

# This is a sample syllabus only.

The instructor may make changes to the syllabus in future courses.

## Egypt in the Age of the Pyramids (“FINAL”) FALL 2013, ANTH.309 / ARH.409: Section 7M.

**Times:** Monday, 5:00 – 7:30 pm  
**Location:** Room 309 Humanities Building  
**Instructor:** Dr. Gregory Mumford  
**E-mail:** [gmumford@uab.edu](mailto:gmumford@uab.edu)  
**Office:** Room 320, Dept. of Anthropology and Social Work, Heritage Hall, 1401 University Blvd (at the southeast corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Street; west of Rec. Center);  
**Office Hours:** Mondays: 2:30–4:30 pm (or by appointment);  
**Bus. Tel.:** **Office hours:** (205) 934-0490 (Mon); **Project Library:** (205) 933-7552 (Tues-Fri)

**Course description:** ANTH.309/ARH.409 is designed to be an introductory course to “Egypt in the Age of the Pyramids,” starting briefly with the roots of Egyptian civilization in Prehistory and the Predynastic periods, and focusing upon the Early Dynastic through Second Intermediate Period: Dynasties 1-17: ca.3000-1550 BCE). This time frame naturally begins as a more archaeological treatment and becomes increasingly “historical” once inscriptional and pictorial data emerge in the late Predynastic period and early Pharaonic times. The course also attempts to cover many aspects of Ancient Egypt, including archaeology, history, art, architecture, religion, literature, and other topics. Documentaries will be shown over eight classes during the semester to augment the lecture materials and provide other scholarly views on aspects of Prehistory through to the advent of the Imperial period. In essence, this course aims to be a fairly comprehensive overview of multiple aspects of this period, and a “gateway” course to furnish interested students with sufficient information to pursue more advanced studies in this field, related fields, or a more focused aspect of the subject material.

### Course requirements:

Successful completion of the course requires fulfillment of the following categories:

- 1. Written assignments** (value **30%**):  
**Introductory paragraph with thesis statement, and bibliography** (5+ sources) Feb.14 2.5%  
i.e., For initial instructor feedback prior to final paper submission (may change topic).  
**8-10 page paper** (2,000-2,500 words), 5+ sources (critical thinking assignment) April 1 (REV.) 25%  
i.e., This is the “final” hard copy essay (*as best as one can make it*), plus a **Turnitin** copy.  
**Corrected paper** (re-submit all my corrections with boldfaced & underling) April 24 2.5%  
i.e., Re-submitting the graded essay hardcopy AND the new corrected essay/paper.
- 2. Four in-class tests/quizzes** (last one is in Finals Week) (10% each → **40%**)  
All study aids provided in week-1 for semester, prior to tests 1-4; each test/quiz = 30-45 minutes.  
Additional instruction on assignments, and feedback, will take place prior to and after each test.
- 3. Best 8 of 10 (in-class) documentary responses** (due 1 week later) (2.5% each → **20%**)  
Responses to questions following the documentaries (e.g., Hatshepsut; Egypt’s Golden Empire; etc.).  
Reflection response question following the sequential questions for each documentary.
- 4. Attendance/participation (attendance sheet)** (10%):  
**Please note:** For each missed class day, 1% is deducted from the attendance component (to a maximum of 14 lecture days [10%]). Everyone is allowed 1 gratis “absence” day (*including week 1*).

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### **A. WEEK-1: Aug. 26 (Monday)**

#### **Introduction and background.**

- Lecture-1a Course syllabus, reconstruction, etc. (ppt.90 )  
Lecture-1b Sources, methods & reconstruction (ppt.114)  
Lecture-1c: Geography introduction / documentary

#### **Text readings:**

- Callender, 1998. *Egypt in the Old Kingdom*. Pp.1-20. (pdf on Blackboard-Learn)  
Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 6-35.
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### **B. WEEK-2: Sept. 2 (Monday)**

LABOR DAY = NO CLASS

**Doc.-1:** BBC: *Nile Crocodiles and Kings (Geography etc.)* 50 min. (Sept. 9) **(5%)**

\*Recommend viewing BBC documentary on geography of Egypt: see weblink on Blackboard.

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### **C. WEEK-3: Sept. 9 (Monday)**

#### **Prehistory to Predynastic Egypt.**

**Doc.-2:** *Discovery: Chaos and Kings (Early Egypt)* 50 min. (Sept. 16) **(5%)**

Lecture-2a Prehistory (ppt.134). [Reduce/drop if need be]

Lecture-2b Predynastic Egypt (ppt.124).

