

History W1004: Ancient History of Egypt

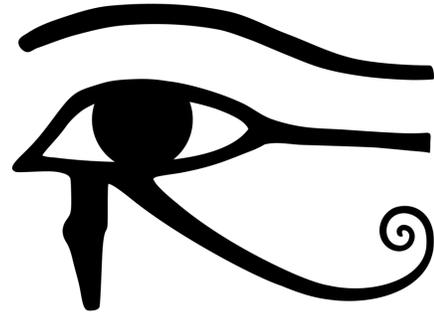
TA: Zachary Herz

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Sections: M 2:10-3:00 (Hamilton 507)

M: 5:10-6:00 (Hamilton 507)

Office Hours: By Appointment



Expectations and Goals

The weekly section meeting for the course is designed to foster more detailed discussions of primary texts and objects of material culture not covered by the main lecture. This is a vital component of the course and of the “Global Core” more generally. Each week, students must come to section having read and prepared for a discussion on the particular text or object assigned for that week. We will spend the 50-minute section going over different aspects of the text/object in question. There will also be two “review” sessions before the midterm and final respectively. A schedule of the weekly sections can be found at the end of this syllabus.

These sessions are your opportunity to engage more intimately with the course material and to voice your opinions. Discussions are meant to encourage and various readings of a text rather than to champion a singular interpretation. Therefore, I want the discussion section to be a comfortable space for students—I will do my utmost to treat all of you and your contributions with respect. I expect you to show the same attitude towards me, but **more importantly towards your peers**. This class is about learning to listen, as well as to speak.

Feel free to email me with any questions you have regarding the course, including your papers. I will do my best to respond by the next business day. If you would like to discuss things more extensively, please send me an email to arrange a time to meet; I would love to discuss this material with you in a one-on-one setting. If I am unable to provide the necessary assistance, I can refer you to other university resources, such as the Writing Center and the CSA Tutoring Service.

Attendance and Participation

Section performance is a mandatory component of this class, comprising **25% of the overall course grade**. I will be grading my section as follows: half according to attendance and participation in weekly sections, and half according to informal samples of your analytic writing.

In particular, each of you will be expected to write **five brief response papers** (~250 words) over the course of the semester. Each response will comprise a brief analysis of the object in question, with a focus on elements that you found particularly interesting and questions that you would like the group to explore further. You should consider these responses practice for the kind of writing you will be expected to provide in your papers—they are an opportunity for you to gain a better understanding of historical analysis, with relatively low grading pressure (each paper constitutes only a small fraction of your final grade) and individualized feedback. These responses must be posted to CourseWorks by **6 P.M. on the preceding Sunday** in order to receive credit. I will expect all students to, at least, quickly skim any posted responses before

class, as much of our section will be devoted to exploring issues highlighted therein. I will do the same, and will provide feedback, along with a numerical evaluation, **by the next week**. Note that you will have only nine opportunities to prepare five total responses, and plan accordingly.

The attendance portion of your grade will be based not only on physical presence in the classroom but also on regular contributions to class discussion. I will not be providing specific feedback on this component of your grade as a regular practice; however, I am happy to discuss students' performance on an individual basis. Students are allowed a maximum of two absences. Any further absences will negatively impact the participation grade. Excused absences (medical, religious, etc.) should be cleared with me in advance of the missed section meeting.

Cell Phones/Laptops

As in lecture, cell phone and laptop use in section is prohibited--please keep these electronics turned off or on silent mode. I will provide handouts of the week's reading/object, so there is no need for digital viewing. Of course, if you have special needs regarding note-taking, present me with an accommodation letter from the Office of Disability Services (ODS), see below.

Academic Honesty

It is your responsibility to know the university policies on academic honesty. The various statements regarding academic honesty (e.g. the Faculty statement, Columbia College Honor Code, etc.) can be found at <http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/academicintegrity>. Cases of academic dishonesty must and will be reported.

Disabilities Accommodations

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations, you must first be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please refer to <http://health.columbia.edu/disability-services> for further information on this process. You must present an accommodation letter and any other necessary documentation to the instructor before exams are administered or other accommodations can be provided. Please do not come to me directly with accommodation requests—I will honor accommodation requests from ODS, but cannot evaluate and accommodate students myself.

Section Schedule (as presented on course syllabus)

Week 3: The Rosetta Stone

Week 4: The Tale of King Cheops' Court

Week 5: The town on El Lahun [N.B. FIRST PAPER DUE, **Feb. 19**]

Week 6: Josephus on the Hyksos

Week 7: Midterm Review [N.B. MIDTERM EXAM, **Mar. 5**]

Week 8: Queen Hatshepsut's expedition to the land of Punt

Week 9: SPRING BREAK

Week 10: Akhenaten's Hymn to the Aten

Week 11: The peace treaty between Ramesses II and Hattusili of Hatti

Week 12: Ramesses III's war against the Sea Peoples [N.B. NO LECTURE, **Apr. 9**]

Week 13: Nubian King Piye's victory stele

Week 14: Funerary masks from the Fayyum [N.B. 2nd PAPER DUE, **Apr. 21**]

Week 15: Final Review