

Syllabus Fall 2021
Ancient Nubia and the Black Pharaohs
ARTH 399 and AFAM 390
on line and asynchronous
Dr. Jacquelyn Williamson

Class Materials posted on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Course Description

This class will study the art and archaeology of the people of ancient Nubia (modern Sudan), who became pharaohs of Ancient Egypt's 25th Dynasty around 750 BCE. We will highlight the sophisticated history of Nubian cultures as well as the nature of their interactions with Egypt. We will encounter issues such as state formation, religious change, and imperialism. Students will learn current research in the archaeology of North-East Africa and discuss the ways in which these debates influence notions of cultural heritage and identity in the contemporary world.

Contact information and Personal Consultations (office hours):

Email: jwilli98@gmu.edu

Office hours: offered virtually at your convenience, contact me to set up a time that works best for you. To schedule an office visit, email me and we will set up a time that works best for your schedule!

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 REQUIREMENTS:

- Class participation and exercises: for this class, participation means discussion board assignments, readings, and the weekly lecture videos posted to Blackboard.
 - Note that the directions for the discussion board assignments will be in the "assignment" section of Blackboard.
 - **The sooner you post and the more you post, the better your grade.** If we all leave comments just before the last few minutes before the due time, it is not a discussion board anymore, but a mosh-pit. Your grade will suffer if you contribute to the boards at the last minute (i.e., close the due date)
- Assigned readings, including websites and documents on the Internet/Blackboard.
- Two short critical thinking papers (2-3 pages not including citations, your paper must cover an entire two pages at minimum) Directions are in the "assignment" section of Blackboard.
- a midterm and a final exam.

Final Grades (see more details below, after the lecture and readings schedule):

Class participation 20% (for this class, participation means the readings, the online content, and discussion board participation – which cannot be left for the last minute)

1st critical thinking paper 15%

2nd critical thinking paper 15%

Mid-term 25%

Final exam 25%

Excuses or requests for late assignments, make-up exams, etc., will only be accepted if they reach Professor Williamson BEFORE the assignment is due or the exam begins, and will be approved only at Professor Williamson's discretion.

Attendance and Class participation: for this class, this is defined as doing the reading, working through the materials posted to Blackboard each week, and the discussion board assignments. This is necessary; much of the material will only be covered in our lectures.

Remember, you will get a grade each week for your class participation, but the final class score will not always be a literal summation of these grades as I may also take in other factors for the final score. This allows your grade to reflect growth and effort.

Although this is an online asynchronous class you must keep up with the assignments and lecture material each week.

Course Goals and Objectives:

Students will understand the development of the art and architecture of ancient Nubia and will be able to engage intellectually with specific monuments through a close visual analysis of their forms. Students will also situate these monuments in the broader historical and cultural contexts and develop a knowledge of the chronological and geographical parameters of ancient Sudan/Nubia. Students will also engage in the analysis of scholarly arguments, develop critical thinking, and understand how to apply evidence to construct arguments.

This course will also focus upon the following outcomes/objectives

1. the development of intercultural competencies.
2. individual and collective responsibilities within a global society through analytical, practical, or creative responses to problems or issues, using resources appropriate to the field.
3. how one's own values influence interactions and relationships with others, both locally and globally.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

- GMU email accounts—**only GMU accounts** will get announcements.
- Personal computer or other device with connectivity.

- Internet access and Blackboard via your GMU account.

Add-drop deadlines

Fall Semester Dates:

First Day of classes: August 23rd

Labor Day (University Closed): September 6th

Last day to add classes: August 30th

Final Drop Deadline with tuition refund: September 7th

Selective withdrawal period with 50% tuition penalty: September 14th (can withdraw from September 15th to September 27th but there will be a 100% tuition liability)

Fall Break: October 11th, Monday classes meet Tuesday 12th, Tuesday classes do not meet this week.

Thanksgiving Break: November 24th-28th

Last Day of Classes for the University: December 4th

It is your responsibility to observe the add-drop deadlines to ensure that you are properly registered for specific courses.

Due dates for papers and test dates:

10/1: first round of critical thinking papers due

10/15: Midterm test

11/19: second round of critical thinking papers due

TBA: Final Exam

Course Readings and Lectures:

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

M. Fischer, P. Lacovara, S. Ikram, S. D'Auria. *Ancient Nubia: African Kingdoms on the Nile*. American University in Cairo Press, Cairo and New York, 2012.