#### **Text readings:**

- Spencer, 1993. *Early Egypt*. Pp.9-33 and 34-47. (pdf on Blackboard-Learn)  
Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 36-61.
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### **D. WEEK-4: Sept. 16 (Monday)**

#### **Early Dynastic Egypt.**

**Doc.-3:** *History: Birth of an Empire (Narmer)* 46 min. (Sept. 23) **(5%)**

Lecture-3a Mythological foundations (pp.107).

Lecture-3b Early Dynastic Egypt: History (ppt.125)

#### **Text readings:**

- Spencer, 1993. *Early Egypt*. Pp.48-62 and 63-71. (pdf on Blackboard-Learn)  
Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 62-68.
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### **E. WEEK-5: Sept. 23 (Monday)**

#### **Early Dynastic Egypt to early Old Kingdom.**

Lecture-4a Early Dynastic Egypt: tombs, temples, trade (ppt.101)

Lecture-4b Early Dynastic Egypt. Royal tombs (ppt.161)

Lecture-4c Early Dynastic Egypt. Mortuary temples (ppt.171)

#### **Text readings:**

- Spencer, 1993. *Early Egypt*. Pp.71-91 and 91-97. (pdf on Blackboard-Learn)  
Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 70-81.
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**F. WEEK-6: Sept. 30 (Monday)**

**Old Kingdom society and history.**

**QUIZ--1**      **QUIZ-1 (Study guide posted)**                      **50 min**                      **(10%)**

Lecture-5a      Old Kingdom: Dynasty 3. (ppt.161)

Lecture-5b      Old Kingdom: Society (ppt. 130).

**Text readings:**

Callender, 1998. *Egypt in the Old Kingdom*. Pp.21-156. **(pdf on Blackboard-Learn)**

Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 82-105.

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**G. WEEK-7: Oct. 7 (Monday)**

**Old Kingdom pyramids and mortuary temples.**

**Doc.-4:**              *Discovery: Pyramids: resurrection machine*                      50 min.                      (Oct. 14) **(5%)**

Lecture-6a      Old Kingdom: History. (ppt. 121)

Lecture-6b      Old Kingdom: History. (ppt. 162)

Lecture-6c      Old Kingdom: pyramids (ppt. 186).

**ESSAY**              **Introduction and Bibliography**    **(2.5%)**

**Text readings:**

Callender, 1998. *Egypt in the Old Kingdom*. Pp. 157-66. **(pdf on Blackboard-Learn)**

Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 106-33.

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**H. WEEK-8: Oct. 14 (Monday)**

**Old Kingdom.**

Lecture-7a      Old Kingdom: Mortuary cult temples (ppt.155)

Lecture-7b      Old Kingdom: elite tombs (ppt.126).

Lecture-7c      Old Kingdom: elite tombs (ppt.132).

**Text readings:**

Callender, 1998. *Egypt in the Old Kingdom*. Pp. 167-76. **(pdf on Blackboard-Learn)**

Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 134-53.

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**I. WEEK-9: Oct. 21 (Monday)**

**Old Kingdom.**

**Doc.-5:**              *BBC: Building the Great Pyramid*    60 min.                      (Oct. 28) **(5%)**

Lecture-8a      Old Kingdom: Art, sculpture, etc. (ppt.100)

Lecture-8b      Old Kingdom: Mining & OK collapse (ppt.116)

**Text readings:**

Callender, 1998. *Egypt in the Old Kingdom*. Pp. 177-88. **(pdf on Blackboard-Learn)**

Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 153-63.

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**J. WEEK-10: Oct. 28 (Monday)****INSTRUCTOR AWAY / SUB-INSTRUCTOR****First Intermediate Period.**

<b>Doc.-6:</b>	<i>History: The Lost Pyramid (of Djedefre)</i>	100 min.	(Nov. 4) <b>(5%)</b>
<b>QUIZ-2</b>	<b>QUIZ-2 (Study guide posted)</b>	<b>50 min</b>	<b>(10%)</b>

**Text readings:**Grajetzki, 2006. *The Middle Kingdom of Ancient Egypt*. Pp. 1-27.Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 200-25 and 28-39.

