

HIEROGLYPHIC EGYPTIAN I
*** * * DRAFT SYLLABUS * * ***

FALL 2021

563:421 (Jewish Studies)

013:421 (AMESALL)

Tues / Thurs 3:00 – 4:20

Prof. Gary A. Rendsburg

Department of Jewish Studies

12 College Avenue, room 203

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Catalogue Description: An introduction to Hieroglyphic Egyptian (Part I).

Course Description: This course introduces the students to the workings of the ancient Egyptian language, including the Hieroglyphic script and the basic grammar.

TEXTBOOKS (see images at bottom of p. 6)

Alan Grammar, *Egyptian Grammar*, 3rd edition (1957)

- This classic work, still the gold standard, is available on the internet as a pdf file.

Raymond O. Faulkner, *A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian*

- Peeters / Griffith Institute
- hardcover – B&N price: \$55.00
- ISBN: 9780900416323

Learning Goals Specific to this Course:

- Students will learn to read ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs and analyze the grammar of the ancient Egyptian language.
- Students will gain familiarity with the literature of ancient Egypt (especially the prose tales), including its relationship to biblical literature.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to prepare the lessons in the grammar book (Gardiner) in advance of each class session, and they should come to class ready to translate sample passages and analyze the grammar.

Attendance is mandatory, full stop.

Assessments and Grading

In addition to the above requirement, student progress towards fulfilling the course learning goals will be assessed through four vocabulary quizzes, two grammar exams, and one final exam.

Preparation and Class Participation (see above) – 20%

Vocabulary Quizzes – 20%

Grammar Exams – 30%

Final Exam – 30%

Vocabulary Quizzes:

During the course of the semester, the instructor will administer four brief unannounced quizzes to assess vocabulary acquisition.

The first two quizzes will consist of five Egyptian words each for which students must supply the English equivalent.

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Each quiz will be worth 5% of the final grade, for a total of 20%.

Grammar Exams:

In the fourth and eighth week of the semester, the instructor will administer a short exam to assess student acquisition of grammar.

Each exam will be worth 15 of the final grade, for a total of 30%.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be worth 30%. It will assess student reading proficiency in Egyptian.

Final exam dates and times are assigned by the Registrar, as time approaches:
<http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>.

ATTENDANCE:

As indicated above, attendance is mandatory: there is no other way to learn a language (ancient or modern).

If you expect to miss a class session, kindly use the University self-reporting system for absences: <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> An email is automatically sent to me to apprise me of your absence.

Or you may wish to inform me ahead of time if you know that you will miss class. Overall responsibility for the course material, however, remains yours at all times.

If you do miss class, please make sure to get the notes from someone. If there is something in the notes that you do not understand, feel free to come see me during office hours for further clarification.

Finally, please make every effort to arrive in time for the start of class. Late arrival is disruptive to the class discussion and in general disrespectful to me and your classmates.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Please note the University's academic integrity policy:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>

I personally endorse the policy and enforce its guidelines. In short, no cheating of any sort will be tolerated in my course; and such actions are grounds for probation and potential dismissal from the University.

DISABILITY POLICY:

- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.
- Full disability policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Each class session will be devoted to:

- Lessons in the grammar book by Gardiner
(see below for week-by-week details)
- Learning additional hieroglyphic signs, as presented by Gardiner
(while not detailed below, each week we will learn a new set of signs)
- Reading basic ancient Egyptian sentences
(this will unfold from Week 5 onward)

Weeks 1-2: Learning to Read Hieroglyphics

- Gardiner, lessons 1-5

Weeks 3-4: Pronouns, Nouns, and Adjectives

- Gardiner, lessons 6-9

Week 5: Basic Sentences

- Gardiner, lessons 10-12

Week 6: Prepositions

- Gardiner, lessons 13-14

Week 7: Relative Clauses

- Gardiner, lessons 15-17

Week 8: Speech, Interjections, and Numerals

- Gardiner, lessons 18-20

Weeks 9-10: The Verb

- Gardiner, lessons 21-23

Week 11: Negation and Participles

- Gardiner, lessons 24-27

Week 12-13: Verbal Sentences

- Gardiner, lessons 28-33

Weeks 14-15: Reading Basic Egyptian Prose

- The Story of the Shipwrecked Sailor (opening portions)

