeter, Chapter 9

March 5: Daily life in ancient Egypt

Read:

March 7: **NO CLASS**

**March 10-14 Spring Break**

**Week Ten:**

- March 17: The Early New Kingdom  
Read: Shaw, Chapter 9.  
Simpson, The Kamose Texts
- March 19: Early New Kingdom art and literature  
Read: Robins, Chapter 8.
- March 21: The Amarna period: history  
Read: Shaw, Chapter 10, pp. 272-294.  
Hornung, Chapters 1-3

**Week Eleven:**

- March 24: Amarna religion and art  
Read: Robins, Chapter 9.  
Hornung, Chapters 4-7
- March 26: Atenism and afterlife  
Read: Hornung, Chapter 8.  
Teeter, Chapter 10
- March 28: **Response paper due in class**  
The end of Amarna  
Read: Hornung, Chapters 9-11

**Week Twelve:**

- March 31: The Late New Kingdom  
Read: Shaw, Chapter 10, pp. 294-313
- April 2: Personal religion  
Read: Robins, Chapter 10.  
Simpson, the Instruction of Amenemope.
- April 4: **PAPER DUE VIA D2L BY 2:07 PM**  
Late New Kingdom religion and literature  
Read: Simpson, The Tale of the Two Brothers.  
Simpson, the Blinding of Truth by Falsehood.

**Week Thirteen:**

- April 7: New Kingdom Egypt and the outside world  
Read: Shaw, Chapter 11.  
Simpson, The "Israel" Stela  
Simpson, The Poetical Stela of Thutmose III.

April 9: The “other” in ancient Egypt  
Read: Silverman, Chapter 3.

April 11: **Response paper due in class**  
Women and gender in ancient Egypt  
Read: Silverman, Chapter 6.

**Week Fourteen:**

April 14: The Third Intermediate Period  
Read: Shaw, Chapter 12.  
Robins, Chapter 11

April 16: The Late Period  
Read: Shaw, Chapter 13  
Robins, Chapter 12

April 18: **UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY – NO CLASS**

**Week Fifteen:**

April 21: Egypt in myth and mind  
Read: Hornung, Conclusion, D2L.

April 23: Conclusion

April 25: **TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM DUE**