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**K. WEEK-11: Nov. 4 (Monday)****Rise of the Middle Kingdom.**

<b>Doc.-7:</b>	<i>Discovery: Why Ancient Egypt Fell (ca. 2200 BC)</i>	50 min.	(Nov. 11) <b>(5%)</b>
Lecture-9a	First Intermediate Period: summary (ppt. 90)		
Lecture-10a	Middle Kingdom: Dyn.11 & literature (ppt. 113)		
Lecture-10b	Middle Kingdom: history (ppt. 179)		

**Text readings:**Grajetzki, 2006. *The Middle Kingdom of Ancient Egypt*. Pp. 28-75 and 77-133.Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 164-67.

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**L. WEEK-12: Nov. 11 (Monday)****Middle Kingdom.**

<b>Doc.-*:</b>	<i>History: Engineering an Empire</i> . (Super forts 43:30-50:46 min)	<b>7 min.</b>	(in-class)
Lecture-11a	Middle Kingdom: Forts in Nubia & military (150).		
Lecture-11c	Middle Kingdom: Royal pyramids (ppt.100)		

**Text readings:**Grajetzki, 2006. *The Middle Kingdom of Ancient Egypt*. Pp.121-133 and 133-37.Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 168-73.

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**M. WEEK-13: Nov. 18 (Monday)****Middle Kingdom.**

<b>Doc.-8:</b>	<i>Discovery: Age of Gold.</i>	Selected from 92 min. (Nov. 25)	<b>(5%)</b>
Lecture-12a	Middle Kingdom: Pyramid cults (ppt.128)		
Lecture-12b	Middle Kingdom: Elite tombs and cults (ppt.118)		
Lecture-12c	Middle Kingdom daily life (ppt.83)		
	<b>Submit completed ESSAY (will provide feedback)</b>		<b>(20%)</b>

**Text readings:**Grajetzki, 2006. *The Middle Kingdom of Ancient Egypt*. Pp. 139-65.Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 174-87 and 226-27.

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**N. WEEK-14: Nov. 25 (Monday)**

**Thanksgiving week break.**

Possibly **Doc.-7: *Discovery: Why Egypt Fell*** (50 minutes)

Optional assignment **(5%)**

Possibly **Doc.-8: *Discovery: Age of Gold***. (50 minutes)

Optional assignment **(5%)**

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**O. WEEK-15: Dec. 2 (Monday)**

**Second Intermediate Period.**

Lecture-13a Second Intermediate Period: Overview (ppt.157)

*May provide selected details from the following ppt:*

Lecture-13b Second Intermediate Period: Kerma part-1 (ppt.76)

Lecture-13c Second Intermediate Period: Kerma part-2 (ppt.81)

Lecture-13d Second Intermediate Period: Kerma part-3 (ppt.111)

**Text readings:**

On-line reading on Second Intermediate Period from I. Shaw, *Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*.

On-line reading on Second Intermediate Period Nubia.

Lehner, 1997. *The Complete Pyramids*. Pp. 188-91.

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**P. WEEK-16: Finals week.**

**ESSAY** Corrected Essay due Dec. 9

**(2.5%)**

**FINAL** QUIZ-3 (Study guide posted)

**Dec.9, Monday, 7:00 – 9:30 pm**

**(10%)**

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### **TEXTBOOK READINGS:**

Read at least books 1-4, from the following four textbooks. Spencer, Callender, Grajetzki, and Lehner form the basic three chronological treatments with other aspects as well in Lehner; the lectures follow materials from all three, and other, sources.

#### **(a). Historical and cultural overview:**

\*Spencer, A. J.

1993 *Early Egypt: the Rise of Civilisation in the Nile Valley*. London: British Museum Press. **PDF**  
Placed online (short book)

\*Callender, Gae

1998 *Egypt in the Old Kingdom: An Introduction*. Sydney: Longman. (preferred reading) **PDF**  
Placed online (short book)

\*Grajetzki, Wolfram

2006 *The Middle Kingdom of Ancient Egypt: History, Archaeology and Society*. London: Gerald Duckworth Ltd. **(textbook store; Amazon.com; Sterne Library)**

#### **(b). Royal tomb architecture: Early Dynastic - Second Intermediate Period (highly recommended):**

\*Lehner, Mark

1997 *The Complete Pyramids*. London: Thames and Hudson. (excellent overview of pyramids and affiliated topics covering Early Dynastic beginnings through Middle Kingdom and later). **ESSAY**

#### **(c). Broad Overview (combines some data from all of the above four books [highly recommended])**

\*Andreu, G.

