

Syllabus
Egyptian Art in the New Kingdom: ARTH 420/599
Thursday 4:30-7:10 pm Research Hall 202
Professor Jacquelyn Williamson

Contact information and Office Hours:

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Office hours: M/W 3:00-4:00 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 for professors in Universities.)

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.

Course Description:

Egypt is at the height of its power, influence, and wealth in the era known as the New Kingdom, approximately 1570-1069 BCE. We will learn about the Valley of the Kings and study the iconography of the most famous kings of Egypt including Hatshepsut, Tutankhamun, Akhenaten, and Ramses the Great. We will learn how to ask searching questions about social difference and the arts, and acquire the mental tools needed to investigate societies different from our own.

This course fulfills the writing intensive requirement of the Art History Major

- All writing in this class will be formal academic writing in good standard English, proofread carefully for correct grammar and spelling, and **properly cited**.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Class attendance and in-class discussion exercises.
- Assigned readings, including websites and documents on the Internet.
 - All readings will be available as pdfs on the Blackboard site for this class
- Critical Thinking Papers (with a final rewritten version to be handed in at the last class, see details below)

Critical Thinking Papers:

- Over the semester, you will write several 1-2-page **critical thinking papers**.
- **Undergraduates** will write five papers, **graduate students** will write seven papers
- To write this paper, you will use the **Critical Thinking Worksheet** in the Assignments section on the Blackboard page for this course. However, you will NOT just answer the questions on that worksheet by number. You will use that worksheet as an outline to structure your paper.
- Each paper will be handed in on the due dates listed in the syllabus.

Final Critical Thinking paper: revised and rewritten

- This paper will be handed in during the last class of the semester.
- You will choose one of the critical thinking papers you wrote during the course of the semester, and rewrite it according to the suggestions and feedback provided. (note: you may not choose a paper that has no suggestions for revision.) These suggestions may include questions of style, composition, and spelling as well as questions of content.
- You will reread the original article/book excerpt/etc. Have your answers changed? Do you understand it in a different way now that you have read more? Be sure to include a discussion of connecting articles/book excerpts, etc. that may have helped you understand the original article better (cite these works also, preferably by footnote and the Chicago Manual of Style method.)
- This revised version will be 3-4 pages in length.

Fall Semester Dates:

First Day of classes: August 27

Labor Day (University Closed): September 3rd

Last day to add classes: September 4th

Final Drop Deadline without tuition penalty: September 9th

Selective withdrawal period with 100% tuition penalty: October 1-28

Fall Break: October 8th, Monday classes meet Tuesday, Tuesday classes do not meet this week.

Thanksgiving Recess: November 21st-25th

Last Day of Classes for the University: December 8th

- **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.

Coursework/Grade Requirements

10% class attendance: showing up for class

10% class participation: includes assigned readings, active participation in class discussions

20% final revised critical thinking paper

60% critical thinking papers: **Undergraduates** will write five papers; **graduate students** will write seven papers. 1-2 pages each.

Due dates: Critical Thinking Papers

September 6: First Critical Thinking Paper Due (all students)

September 27: Second Critical Thinking Paper Due (all students)

October 11: Third Critical Thinking Paper Due (all students)

October 25: Fourth Critical Thinking Paper Due (all students)

November 8: Fifth Critical Thinking Paper Due (all students)

November 15: Sixth Critical Thinking Paper Due (graduate students only)

November 29: Seventh Critical Thinking Paper Due (graduate students only)

December 6: Final Revised and Rewritten Critical Thinking Paper due (all students)

Class meetings and assignments:

NOTE:

The readings have mostly been separated into two categories each week.

