

Art History 213

Art of Ancient Egypt I – 3000–1550 BCE

Fall 2018

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Office hours: Mon 10am–12pm and by appointment

Lectures:

Tues/Thurs 4:00–5:15 pm

Carlos Hall, Room 211

Course description

This course explores art from ancient Egypt in the period from the Predynastic to the end of the Second Intermediate Period (3000–1550 BCE). Structured roughly chronologically, we will follow the origin and development of such iconic ancient Egyptian works of art and architecture as pyramids, decorated tombs, statues and grave goods. As most of these works were motivated by concerns we can broadly term religious, significant attention is paid to situating each within its cultural context as indicated by contemporary sources and traces of practice that can be attested archaeologically. The course includes visits to the collection of the Michael C. Carlos Museum to study concrete works from the period.

Course objectives

To provide students with an overview of the main developments in Egyptian art history 3000–1550 BCE.

To acquaint students with important ancient Egyptian works of art from the period in their cultural and historical context.

To give student a basic stylistic and iconographic vocabulary for analysing ancient Egyptian art.

To familiarize students with some of the most important objects from before the New Kingdom in the ancient Egyptian collection of the Michael C. Carlos Museum.

To develop critical reasoning skills in relation to the interpretation of artworks including their archaeological context.

Texts

Basic text:

- Robins, Gay. *The Art of Ancient Egypt*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2008.

Three museum catalogues with important readings:

- *Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization*. Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 2011. Available online from the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago at <https://oi-idb-static.uchicago.edu/multimedia/88/oimp33.pdf>
- *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1999. Available online from the Metropolitan Museum of Art at https://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications/egyptian_art_in_the_age_of_the_pyramids
- *Ancient Egypt Transformed: The Middle Kingdom*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2015.

An excellent introduction to pyramids:

- Lehner, Mark. *The Complete Pyramids: Solving the Ancient Mysteries*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1997. Available online at from the Harvard Giza Project at <http://giza.fas.harvard.edu/pubdocs/877/intro/>

Assigned reading from the following book is available on Canvas:

- Hartwig, Melinda (ed.). *A Companion to Ancient Egyptian Art*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2015.

Grading

Class attendance, preparation, and participation are mandatory.

Exam 1: 30%

Exam 2: 30%

Paper: 25%

Paper revision: 15%

Course requirements

Paper

The paper consists of a 4–6-page (12 point, double-spaced) essay on **one** of the following topics:

1. The modern practice of publicly exhibiting ancient Egyptian art in museums stands in contrast with the fact that many such objects would have had a very limited audience of viewers (especially in the case of funerary objects). Discuss this difference on the basis of one or more concrete works, considering their audience in their original setting.
2. What differences may be observed between Old Kingdom and Middle Kingdom royal statues, and can such differences tell us anything about changes in the conception of kingship? This question is best answered using two or more concrete works for contrast.
3. A characteristic feature in ancient Egyptian stone architecture is the practice of mimicking structures made of perishable material. Discuss this practice (with concrete examples) and what it may tell us about the purpose of the works in question.
4. To what extent can ancient Egyptian statues be said to be examples of ‘portraiture’ in the sense of attempting to capture individual features of the person depicted – and how can we tell? Discuss with examples.
5. Servant figurines from the Middle Kingdom are often said to have the same subject matter, and presumably the same purpose, as ‘scenes of daily life’ on the walls of Old Kingdom private tombs. Find a set of examples (i.e. an Old Kingdom wall scene and a Middle Kingdom tableau) for comparison and discuss the similarities and differences in the treatment of the subject matter. [*As the lecture on Middle Kingdom grave goods takes place after the first paper deadline, the following overview of servant models will be useful as supplementary reading for this question: R.E. Freed and D.M. Doxey, “The Djehutynakhts’ models”, in R. Freed et al., *The Secrets of Tomb 10A: Egypt 2000 BC*. Boston: Museum of Fine Arts, 2008, pp. 151–177].*
6. What can private tombs and the artworks inside them tell us about the mortuary religion or ancestor cult of the ancient Egyptians? Discuss using one or more concrete examples.
7. Judging from royal mortuary complexes, what were the most important elements of the conceptions and practices relating to the deceased king? Discuss on the basis of one or more concrete burial complexes.
8. Many categories of objects could be made from a range of different materials. Discuss one or more aspects of the implications of the choice of materials (e.g. where did the material(s) come from, how were they worked), and how this would have mattered for the function of the object.
9. Discuss the role of the First Intermediate Period in Egyptian art history in terms of innovation versus adherence to traditional forms. Contrast concrete examples of works from the First Intermediate Period with works from the Old and/or Middle Kingdom.

The concrete objects discussed in the paper may come from the lectures or readings, the Michael C. Carlos Museum, or other reliable sources (especially catalogues/museum exhibits). If you find your own examples, pay attention to the contextual information given by the source regarding the object in

general, and in particular make sure to choose examples that belong to the periods covered by the course.

