Instructor: Dr. Susan Cohen  
Office: 2-161 Wilson Hall  
Office hours: MW 10:30-11:30 AM  
Email: 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.  
The 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.

Course requirements: 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

**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**