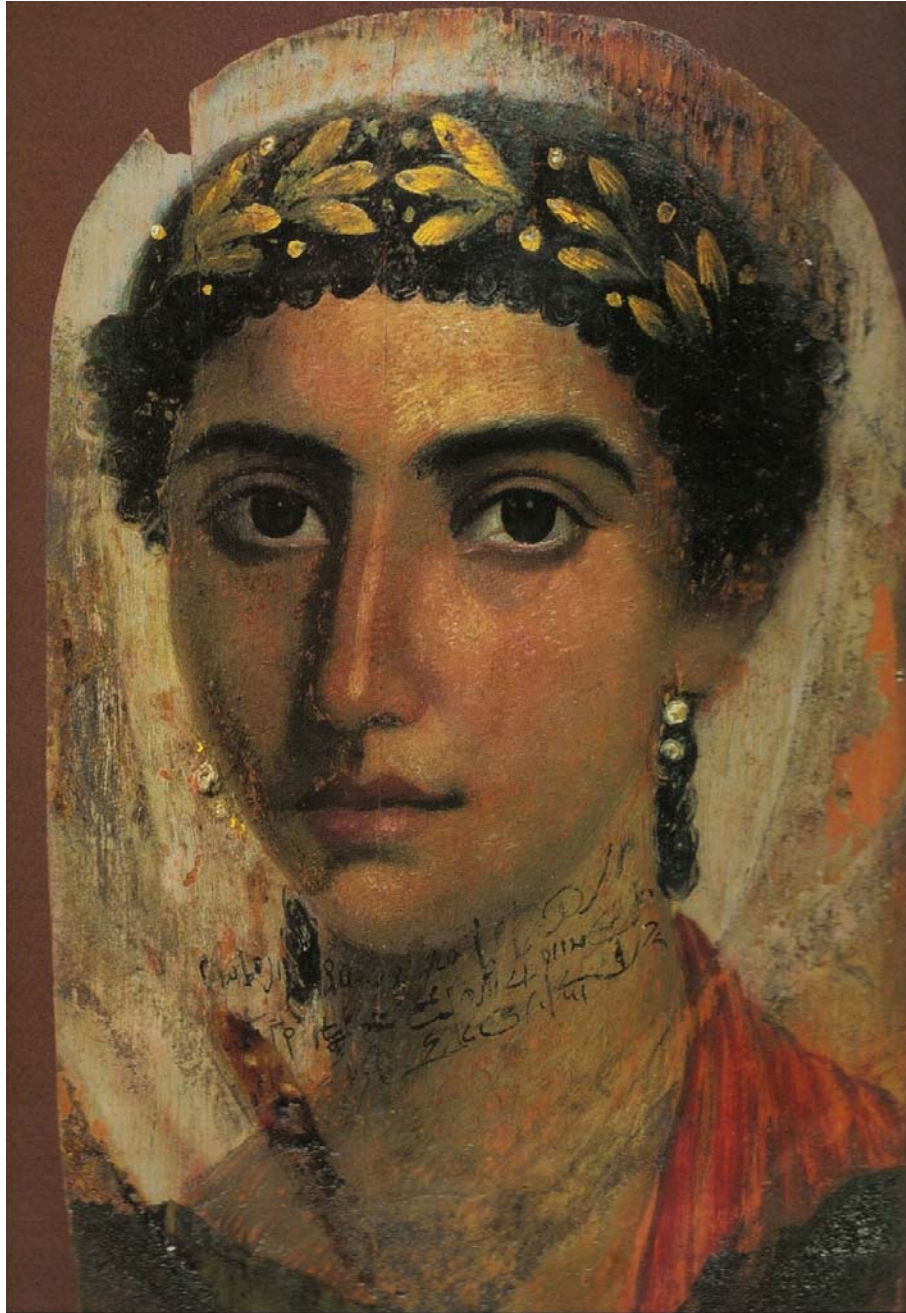


CLCIV 456
EGYPT AFTER THE PHARAOHS, 330 BC-AD 641:
LIFE IN AN ANCIENT MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY
(R&E, ULWR)
SYLLABUS & SCHEDULE



“Eirene, daughter of Silvanus, whose mother is Senpnouthis. May her soul rise before Osiris-Sokar, the great god, lord of Abydos, forever.”

