

Syllabus
Ancient Egyptian Art and Archaeology
ARTH 318 Fall 2017
Monday and Wednesday 3:00-4:15 pm
Art and Design 2026
Professor Jacquelyn Williamson

Contact information and Office Hours:

Email: jwilli98@gmu.edu **Please use your GMU email address for school business.**

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Office: Robinson B: 348

Office hours: M/W 4:30-5:30 pm, or by appointment

Please note: professors are to be addressed by the professional title as given by the university and their peers: in this case “Professor” and/or “Doctor” (not “Mr.” “Ms.” “Miss” “Mrs.” These titles indicate marital status and/or gender identity and are not professional titles in Universities.)

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the art and architecture of ancient Egypt. Through slide lectures, reading, assigned exercises, and discussions we will examine key monuments and objects of art. We will explore the role of painting, sculpture, and architecture in the formation and communication of cultural identity and the role of religion and worldview on artistic production. This course has no prerequisites and presumes no prior knowledge of Art History.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

In this course, students will:

- Learn to analyze and discuss art and architecture.
- Learn the standard major periods of ancient and medieval western art.
- Learn to recognize major monuments from each period.
- Study the relationship between the history and visual culture of each period.
- Apply archeology and primary texts to art history;
- Become familiar with some of the area's museums.

- **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**
- Class attendance and exercises with notes to be handed in.
- Assigned readings, including websites and documents on the Internet/Blackboard.
- One paper based on museum visits, with a graded outline and first list bibliography to be revised.
- a midterm and a final exam.

- **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:**

- GMU email accounts—only GMU accounts will get announcements and grading access.
- Ability to find and print on-line text documents from the Internet and Blackboard.
- Computerized word-processing with spell-checkers and decent printers for all written work.

Required TEXTBOOKS:

Gay Robins, *The Art of Ancient Egypt*, Revised Edition, Harvard University Press, Cambridge Massachusetts, 2008.

Douglas J. Brewer and Emily Teeter, *Egypt and the Egyptians*, Second Edition, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Shaw, Ian (ed.) *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford University Press, 2000.

Additional on-line readings may be required as well. URLs will be announced in class and linked to the course Blackboard site. This syllabus may be modified as the semester progresses, although students will be notified of any changes they are ultimately responsible for keeping themselves informed and up to date.

LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE
(Students will be notified of any changes in advance)

Assigned reading should be done before the lecture.

“**Robins**” is short for: Gay Robins, *The Art of Ancient Egypt*, Revised Edition, Harvard University Press, Cambridge Massachusetts, 2008.

“**Brewer/Teeter**” is short for: Douglas J. Brewer and Emily Teeter, *Egypt and the Egyptians*, Second Edition, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2007.

“**Shaw**” is short for Shaw, Ian (ed.) *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford University Press, 2000.

Week 1: Introduction and Understanding Egyptian Art

Reading: Robins, Chapter 1, pg. 12-29, Brewer/Teeter, Chapter 11 pg. 189-207; Shaw, Chapter 1, pg. 1-17

8/28 Introduction

8/30 Understanding Egyptian Art

Week 2: Early Dynastic Period (no classes on Labor Day)

Reading: Robins, Chapter 2, 30-39; Brewer/Teeter, Chapter 4 pg. 60-78; Shaw, Chapters 3 and 4 pg. 44-88

9/6 Early Dynastic Art

Tuesday September 5th: Last day to add classes without tuition penalty.

Week 3: The Old Kingdom part I

Reading: Robins, 40-57; Brewer/Teeter, Chapter 5 pg. 79-97, Shaw, Chapter 5, pg. 89-117

9/11 Dynasty 3 and the first pyramid

9/13 Dynasty 4 and the Giza Plateau

Week 4: The Old Kingdom part II

Reading: Robins, 58-79, Brewer/Teeter, Chapter 6 pg. 98-109, Shaw, Chapter 5, pg. 89-117

9/18: Dynasty 5: Zenith

9/20: Dynasty 6: Collapse

Tuesday September 19th: Last add drop period with tuition penalty.

Week 5: First Intermediate Period

Reading: Robins, pg. 80-89, Brewer/Teeter, Chapter 7 pg. 110-126; Shaw, Chapter 6, pg. 118-147

9/25 Provincial art outside of royal control

9/27 Pre-reunification style, Dynasty 11

Friday September 30th: Final drop period with larger tuition penalty.

