

Freshman Seminar 30g: Digging Up the Past: Harvard and Egyptian Archaeology
Fall 2012 Syllabus (*subject to change*)
Harvard College/GSAS: 56101
Peter Der Manuelian (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Anthropology)
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Meeting Time: Wednesday 2–4 pm
Classroom: Plimpton Room, Barker Center 133

In 1905, Harvard University and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), teamed up to conduct excavations in Egypt and Nubia (modern Sudan). No one knew then that the Harvard–MFA Expedition would run for forty-plus years, cover twenty-three different sites, and discover hundreds of thousands of artifacts, art masterpieces, and other treasures, as well as contribute fundamentally to our knowledge of ancient Egyptian history. Egyptologist, Harvard Professor, and MFA curator George Reisner (1867–1942) ran the Expedition from “Harvard Camp,” his mud-brick headquarters just behind the famous Giza Pyramids. Reisner was a pioneer in revolutionizing the development of responsible archaeological methods. This course takes a chronological tour in the footsteps of this historic dig, focusing on topics such as early Harvard and MFA history, the development of archaeological method in the early 20th century, Western imperialism and colonialism and the role of archaeology, current attitudes toward repatriation of cultural patrimony, and new technologies for studying the Expedition’s legacy. Students will access unpublished, archival documents at Harvard and elsewhere, and will research important expedition members, events, and archaeological sites. Field trips to the Peabody Museum, the MFA, Harvard’s Visualization Center (Giza Pyramids in 3D), Harvard Semitic Museum, Harvard Archives, and other locations will bring the Expedition to life.

STAFF:

PHOTO	NAME	DEPT AFFILIATION	EMAIL & PHONE	OFFICE HOURS & LOCATION
	Instructor: Peter Der Manuelian	NELC/ Anthropology	peter_manuelian@harvard.edu 617-496-8558	Office: Room 208, Semitic Museum, 6 Divinity Avenue. By Skype video from home: M 9:00–10:00 pm (Skype name: pmanuelian) Or by appointment

Course Requirements and Final Sat/Unsat Grade Percentages:

• Weekly readings, field trips & class participation:	30%
• Several very short podcast writing assignments:	30%
• 10–12 page research paper, OR iMovie documentary video:	40%

iMovie is easy to learn and fun to use. Equipment, training workshops, and experts are ready to help you in Lamont Media Lab. Podcasts—ironically—improve your writing skills. Research topics may explore any aspect of Egyptian archaeology, the HU–MFA Expedition sites, selected museum objects, or biographical research on colorful HU–MFA Expedition staff members.

Students must successfully complete all requirements in order to pass the course.

Re-grading Policy: Students may request that a particular grade be re-examined, but with the understanding that the re-examined grade could as easily go down as go up.

Late Submissions: Without approved arrangements with Course staff *prior* to due date, late submissions will be marked down one-half grade (i.e. A to A-) per day late.

The rules of academic integrity apply to all exams and assignments for this course, as outlined in the

Handbook for students: <http://sites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k69286&pageid=icb.page355695>. Papers and other work should be created for and submitted to only this course. Any student who wishes to submit work used in a previous course must obtain the prior written permission of the instructor. If a student wishes to submit the same or similar work to more than one course during the same term, the prior written permission of all of the instructors involved must be obtained. A student who submits the same or similar work to more than one course without such prior permission will ordinarily be required to withdraw from the College or from GSAS. Collaboration in the completion of assignments is prohibited unless explicitly permitted by the instructor.

Any student needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to present their letter from the Accessible Education Office (AEO) and speak with the professor by the end of the second week of the term. Failure to do so may result in the Course Head's inability to respond in a timely manner. All discussions will remain confidential, although AEO may be consulted to discuss appropriate implementation.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Ian Shaw, *Ancient Egypt: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. \$7.50
- Selected PDF files posted on course iSite