Meeting Times: TTh: 10:00-11:30 am

Room: 173 Lorch

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Office Hours: **TBA**

Description

This course will explore the social history of Graeco-Roman Egypt, a period during which the country was ruled not by native pharaohs but by a Graeco-Macedonian dynasty (330-31 BC) and later by the Roman Empire (31 BC-AD 641). Our theme will be the multiethnic, multilingual, and multicultural character of Egyptian society during this period, an era of sustained and intimate contact between Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans.

The image on the first page of this syllabus neatly encapsulates the cultural hybridity of this long phase of ancient Egyptian history. This Roman-era painting, although executed in the realistic style of Greek and Roman art, was affixed to the mummified remains of the deceased, who had been embalmed and wrapped in traditional Egyptian fashion. The prayer inscribed below the subject's face is also composed in the Egyptian language and it draws upon Egyptian religious imagery. The deceased's name, however—Eirene (“Peace”)—is Greek, while her mother and father bear, respectively, the Latin and Egyptian names Silvanus and Senpnouthis (“Daughter of the God”).

Despite this ostensibly unproblematic cultural syncretism, Graeco-Roman Egypt remained a conquered land ruled by a non-native minority elite. For this reason, one question will remain central to our investigations throughout the semester: Does the history of Graeco-Roman Egypt furnish a compelling example of racial, ethnic, and/or cultural discrimination from antiquity or do we require alternate terminology in order to make sense of the socio-political character of this pre-modern society?

Required Books

Naphtali Lewis, *Greeks in Ptolemaic Egypt* (1986)

Naphtali Lewis, *Life in Egypt Under Roman Rule* (1983)

**** All other readings will be posted to CTools ****

Assessment

This course fulfills both the Race & Ethnicity and the Upper Level Writing Requirement. You will write three papers of increasing length through the semester, each of which will be subjected to either peer- or instructor-review, the latter requiring submission of both rough and revised final drafts. There will also be a Final Exam that will draw upon material from the entire semester.

Grading

Paper 1: 20%

Paper 2: 20%

Paper 3: 40%

Final Exam: 20%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Survey Lectures

- Tuesday, 8 September *Introduction: Greece, Egypt, and the Concept of "Race" in Antiquity*
Introductory remarks and discussion of course requirements.
Topic for First Paper Circulated
- Thursday, 10 September *Egypt during the Graeco-Roman Period*
Read: 1) J.G. Manning, *The Last Pharaohs*, 19-28.
2) N. Lewis, *Greeks in Ptolemaic Egypt*, 1-7.
3) N. Lewis, *Life in Egypt under Roman Rule*, 1-8.
4) R.S. Bagnall, *Egypt in Late Antiquity*, 15-23.
- Tuesday, 15 September *The Evidence: Papyri and Archaeology*
Read: 1) J. Rowlandson, *Women and Society*, 18-23.
2) *Oxford Handbook of Papyrology*, 3-58.
- Thursday, 17 September *Beginnings: Herodotus and Egypt in the 5th Century BC*
Read: 1) Selections from Herodotus *Histories* Book 2.
- Tuesday, 22 September *Greek Conquest and Ptolemaic Rule: A Racist Colonial State?*
Read: 1) N. Lewis, *Life in Egypt under Roman Rule*, 9-14.
2) J.G. Manning, *The Last Pharaohs*, 29-54.
3) D. Thompson, "Hellenistic Hellenes."
4) D. McCoskey, *Race*, 81-109.
- Thursday, 24 September *Roman Conquest and Roman Rule: A Race-Conscious Empire?*
Read: 1) N. Lewis, *Life in Egypt under Roman Rule*, 9-17.
2) F. Herklotz, *Oxford Handbook of Roman Egypt*, 11-21.
3) D. McCoskey, *Race*, 109-132
Post First Paper to CTools. Read and Comment on Partner's Paper.
- Tuesday, 29 September *Peer-Review Session and Discussion of First Paper*
Copy of Paper One Due in Class.
Topics for Second Paper Circulated.
- The Ptolemaic Period*
- Thursday, 1 October *Law and Justice: Ptolemaic Apartheid?*
Read: 1) J.G. Manning, *Last Pharaohs*, 165-201.
Response to Peer Comments Due in Class.
- Tuesday, 6 October *Elephantine: Cultural Exchange on Egypt's Southern Border*
Read: 1) "Introduction" in B. Porten *et al.*, *The Elephantine Papyri in English*.

