Carl Petry  
History 372-0  

THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT  
Day/Time: MWF 10:00-10:50  
Office Address: Harris Hall Room 329  
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Email Address: c-petry@northwestern.edu  
Maximum Enrollment: 45  

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will not attempt to survey chronologically the myriad events unfolding over more than three millennia of Egyptian History. Rather, emphasis will be placed on major themes and debated issues, including the following: Problems of historical study relative to a society "without historians"; Emergence of the political order during the Prehistoric Period; Divine monarchy and the myth of permanence during the Old Kingdom; the shattering of this myth during the First Intermediate Period; The "custodial monarch" of the Middle Kingdom; The impact of Asia: new horizons, new anxieties; Aspects of cosmopolitanism and intellectual syncretism during the Empire Period; The religious revolution of Akhenaton; The myth of permanence reborn as a cult of conservation.  

AREA OF CONCENTRATION: Africa/Middle East, Asia/Middle East  

TEACHING METHOD: Lecture and discussion. Slide presentations illustrating intellectual, political and social themes in Egyptian art and architecture will constitute an integral part of the course.  

EVALUATION METHOD: There will be a mid-term and a final examination.  

GRADING BASIS: ANC (no P/N allowed)  

TENTATIVE READING LIST:  
I. Shaw, The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt, 9780192804587  
J. Wilson, The Culture of Ancient Egypt, 9780226901521.  
M. Lichtheim, Ancient Egyptian Literature, Vols. 1 and 2, 9780520248427, 9780520248434.  
The first two are interpretive introductions to Ancient Egypt; the third is an anthology of primary sources translated from Egyptian Hieroglyphic.  

NOTES: Attendance at first class mandatory  

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: Carl F. Petry is the Hamad ibn Khalifa Al Thani Professor of Middle East Studies, Department of History. His research focuses on pre-modern Egypt, with emphasis on political economy. He has published: The Civilian Elite of Cairo in the Later Middle Ages (Princeton, 1982); Twilight of Majesty: the Reigns of the Mamluk Sultans al-Ashraf Qaytbay and Qansuh al-Ghawri in Egypt (U. Washington, 1993); Protectors or Praetorians? The Last Mamluk Sultans and Egypt’s Waning as a Great Power (S.U.N.Y., 1994); The Criminal Underworld in a Medieval Islamic Society: Narratives from Cairo under the Mamluks (Middle East Documentation Center, U. Chicago, 2012). He has edited and contributed to The Cambridge History of Egypt, vol. 1: Islamic Egypt, 640-1517 C.E. (Cambridge University Press, 1998). Teaching interests range from Pharaonic Egypt to Revolutionary Egypt under Nasser and Sadat in the 20th century.