“**General Readings**” provide non-specialist background information with general points

“**Specific Readings**” are specialist articles, written on one particular subject

Read the General Readings first and then the Specific Readings

Week 1 Introduction

August 30th

Gay Robins, Understanding Egyptian Art

The Second Intermediate Period and the New Kingdom, by L. Morenz and L. Popko

Week 2 New Kingdom: Art and the Artist

September 6th

First Critical Thinking Paper due (subject: Nyord, Vision and Conceptualization)

General Reading:

Gay Robins: Art of the New Kingdom

Specific Reading:

R. Nyord Vision and Conceptualization in Ancient Egyptian art (subject of critical thinking paper)

B. Bryan, Art Making in Texts and Contexts

Week 3 Hatshepsut

September 13

General Reading:

Catalogue on Hatshepsut, Keller

Specific Reading:

B. Bryan Hatshepsut and Cultic Revelries in the New Kingdom

Week 4 Images of Cultic Revelry/Sexuality

September 20

(please be sure to google images of The Turin Erotic Papyrus to help you understand these readings)

O'Connor, Eros in Egypt

Depaw and Smith, Visions of Ecstasy

Szpakowska, Altered States

Asher, On Nakedness
Green, In Search of Ancient Egyptian Virgins

Week 5 Temples

September 27

Second Critical Thinking Paper due (subject: Bell, New Kingdom Divine Temple)

General Reading:

Temple Architecture and Decorative Systems, Penelope Wilson
The Temple of the World/ The kingdom of Amun, pg. 169-221

Specific Reading:

The New Kingdom Divine Temple, the example of Luxor, by Lanny Bell (subject of the critical thinking paper)

Week 6 Temples II

October 4th

General Reading:

Priests and Temples: Pharaonic, Neal Spencer
New Kingdom Mortuary Temples and Temples of Millions of Years, Gerhard Haeny

Specific Reading:

Lotz, Replicas of Shu
Frood, Egyptian Temple Graffiti and the Gods

Week 7 Amunhotep III

Third Critical Thinking Paper due (subject: Bryan, Statue Program)

October 11th

General Reading:

Parts of Egypt's Dazzling Sun, Bryan and Kozloff

Specific Reading:

Bryan, The Statue Program for the Mortuary Temple of Amunhotep III (subject of the critical thinking paper)

Week 8 Tombs- royal

October 18th

General Reading:

Complete Valley of the Kings, Reeves and Wilkinson, Tombs of the kings

The quest for immortality, Intro by Bryan, Thutmosis III and the Glory of the New Kingdom by Haikal, Exploring the Beyond by Horung, (incl Amduat and Litany of Re), Art for the Afterlife, by Bryan

Specific Reading:

Richter, Amduat and Relationship...

**Week 9 Tombs non-royal
October 25th**

Fourth Critical Thinking Paper due (subject: Bryan, Memory and Knowledge)

General Reading:

Review basic information on non-royal tombs in: Robins: New Kingdom

Specific Reading:

Cooney, Gender Transformation in Death

Bryan, Just Say No

Bryan, Memory and Knowledge in E Tomb Painting (subject of the critical thinking paper)

Bryan, Painting Techniques

**Week 10 Women in art and religion
November 1st**

Specific Reading:

Onstine, Gender and the Religion of Ancient Egypt

Szpakowska, Hidden Voices: Unveiling Women in Ancient Egypt

Robins, Some Principles of Compositional Dominance and Gender Hierarchy

Week 11 Akhenaten I

Fifth Critical Thinking Paper due (subject: Williamson, Innovation and Experimentation...)

November 8th

General Reading:

Williamson, UCLA encyclopedia entry, Amarna Period

Robins, The Amarna Period

Specific Reading:

Williamson, Evidence for Innovation and Experimentation... (subject of critical thinking paper)

Green, Some thoughts on the ritual banquets...

Week 12 Akhenaten II

Sixth Critical Thinking Paper due (graduate students only) Subject: Williamson, Death and the Sun temple

November 15th

Specific Readings:

Frood, review of Tyldesley's Beautiful Enigma

Williamson, Alone Before the God

Williamson, Death and the Sun Temple (subject of the critical thinking paper)

Stevens, Visibility, Private Religion

Week 13

No class

Thanksgiving break

Week 14 Tutankhamun

Seventh Critical Thinking Paper due (graduate students only) Reeves- subject of critical thinking paper

November 29th

Specific Readings:

Decorative Program in the Tomb of Tutankhamun, Gay Robins

Reeves, Tutankhamun's Mask Reconsidered (subject of the critical thinking paper)

Kawai: Ay verses Horemheb

Week 15 Ramesside Period and misc.