Week 6: Middle Kingdom I Royal

Reading: Robins 90-109, Brewer/Teeter, Chapter 8 pg. 127-141; Shaw, Chapter 7 pg. 148-184

10/2. Unification style, Dynasty 11

10/4 Changes to kingship: Dynasty 12-13

Week 7: Middle Kingdom II Non-royal will need to change dates from below due to test reallocation

Reading: Robins 110-121, Brewer/Teeter, Chapter 9 pg. 142-165; Shaw, Chapter 7 pg. 148-184

10/09 Rock cut elite tombs, tomb models

10/11 Middle Kingdom offering formulas

Week 8: review and test

10/16 review

10/18 test 1

Week 9: Second Intermediate Period and the Start of the New Kingdom

Reading: Robins 122-147, Shaw, Chapters 8 and 9 184-271

10/23 Dynasty 17 and the war with the Hyksos

10/25 Dynasty 18-Amunhotep III

Week 10: New Kingdom II: Heresy, Iconoclasm, and Tradition

Reading: Robins 149-165, Brewer/Teeter, Chapter 10 pg. 166 -188; Shaw, Chapter 10 pg. 272-313

10/30 The start of the Amarna Period

11/ 1 The end of the Amarna Period

Week 11: The New Kingdom: wealth and empire

Reading: Robins 166-193, Brewer/Teeter, Chapter 2 pg. 17-29, Shaw, Chapter 11 pg. 314-329

11/6 Royal and State Temples, Royal burial

11/8 Non-royal tombs and art, artist colony at Deir el-Medina

11/8 outline and bibliography due

Week 12: Third Intermediate Period collapse and innovation, and The Late Period I

Reading: Robins 195-229; Shaw, Chapter 12 and 13 pg. 330-394

11/13 Foreign rule, foreign influence

11/15 Dynasty 25 Nubian rule

Week 13: Late Period I continued and Thanksgiving Break

11/20 Dynasty 26 Saite Rule, a return to traditions

Week 14: The Late Period II

Reading: Robins, 231-251, Brewer/Teeter, Chapter 12 pg. 208-211; Shaw, Chapter 14 pg. 395-421

11/27 Ptolemaic temples

11/29 Ptolemaic art

Week 15: Conclusion and Review

12/4 Conclusions

12/6 Review for final exam and final paper due

Final Paper due 12/6

Final Exam (according to the GMU calendar): Monday 12/18 1:30-4:15 PM

Dates to remember:

10/18 Test #1

11/8 Outline of paper due (thesis statement, outline, first bibliography)

12/6 Final Paper due in class

12/18 Final Exam, 1:30 - 4:15pm

Tuesday September 6th: Last day to add classes without tuition penalty.

Tuesday September 20th: Last add drop period with tuition penalty.

CLASS POLICIES

Attendance is necessary; much of the material will only be covered in our lectures. You are responsible for getting notes, and for all consequences of missed classes. **Class participation will affect your grade.**

Classroom atmosphere. Courtesy and common sense, please. Talking during lectures, wandering in and out, cell phones, and eating food are all badly distracting to everyone else. **Disruptive individuals can be asked to leave, according to GMU policy.**

Laptop computers are fine for taking notes in class. No Facebook, Solitaire, etc. **Phones** will be turned off at all times, of course, as a courtesy to all. **No computers or telephones may be used during tests unless special permission is obtained due to a specific disability (see below).**

Late work will be graded down five points per weekday and ten points over a weekend. Plan ahead--last-minute hard-disk and printer failures do not constitute legitimate excuses. **By the final exam, all missing work becomes F work.** Make-up tests and elaborate medical excuses will require verification with a physician's or associate dean's excuse. There will be no make-up final exams.

English as a Second Language: If English is not your first language, I will be happy to help you do your best in the writing assignments. The final result must be written in good standard English. Please work with **The Writing Center** in Robinson I, Room A116. <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/resources/> and <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/> Call them at (703) 993-1200, or see their web page for English language help, at: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>. You may also want to work with GMU's **English Language Institute (ELI)**. Call them at (703) 993-3664, or visit their website at <http://eli.gmu.edu>

Learning disabilities. If you are a student with disabilities, and you need academic accommodations, please see me *and* contact the Office of Disabilities Resources (ODS) or 703-993-2474. Website: <http://ds.gmu.edu/> All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Religious holidays. This syllabus is arranged according to the George Mason University calendar. If you observe a religious holiday that the University does not, please let me know and I will make necessary accommodations for you (but not for the whole class).