Papers are to be submitted by email to rune.nyord@emory.edu. Remember to include your name and the number of the question answered in a prominent place in your paper. The first version is due by midnight on **Friday 2 November**, and the revised version by midnight on **Friday 7 December**.

Exams

Midterm (Thursday 18 October): Written exam covering the art of the Old Kingdom

Final (Tuesday 18 December): Written exam covering the art of the Middle Kingdom as well as more general themes developed over the course.

Syllabus

1. Thursday 30 August: Introduction
 - Baines, "What is Art?" in Hartwig (ed.), *A Companion to Ancient Egyptian Art*, pp. 1–21

2. Tuesday 4 September: Materials and making of art in ancient Egypt
 - Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 12–29

3. Thursday 6 September: Pre- and protodynastic period
 - Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 30–36
 - *Before the Pyramids*, pp. 33–44 and 65–74

4. Tuesday 11 September: Early dynastic period (1st–2nd Dynasties)
 - Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 36–39
 - *Before the Pyramids*, pp. 75–83 and 137–144

5. Thursday 13 September: **Old Kingdom** – Royal tombs and mortuary complexes I: Djoser and Seneferu (3rd–4th Dynasties)
 - Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 40–49
 - Mark Lehner, *Complete Pyramids*, 84–105
 - *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*, pp. 168–170

6. Tuesday 18 September: Old Kingdom – Royal tombs and mortuary complexes II: Giza (4th Dynasty)
 - Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 49–51
 - Mark Lehner, *Complete Pyramids*, 106–137
 - *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*, 214–215

7. Thursday 20 September: Old Kingdom – Private tombs of the 3rd and 4th Dynasties
Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 51–57
 - Jánosi, in *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*, pp. 27–40
 - *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*, pp. 188, 199–201, 243–244

8. Tuesday 25 September: Old Kingdom – Royal tombs and mortuary complexes III: Solar temples and pyramids of the 5th and 6th Dynasties
 - Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 58–67
 - *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*, pp. 331–332, 354–358, 445

9. Thursday 27 September: Old Kingdom – Private tombs of the 5th and 6th Dynasties
 - Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 67–78
 - Arnold, in *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*, pp. 41–50
 - *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*, pp. 404–407, 468–471

10. Tuesday 2 October: Old Kingdom – Royal statues
 - Grzymiski, in *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*, pp. 51–56
 - *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*, pp. 252–253, 268–273, 328–330, 434–439

11. Thursday 4 October: Old Kingdom – Private Statues
 - Ziegler, in *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*, pp. 57–72
 - Roehrig, in *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*, pp. 73–81

Tuesday 9 October: Fall Break

12. Thursday 11 October: Old Kingdom – Furniture and personal adornment
 - *Egyptian Art in the Age of the Pyramids*, pp. 216–219, 304–309, 422–431, 477–488

13. Tuesday 16 October: Museum visit: The Old Kingdom in the Michael C. Carlos Museum

14. Thursday 18 October: Midterm

15. Tuesday 23 October: First Intermediate Period – The provinces
 - Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 80–83
 - Seidlmayer, in *Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 108–123
 - *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, 171–173

16. Thursday 25 October: First Intermediate Period – Pre-unification Thebes
 - Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 83–89
 - Arnold and Arnold, in *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, 38–39
 - Seidlmayer, in *Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 123–128

17. Tuesday 30 October: Middle Kingdom – Royal mortuary complexes I (11th Dynasty)
 - Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 90–96
 - Mark Lehner, *Complete Pyramids*, 166–167
 - Arnold and Arnold, in *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, 39–41
 - *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, p. 47–50, 99–101

18. Thursday 1 November: Middle Kingdom – Royal mortuary complexes II (12th Dynasty)
 - Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 96–99
 - Mark Lehner, *Complete Pyramids*, 168–183
 - Arnold and János, in *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 54–57
 - *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 60–64, 83–84

Paper due on Friday 2 November

19. Tuesday 6 November: **Middle Kingdom** – Private tombs
- Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 101–105, 106–109
 - Kamrin, in *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 28–32
 - Yamamoto, in *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 33–36
20. Thursday 8 November: The late **Middle Kingdom** and **Second Intermediate Period** (13th–18th Dynasties)
- Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 110–121
21. Tuesday 13 November: **Middle Kingdom** – Temples
- Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 99–101
 - Arnold, in *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 10–16
 - Oppenheim, in *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 270–275
 - *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 51–53, 279–283
22. Thursday 15 November: **Middle Kingdom** – Royal statues
- Oppenheim, in *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 23–27
 - Stünkel, in *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 92–95
 - *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 79–83
23. Tuesday 20 November: **Middle Kingdom** – Private statues
- Arnold, in *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 17–22
 - *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 66–67, 128–132, 146–150
- Thursday 22 November: Thanksgiving Recess
24. Tuesday 27 November: **Middle Kingdom** – Coffins and grave goods
- Quirke, in *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 218–221
 - *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 232–234
25. Thursday 29 November: **Middle Kingdom** – Abydos
- Robins, *Art of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 105–106
 - Yamamoto, in *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 250–253