Final Revised Critical Thinking Paper due (all)

December 6th

Specific Readings:

Morris, Exchange, Extraction, and Politics

Backhouse, Figured Ostraca

Baines and Frood, Piety, change...

Virtual Nefertari (use the reference to find the virtual recreation)

McCarthy, McCarthy The Osiris Nefertari

CLASS POLICIES:

Attendance is necessary; much of the material will only be covered in our slide lectures. You are responsible for getting notes, and for all consequences of missed classes. Class participation will affect your grade, if it is conspicuously good, conspicuously lacking, or continually disruptive. One unexcused absence is allowed. More than one, and the "class participation" grade goes down.

Classroom atmosphere. Courtesy and common sense, please. Talking to friends during lectures, wandering in and out, cell phones, and eating food are all badly distracting to everyone else. Chronic chatterers and latecomers are disruptive, and will be asked to leave the classroom (University policy.)

Electronic devices. Use of a laptop or I-pad is fine during class for taking notes. Surfing the web, twitter, Instagram, emails are not OK. No use of computers or devices during class films—too distracting to all around you.

Written work is a major part of the course, and will count heavily towards your final grade. Papers must be written in good formal English, with full documentation in standard Chicago or MLA format. Please submit papers typed, double-spaced, and proofread. Spelling and grammar count. Badly written work will be downgraded, returned for a rewrite, or flunked, as I see most appropriate. All students are expected to use word-processors with spell-checkers. For help with writing, please contact **The Writing Center** in Robinson I, Room A116. Call them at (703) 993-1200, or see their phenomenally good web page, at: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>.

Late written work: Papers are due in class on the day specified. Late papers will be lowered five points a day (not per class day; *every* day) during the week (Mon-Fri) and lowered ten points over a weekend. Note that this makes even the best work “F” work after about ten days. **If you need an extension, you must ask for it before the due date, not on or after**, if you want to avoid a penalty. **By the final exam, all missing work becomes F work.** Make-up finals and elaborate medical excuses will require verification with a physician's or assistant dean's excuse.

No email submissions of papers, except in special cases with my prior permission. Papers received by email without prior permission will be marked down ten points. **Written work is due in hard copy in class on the due date.** Papers will not be considered “on time” unless I receive them in hard copy.

Learning disabilities will be accommodated as required according to University policies. Learning disabilities must be documented by the Disabilities Support Services. **It is the student's responsibility to get tested, present the documentation to me, and request accommodations in a timely way** (i.e. not on the day of the test; not after-the-fact). For more information, call the **GMU Disability Resource Center** at (703) 993-2474, or visit their website at <http://ds.gmu.edu/>

Religious holidays. I have planned this course 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).

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--by previewing papers, offering extra help, that sort of thing. But the final result must be good standard written English. You will want to work with The Writing Center in Robinson I, Room A116. 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 the **English Language Institute (ELI)**. Call them at (703) 993-3664, or visit their website at <http://eli.gmu.edu>

Academic honesty is expected in all tests and writing. Please respect the Honor Code, our classroom standards, your fellow students, and yourself. The Honor Pledge will be required on all tests. Please report violations to the Honor Committee. See the explanation of plagiarism in the guidelines for writing.

GRADING POLICIES

Assignments must be completed 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 given, probably during the subsequent class. **Grades will be calculated as follows:**

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

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

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

Late written work: Papers are due on the day specified. Late papers will be lowered five points a day (not per class day; *every* day) during the week (Mon-Fri) and lowered ten points over a weekend. Note that this makes even the best work "F" work after about ten days. **If you need an extension, you must ask for it before the due date, not on or after**, if you want to avoid a penalty. **By the final exam, all missing work becomes F work.**

Class participation grades: Habitual absence (three times or more) will be construed as a conspicuous lack of participation indeed. Disruptive or inappropriate classroom behavior will result in a lowering of this grade. You must contribute to the discussion at least once during each class meeting. **Your grade will dramatically suffer if it is clear that you are surfing the Web during class.**

Borderline grades may vary from strict numerical average if there is a pattern to grades over time (up or down) or if the final exam is flunked, or if major pieces of work are missing.