Auditors are welcome to sit and listen, if there is room. If they would like to participate more actively, that's fine with me *if (!)* you are keeping up with the assigned class reading.

Honor Code and Academic honesty is expected in all tests and writing, according the

GMU Honor Code. "Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work." Please respect the Honor Code, our classroom standards, your fellow students, and yourself. Please report violations to the Honor Committee, using the procedures explained in the website.

GRADING POLICIES

TESTS must be taken on the scheduled date. If there has been an emergency, it must be documented by a note from the dean's office or your doctor. In those cases, there will be one make-up test scheduled. Tests will be graded by percentage.

FINAL GRADES

Based on the average of your assignments, tests, and class participation grades:

Test 1: 20%

Paper, first outline 15%

Paper, final 20%

Final exam: 25%

Participation 10%

Final grades may be raised or lowered from strict average in the following circumstances:

Class participation improves/deteriorates

Reliability is stellar (always on time, always prepared, etc.) or poor (bad attendance, never prepared)

Significant improvement over the semester (Student begins semester poorly but then does better)

Grades will be calculated as follows:

A = 100% to 93%, or 4.00

A- = 92% to 90%, or 3.67

B+ = 89% to 87%, or 3.33

B = 86% to 83 %, or 3.00

B- = 82% to 80 %, or 2.67

C+ = 79% to 77 %, or 2.33

C = 76% to 73 %, or 2.00

C- = 72% to 70 %, or 1.67

D = 60% to 66%, or 1.0

F = below 60% receives no credit

I may award a final A+ in rare instances: 4.0 average *plus* unusually good writing and class participation.

WRITTEN WORK may be graded by points, or by the following criteria, as appropriate:

A = Startlingly good, exceeding expectations, and well written. Must be imaginative; NOT given for simply following directions.
B = Good effort with a good result.
C = Perfunctory; or, tried but missed the point; or, did something well but it wasn't the assignment;
or, good idea but careless or sloppy.
D = Warning: accepted under protest.
F = Unacceptable as college-level work.

Paper grades will be lowered for lateness, sloppiness, lack of proofreading, bad English, lack of necessary documentation/supporting evidence/footnoting, faulty logic, or failure to follow directions for the assignment. Please study the directions for writing assignments, elsewhere in this syllabus.

Late written work: Papers are **due in class in hard copy** on the day specified. After that, late papers will be lowered five points a day, or half a grade, during the work week (Mon-Fri) and lowered ten points over a weekend. Note that this makes even “A” work into “F” work after ten days. **If you need an extension, you must ask for it *before* the due date** if you want to avoid a penalty.

Class participation grade:

“A” Level: Great class participation—student demonstrates understanding of subject and the ability to think critically about it, makes connections with other students and encourages friendly and positive discussion, no “one-upping.”

“B” level: Normal class participation—student shows up on time, keeps up with classwork, participates in group activities, does not cause problems

“C” level: Student shows poor class attendance, does not pay attention, is not up to date with reading, is disruptive, etc.

“D-F” level: Student will get a D-F in class participation automatically if they use their personal technology devices in any way that is not connected to the classroom. IE no Facebook, Tinder, Snapchat, etc. etc. etc. You are allowed to monitor emergency campus alerts of course.

TWO PIECES OF GRADED WORK MISSING WILL BE GROUNDS FOR FAILING THE COURSE REGARDLESS OF YOUR PRECISE AVERAGE.

IF YOU FLUNK THE FINAL EXAM, WITH AN F ON ANOTHER MAJOR (20%) PIECE OF WORK, YOU WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE FOR THE WHOLE COURSE. To pass this course **you must demonstrate mastery of the material from all parts of the course.**

Outside of this classroom:

If you or anyone you know has been subjected to any form of harassment (due to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, etc.), please consider a visit to GMU’s Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights. They will be supportive and discreet. GMU is proud

of its diverse student body and committed to protecting the rights and the dignity of all students.

GMU Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights Website:
<http://integrity.gmu.edu/compliance/titleIX.cfm>