- *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, pp. 254–255, 257–258, 265–267

26. Tuesday 4 December: **Middle Kingdom** – Furniture and personal adornment

- *Ancient Egypt Transformed*, 110–119, 137–143, 198–199, 203–204, 237–244

27. Thursday 6 December: **Museum visit** – The Middle Kingdom in the Michael C. Carlos Museum

Revised paper due on Friday 7 December

28. Tuesday 11 December: Overview and conclusion

29. Tuesday 18 December, 11.30am–2pm: **Final exam**

Office for Undergraduate Education

- The Office for Undergraduate Education (OUE) central office is located in White Hall 300
- Please visit or call 404.727.6069 with questions about academic affairs, concerns or policies.
- All Emory College of Arts and Sciences policies may be found in the College Catalog: <http://catalog.college.emory.edu/>

Important Fall 2018 Dates

- August 29 First day of classes
- September 5 Add/Drop/Swap ends 11:59pm
- September 14 Last day to change S/U or Grading option
- September 14 Final day to submit degree applications
- October 19 Last day for partial withdrawal without penalty (all students)
- October 8-9 Fall Break (no classes)
- November 16 Last day for one-time partial withdrawal without penalty (1st year, Transfer, Oxford ONLY)
- November 21-23 Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 11 Last day of classes
- December 12 Reading Day
- December 11-19 Final Exam Period

Academic Advising

Students who have an academic concern or question about Emory College of Arts and Sciences policies or who seek supplemental advising to that of their faculty pre-major or major advisors can seek advising from an Office for Undergraduate Education (OUE) staff. Academic advisors are assigned alphabetically. If an academic advisor is unavailable and the situation is time-sensitive, students may email oue.advising@emory.edu to determine how we can connect you. To schedule, see OUE Academic Advisor appointments: <http://college.emory.edu/oue/>

Academic Support

There is a range of resources available to Emory undergraduates designed to enrich each student's educational experience and support their academic progress. Visit <http://college.emory.edu/oue/student-support/index.html> for a list of programs and appointment instructions.

Office of Accessibility Services

Office of Accessibility Services works with students who have disabilities to provide reasonable accommodations. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact OAS. It is the responsibility of the student to register with OAS. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations are not provided until an accommodation letter has been processed. Students registered with OAS who have a letter outlining their academic accommodations, are strongly encouraged to coordinate a meeting time with your professor that will be best for both to discuss a protocol to implement the accommodations as needed throughout the semester. This meeting should occur as early in the semester as possible. Students must renew their accommodation letter every semester they attend classes. Contact the Office of Accessibility Services for more information at (404) 727-9877 or accessibility@emory.edu. Additional information is available at the OAS website at <http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/students/index.html>.

Attendance Policies (Absences and Absences from Examinations)

- Absences: Although students incur no administrative penalties for a reasonable number of absences from class or laboratory, they should understand that they are responsible for the academic consequences of absence and that instructors may set specific policies about absence for individual courses.
- Absences from Examinations: A student who fails to take any required midterm or final examination at the scheduled time may not make up the examination without written permission from a dean in the Office for Undergraduate Education. Permission will be granted only for illness or other compelling reasons, such as participation in scheduled events off-campus as an official representative of the University. A student who takes any part of a final examination ordinarily will not be allowed to defer or retake that final. Deferred examinations must be taken during the student's next semester of residence by the last date for deferred examinations in the academic calendar or within twelve months if the student does not re-enroll in the college. Failure to take a deferred examination by the appropriate deadline will result automatically in the grade IF or IU.

Honor Code

The Honor Code applies to all work submitted for courses in Emory College. Students who violate the Honor Code may be subject to a written mark on their record, failure of the course, suspension, permanent exclusion, or a combination of these and other sanctions. The Honor Code may be reviewed online at: <http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html>.

Writing Center and ESL Program

Tutors in the Emory Writing Center and the ESL Program are available to support Emory College students as they work on any type of writing assignment, at any stage of the composing process. Tutors can assist with a range of projects, from traditional papers and presentations to websites and other multimedia projects. Writing Center and ESL tutors take a similar approach as they work with students on concerns including idea development, structure, use of sources, grammar, and word choice. They do not proofread for students. Instead, they discuss strategies and resources students can use as they write, revise, and edit their own work. Students who are non-native speakers of English are welcome to visit either the Writing Center tutors or the ESL tutors. All other students in the college should see Writing Center tutors. Learn more and make an appointment by visiting the websites of the ESL Program and the Writing Center. Please review tutoring policies before your visit.