- Thursday, 8 October *Zenon and Kleon: Managing Land and People*
Read: 1) N. Lewis, *Greeks in Ptolemaic Egypt*, 37-45.
- Tuesday, 13 October *Dryton and Apollonia-Senmonthis: Mixed Marriage in the Countryside*
Read: 1) N. Lewis, *Greeks in Ptolemaic Egypt*, 88-103.
2) K. Vandorpe, "Apollonia, A Businesswoman in a Multicultural Society."
- Thursday, 15 October *Menches, Village Scribe of Kerkeosiris: What's in a Name?*
Read: 1) N. Lewis, *Greeks in Ptolemaic Egypt*, 104-123.
2) W. Clarysse, "Greeks and Egyptians in the Ptolemaic Army and Administration," *Aegyptus* 65 (1985), 57-66.
- Tuesday, 20 October *No Class, Fall Study Break*
- Thursday, 22 October *Egyptian Priests and Temples under the Ptolemies*
Read: 1) D. Thompson, *Memphis under the Ptolemies*, 99-143.
Rough Draft of Paper 2 Due in Class
- Tuesday, 27 October *Revolts against the Ptolemies: Economics or Egyptian Nationalism?*
Read: 1) J.L. O'Neil, "The Native Revolt against the Ptolemies (206-185 BC): Achievements and Limitations."
2) *The Oracle of the Potter*
- Thursday, 29 October *Cleopatra VII: The First Egyptian Ptolemy?*
Read: 1) S.-A. Ashton, *Cleopatra and Egypt*, 1-24; 190-196.
Second Paper Due in Class.
Topics for Final Paper Circulated.
- Tuesday, 3 November *Discussion: Three Cases of Interethnic Conflict*
Read: 1) Selection of Translated Papyri (*P.Col. Zen.* II 66, 256/5 BC+; *P. Ent.* 79, 218 BC; *UPZ I* 8, 161 BC).
- The Roman Period*
- Thursday, 5 November *The Coming of Rome: Reorganizing the State*
Read: A. Bowman and D.W. Rathbone, *Journal of Roman Studies* 82 (1992), 107-127.
- Tuesday, 10 November *Reclassifying People: Personal Status under Rome*
Read: 1) Oxford *Handbook of Roman Egypt*, 247-276.
- Thursday, 12 November *The New Urban Elite: "Greek" Identity in the Roman Period*
Read: 1) P. van Minnen, "Αἱ ἀπὸ γυμνασίου. 'Greek' Women and the Greek 'Elite' in the *Metropoleis* of Roman Egypt."

Tuesday, 17 November *Egyptian Priests and Temples under the Romans*
Read: 1) D. Frankfurter, *Oxford Handbook of Roman Egypt*, 319-336.
2) M. Minas-Nerpel, *Oxford Handbook of Roman Egypt*, 362-82.

Jews, Christians, and the End of Egyptian Antiquity

Thursday, 19 November *The Jewish Population(s) of Graeco-Roman Egypt*
Read: 1) E. Gruen, *Diaspora*, 54-83.

Tuesday 24 November *The Arrival and Establishment of Christianity*
Read: 1) M. Choat, *Oxford Handbook of Roman Egypt*, 474-492.

Thursday, 26 November *No Class, Thanksgiving Recess*

Tuesday, 1 December *Christian Monasticism: An Egyptian Invention*
Read: 1) J.E. Goehring, "Monasticism in Byzantine Egypt."
Rough Draft of Final Paper Due in Class

Thursday, 3 December *Native Egyptian Religious Identity after Christianity*
Readings *TBA*

Tuesday, 8 December *Arabs and Islam: The End of Antiquity*
Read: 1) P. Sijpesteijn, "The Arab Conquest."

Thursday 10 December *Discussion and Debate: Ethnic, Cultural, and Religious Identity in Graeco-Roman Egypt: The Use and Abuse(?) of "Race/Racism," "Discrimination," "Colonialism," etc.*
Read: 1) B. Isaac, "Racism: A Rationalization of Prejudice in Greece and Rome."
2) E.S. Gruen, *Rethinking the Other in Antiquity*, 76-114.
3) D. McCoskey, *Race*, 1-80

Final Paper Due at Final Exam. Date *TBA*



Mummy of a child, *ca.* 100-120 AD. British Museum.

[http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details.aspx?
objectId=124344&partId=1](http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details.aspx?objectId=124344&partId=1)