(Note that, at the time of writing this syllabus, you can find this book on Amazon for a slightly cheaper price than the bookstore.)

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

Note:

“Ancient Nubia” is short for your text book: M. Fischer, P. Lacovara, S. Ikram, S. D’Auria.
Ancient Nubia: African Kingdoms on the Nile. American University in Cairo Press, Cairo and New York, 2012.

Assigned reading should be done before the lectures.

Week of August 23rd First week of instruction: Introduction

Ancient Nubia: pg. 1-9

Topics this week: how to get an A in this course, general information on Nubia to help us get situated in the subject

Week of August 30th (last day to add) Week 2 of instruction

Ancient Nubia: pg. 10-44

Topics this week: the great history of Nubia

Week of September 6th (September 6th is Labor day, no class) Week 3 of instruction

Ancient Nubia: pg. 45-56

Topics this week: the history of the discovery and excavation of Nubia, from treasure hunting to science.

September 13th Week 4 of instruction

Ancient Nubia: pg. 57-77

Topics this week: the threats to Nubian monuments by moderns

September 20th Week 5

Ancient Nubia: pg. 78-83

Topics this week: The Art and Architecture of Early Nubia: A-Group to the Kerma culture

October 27th Week 6

Ancient Nubia: pg. 84-91

Topics this week: Ancient Egypt in Ancient Nubia

October 4th Week 7

Ancient Nubia: pg. 108-112

Topics this week: The Kushite period of Nubia, art and architecture

October 11th (11th is Columbus Day) Week 8

Ancient Nubia: pg. 113-117

Topics this week: The Meroitic period of Nubia, art and architecture

October 18th Week 9

Ancient Nubia: pg. 118-124

Topics this week: Kings and Kingship in Nubia

October 25th Week 10

Ancient Nubia: pg. 170-185

Topics this week: Queens and Priestesses in Nubia

November 1st Week 11

Ancient Nubia: pg. 125-143

Topics this week: Nubian Religion

November 8th Week 12

Ancient Nubia: pg. 145-153

Topics this week: Burial Customs in Nubia

November 15nd Week 13

Ancient Nubia: pg. 154-169

Topics this week: writing and daily life in Nubia

November 22nd Week 14

Thanksgiving break

November 29th Week 15

Ancient Nubia: pg. 210-224

Topics this week: Animals in Nubia (food to religion)

CLASS POLICIES:

Attendance (the online content) is necessary. You are responsible for getting notes, and for all consequences of missed classes. Class participation (discussion board/interacting with the online materials) 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.

Discussion board atmosphere. Be kind and patient.

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**.

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.

Learning disabilities : all students with all abilities are respected and welcome in this classroom. They 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 result must be good standard written English. You will want to work with The Writing Center, 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)**.

Academic honesty is expected. 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. 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 suffer if 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 paper is flunked, or if major pieces of work are missing.

CLASS POLICIES

Attendance and Class participation: for this class, this is defined as doing the reading, working through the materials posted to Blackboard each week, and the discussion board assignments. This is necessary; much of the material will only be covered in our lectures. You are responsible for getting notes.

Although this is an online asynchronous class you must keep up with the assignments and lecture material each week.

Discussion board atmosphere. Courtesy and common sense, please.

Late work will be graded down five points per weekday and ten points over a weekend. Plan--last-minute hard-disk and printer failures do not constitute legitimate excuses. 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.

If you miss a discussion board deadline you will not get credit for posting to that board after the deadline. You miss the deadline, you will get a zero for that week.

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 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 contact 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).

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 on the website.

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE

What is it?

To **plagiarize** is (according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary Definition) "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own; use another's work without crediting the source." In other words: copying someone else's text/speech and trying to pass it off as your own. **This includes cutting and pasting from the internet.**

How to avoid it?

It is **very very easy to avoid** plagiarism: simply put the words in quotes and CITE the original writer/source. I take this very seriously. If you plagiarize anything, even something as simple as

a museum label, I will fail your work and report your violation of the honor code to GMU.

GRADING POLICIES

TESTS must be taken on the scheduled date. If you have 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.

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

Class participation improves/deteriorates

Reliability is stellar or poor

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

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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.

Grades will be lowered for lateness, 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 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 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 class:

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>