1997. *Egypt in the Age of the Pyramids*. (much less detailed; might replace Callender & Grajetzki).  
**Quick overview read**

### **Lectures and in-class materials available on-line (= a courtesy; not a requirement):**

All lectures (power point presentations) will be placed on a UAB website (Blackboard-Learn; similar to former Blackboard program) accessible through **BlazerNet** only by members enrolled in the course.

(1) Access **BlazerNet**

(2) Access the **course list** for courses in which you are registered/enrolled (via student dashboard).

(3) Access the link for **ANT 309** (Egypt in the Age of the Pyramids).

(4) Check the different files for the course: e.g., assignments, lectures, etc.

**Please note:** Missing a lecture will mean losing 1% for each absence –unless you have an official, legitimate documented reason for missing a class (e.g., doctor’s note).

Should someone be legitimately sick for multiple classes, it is recommended that you drop the course & sign up for it in a future semester (I may allow make-up assignments)

A perfect/near perfect attendance may play a pivotal role in borderline grades. For example, if someone has a high D, C, or B, the instructor will take attendance into consideration for bumping the grade up to the next letter grade.

An unexplained low/medium attendance will not help: not only will a lot of “free” % be lost (1% per absence), but no extra consideration will be applied for border-line grades or other circumstances where the instructor has leeway (e.g., paper deadlines).

One gratis absentee day (no explanations needed); beyond this, in order to make-up a lost 1% one may submit 500+-word summary of each missed power point presentation.

## GRADES:

The grades for this course are based upon the following:

1. **Class participation** (i.e., attendance/participation) **10%** (1% per class, including doc.)  
Excludes day-1; there will be only one gratis class day since there is one class-day per week.

**QUIZZES/TESTS** will be 30+ minutes; may include T/F, mix-and-match, brief identifications.

2. **Quiz-1** (weeks 1-4) **10% On Sept. 30 (Monday)**  
(quiz study guide provided 1+ weeks in advance)

3. **Quiz-2** (weeks 5-9) **10% On Oct. 28 (Monday)**  
(quiz study guide provided 1+ weeks in advance)

4. **Quiz-3** (weeks 10-13) **10% Finals week (TBA)**  
(quiz study guide provided 1+ weeks in advance)

5. **Documentary response questions: dates may change. 30% (only 6 doc. = required of 8 doc.)**

Please note, documentary viewing dates may change owing to unforeseen circumstances.

There will probably be several questions following the in-class documentary (may be submitted in-class, or due the following week); six-eight of them include a 1% attendance component in the 5%

*Best "6" of 8 documentary response questions:*

- Doc.-1:	BBC: Nile Crocodiles and Kings (Geography etc.)	50 min.	5% (Sept. 2)
- Doc.-2:	Discovery: Chaos and Kings (Early Egypt)	50 min.	5% (Sept. 9)
- Doc.-3:	History: Birth of an Empire (Narmer)	46 min.	5% (Sept. 16)
- Doc.-4:	Discovery: Pyramids: resurrection machine	50 min.	5% (Oct. 7)
- Doc.-5:	BBC: Building the Great Pyramid	60 min.	5% (Oct. 21)
- Doc.-6:	Discovery: Why Ancient Egypt Fell (ca. 2200 BC)	50 min.	5% (Oct. 28)
- Doc.-7:	History: Engineering an Empire. (Super forts)	92 min.	5% (Nov. 4) optional
- Doc.-8:	Discovery: Age of Gold. (SIP)	50 min.	5% (Nov.18)optional

6. **Research paper/project** (8-10 pages; 2000-2500 words) **30%** **3 stages in submission & grading.**

A more detailed guide is placed at the end of the syllabus (it is a guide); it will be covered in class.

I will hand out a separate guide, but in essence one may pursue any topic within the course time-frame and subject area, but absolutely not outside this area: i.e., do not write on post 1550 BC Egypt.

Part-1: Formulating a thesis statement and bibliography **2.5%** Due Oct. 7 (Monday)  
See also Egypt Essay Sources guide \*(on-line)

Part-2: Submitting completed essay (for feedback) **25%** Due Nov.18 (Monday)  
See Essay guide in syllabus, class instruction, etc.

Part-3: Submitting corrections/tips on corrected essay **2.5%** Due Dec. 5 (Monday; Finals Week)  
Must **boldface** + underline all corrections entered.

**Total grades** **100%**

**Please note:** **Absenteeism:** Any absence requires an official doctor's note; should a student encounter extensive illness/absences, please see instructor.

**Mark range:** **Fail** = 0-59%; **D** = 60-69%; **C** = 70-79%; **B** = 80-89%; **A** = 90-100%