

Syllabus Fall 2021

Ancient Nubia and the Black Pharaohs

ARTH 317

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, colonialism, 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.

Course Goals and Objectives:

At the end of this course, students will have engaged in the analysis of scholarly arguments, have developed critical thinking skills, and will understand how to apply evidence to construct arguments. Students will take away a comparative understanding of colonization, past and present. They will also take away a knowledge of 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 situate these monuments in the broader historical and cultural contexts and develop a knowledge of the chronological and geographical parameters of ancient Sudan/Nubia.

Contact information and Personal Consultations (office hours):

Email: jwilli98@gmu.edu

Office hours (time set aside for one-on-one meetings with students): offered virtually at your convenience. Contact me to set up a time that works best for you. To schedule an office visit, email me with your GMU email address, and we will set up a time that works best for your schedule!

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 to the due date)
 - Note that your final class participation grade may NOT reflect an EXACT average of your grades in the discussion forums. This is because I consider improvement and effort: your final grade may actually go UP beyond the average of the discussion board forums. However, for this same reason it may go down.
- 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). More information about these papers is below, but you can also find complete directions in the “assignment” section of Blackboard.
- a midterm and a final exam.

Final Grade Calculation:

- 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. Discussion board assignment guidelines are in “assignments” on Blackboard)
- 1st critical thinking paper 15%
- 2nd critical thinking paper 15%
- Mid-term 25%
- Final exam 25%

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 and in the “assignments” section of Blackboard. I may award a final A+ in rare instances: 4.0 average plus unusually good writing and class participation.

Critical thinking papers: A brief description

For these critical thinking papers, your task is to think like an archaeologist: analyze the basic facts (data) of a site as presented in the gazetteer, and then relate those objects (the data) to the people/history/culture who made them.

You will choose an archaeological site in the “Gazetteer” section of your 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.) Each entry of the gazetteer is written by an expert in that archaeological site. Note that gazetteer means “a geographical index or dictionary.” Each entry in your textbook’s gazetteer is designed to summarize the most significant aspects of a particular site! Archaeologists use a variety of objects to reconstruct societies (history, social structures, religious beliefs and practices, etc.). To do this, we must connect objects and places with real people. More detailed directions are in the “Assignment” section of Blackboard for this class.

Other information about the assignments and tests:

Details for all the assignments can be found under “Assignments” on Blackboard.

You will submit all written work to the “Assessments” tab in Blackboard, where a submission portal will appear close to the due date.

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.

Please note that I do not engage in grade negotiation.

Zero policy: If you misrepresent your work in any way, I will give you a zero. Misrepresentation can include such items as 1. Using AI. 2. Claiming you did the reading, but you did not. 3.

Writing the paper without using the requirements and trying to make it seem like you followed those requirements, 4. Plagiarism, etc. This is out of fairness to the rest of the class, who made a good-faith effort to follow all the directions for their grade.

Enrollment Statement:

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class.
Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes.
(Deadlines each semester is published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Website: registrar.gmu.edu.)

Add-drop deadlines and holidays for Fall Semester 2021:

First Day of classes: August 21st

Labor Day (University Closed): September 4th.

Last day to add classes: August 28th.

Final Drop Deadline with tuition refund: September 5th (After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.)

Drop period with 50% tuition penalty: September 12th (Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal.

Selective Withdrawal with 100% tuition penalty: Sept. 18 - Oct 13

Thanksgiving Break: November 22nd-26th

Last Day of Classes for the University: December 2nd

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:

9/28: first round of critical thinking papers due

10/13: Midterm test

11/3: second round of critical thinking papers due

11/27: Final Exam

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.

You can purchase your textbook either at the GMU bookstore on the Fairfax Campus or find it on Amazon.

Supplemental reading may be added over the semester, but I will alert you in advance if this happens. They will be placed in the 'course content' section of Blackboard, you will not need to buy anything other than your textbook.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments:

(Students will be notified of any changes)

Note:

“Ancient Nubia” below 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 21st: 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 get situated in the subject.

Week of August 28th (last day to add) Week 2 of instruction.

Ancient Nubia: pg. 10-44

Topics this week: the great history of Nubia

Week of September 4th : 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 11th Week 4 of instruction

Ancient Nubia: pg. 57-77

Topics this week: the threats to Nubian monuments by moderns

September 18th Week 5

Ancient Nubia: pg. 78-83

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

September 25th Week 6

Ancient Nubia: pg. 84-91

Topics this week: Ancient Egypt in Ancient Nubia

October 2nd Week 7

Ancient Nubia: pg. 108-112

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

October 9th Week 8

Ancient Nubia: pg. 113-117

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

October 16th Week 9

Ancient Nubia: pg. 118-124

Topics this week: Kings and Kingship in Nubia

October 23rd Week 10

Ancient Nubia: pg. 170-185

Topics this week: Queens and Priestesses in Nubia

October 30th Week 11

Ancient Nubia: pg. 125-143

Topics this week: Nubian Religion

November 6th Week 12

Ancient Nubia: pg. 145-153

Topics this week: Burial Customs in Nubia

November 13th Week 13

Ancient Nubia: pg. 154-169, and 210-224

Topics this week: writing, daily life in Nubia, animals (food to religion)

November 20th Week 14

Thanksgiving break, be sure to study for your final exam!

November 27th Week 15

Final exam week

CLASS POLICIES:

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 (web site below).

Late written work: Papers are due on the day specified. Late papers will be lowered five points a day (not per class day, but every day) during the week (Mon-Fri) and lowered ten points over a weekend. 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: Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then, please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474

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, etc. 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).

GMU Honor code: George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited.

All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

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.

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)

Borderline grades may vary from strict numerical average if there is a pattern to grades over time (up or down).

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

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.)

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 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.

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 and in the “assignments” section of Blackboard.

Late written work: Papers are due 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.

GMU requires you to activate your GMU e-mail account to receive official campus communications. If you prefer to use another address, you must activate the e-mail forwarder. I will use GMU addresses exclusively.

Other important resources:

GMU Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Website:

<http://integrity.gmu.edu/compliance/titleIX.cfm>

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.

Religious holidays: University Life religious holiday calendar

<http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/>

It is the obligation of students, within the first two weeks of the semester, to provide faculty members with the dates of major religious holidays on which they will be absent due to religious observances.

Student privacy:

student privacy and student rights under FERPA <http://registrar.gmu.edu/ferpa/>

Student services:

Online Education Services, University Libraries <http://library.gmu.edu/for/online>

Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

Counseling and Psychological Services: <http://caps.gmu.edu/>