12 or 13 class meetings

DATE	CLASS TOPIC (subject to change)	READINGS DUE BEFORE WEDNESDAY'S CLASS
Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012	Introduction; themes for the course; begin brief history of ancient Egypt	<i>Selections from the following published and unpublished works (fewer than 100 pages per week):</i>
Wednesday, Sept. 12	Brief history of ancient Egypt, ctd. Discussion of Dunham, <i>Recollections</i> book; future themes to explore	Dows Dunham, <i>Recollections of an Egyptologist</i> (entire; 55 pp); 2 obituaries of G. Reisner: Crowfoot in <i>Antiquity</i> 17 (1943), pp. 122–28; Winlock in <i>Amer. Phil. Society Yearbook</i> 1942, pp. 369–74
Wednesday, Sept. 19	George Reisner: Beginnings; Semitics vs Egyptology; Harvard years, The Hearst Expedition	Ian Shaw, <i>Ancient Egypt: A Very Short Introduction</i> , 1 st half: pp. 1–81; John L. Wilson, <i>Signs and Wonders upon Pharaoh. A History of American Egyptology</i> , pp. 144–58
Wednesday, Sept. 26	1905: Archaeology at the turn of the century; establishment of the HU–MFA Expedition; <i>Widener tour then tour and class in Pusey Archives</i>	Ian Shaw, <i>Ancient Egypt: A Very Short Introduction</i> , 2 nd half: pp. 82–159.
Wednesday, Oct. 3	The Giza Necropolis. <i>Class in the Harvard Visualization Center</i>	Manuelian, “A History of Giza Exploration 1800–present” (Vienna 2013 exhibition catalogue chapter manuscript), 22 pp.; Siliotti, <i>Guide to the Pyramids of Egypt</i> , pp. 46–89; first 2-minute podcast due
Wednesday, Oct. 10	Ancient Egypt comes to Boston: The Museum of Fine Arts & Peabody Museum collections. <i>Class in Peabody Museum storage & Semitic Museum storage</i>	<i>MFA Highlights: Arts of Ancient Egypt</i> , 2 intro chapters, pp. 11–35; Reisner, “Development of Harvard Univ: Egyptology, 1896–1928,” pp. 241–47
Wednesday, Oct. 17	Expedition Battles:	Manuelian, “March 1912,” <i>KMT</i> 7 (1996),

	Colonialism, Imperialism, Nationalism, & Racism	pp. 60–75; Doyon, “Egyptology from Below,” <i>Disciplinary Measures</i> conference paper (9 pp); Goode, <i>Negotiating for the Past</i> , chapters 4–5, pp. 67–125
Wednesday, Oct. 24	HU–MFA Expedition: Egyptian sites other than Giza: Naga ed-Deir, Deir el-Ballas, Zawiyet el-Aryan, Deir el-Bersha, etc.	Freed et al., <i>Secrets of Tomb 10A</i> , pp. 91–103, 183–188 Reisner, <i>ASAE</i> 5 (1904), pp. 105–109 Reisner biographical document on history of the Expedition (29 pp.)
Wednesday, Oct. 31	The Nubian Excavations, esp. Kerma, Gebel Barkal, Nuri, and the 2 nd Cataract Forts	Haynes, <i>Nubia. Ancient Kingdoms of Africa</i> booklet (53 pp.)
Wednesday, Nov. 7	<i>Field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts Egyptian galleries</i>	Bruce G. Trigger, <i>A History of Archaeological Thought</i> , 2 nd edition (Cambridge, 2006), pp. 67–79, 484–528
Wednesday, Nov. 14	Archaeological Significance of the HU–MFA Expedition	George Reisner’s unpublished <i>Manual of Archaeological Fieldwork</i> (1924) (31 pp.); Manuelian, “George Andrew Reisner on Archaeological Photography,” <i>JARCE</i> 29 (1992), pp. 1–34; second 2-minute podcast due
Wednesday, Nov. 21	THANKSGIVING NO CLASS	Chapters from: Reid, <i>Whose Pharaohs? Archaeology, Museums, and Egyptian National Identity from Napoleon to World War I</i> , pp. 172–212; Mohamed Elshahed, “The case against the Grand Egyptian Museum” (2011) (8 pp.)
Wednesday, Nov. 28 FINAL CLASS	Repatriation and cultural heritage; final discussion and research results	Waxman, <i>Loot. The Battle over the Stolen Treasures of the Ancient World</i> , chapter 1, pp. 1–31; (Final papers, podcasts, or iMovies due Friday Nov. 30)
Reading Period Wed. Dec. 5 (W) –Dec. 12 (W)	Possible Reading Period meeting: Presentation of final iMovies, podcasts, and research papers	
Exam Period: Dec. 13 (Th)– 21 (F)		