History and Archaeology of the Ancient Sudan

Course Description:

This course covers the history and archaeology of Ancient Sudan/Nubia from c. 3000 BC to the Rise of Islam c. 600 AD. Topics include the history, archaeology, and art of the peoples of the region, along with their trade and contacts with Egypt, Arabia and the Classical world. It is designed as a reading and writing intensive course that will expose you to the works of many of the major scholars who have worked in this area.

Texts:

Required Texts:


Selections Available Online:


Sixth Century AD. Vol. 2, From the Mid-Fifth to the First Century BC. Bergen, Norway: University of Bergen.


Additional Materials:

Cambridge Ancient History
New Cambridge History of Islam
Cambridge Histories are available online through the University of Minnesota Libraries

Additional Resources:

The Nubia Salvage Project at http://oi.uchicago.edu/museum/special/nubia/
Ancient Nubia at http://oi.uchicago.edu/museum/nubia/

Supplemental Materials:


Internet Access

Because this course is completely online, you will obviously need ready and reliable access to the Internet to participate and complete the coursework.

Technology Tools

Access to the following basic technologies will be required to successfully complete this course:
Computer: Access to a reliable computer is essential
Internet: Access to a reliable internet connection is essential for completion of this course
Computer microphone (REQUIRED & MANDATORY – You cannot create the video assignment or complete the FlipGrid assignments without one)
Webcam (REQUIRED & MANDATORY – You cannot participate in the FlipGrid assignments without one)
Word Processor (typically MS Word) capable of saving in the .doc or .docx format
Presentation Software (typically MS PowerPoint)
A free YouTube or Vimeo account for hosting your presentation video

Recommended:

Camtasia Studio (purchase or trial) or CamStudio (free/open source) for screen recording your presentation
Adobe Premier Elements, Windows MovieMaker or iMovie for editing/formatting your presentation.

Course Outline (For reading assignments see module pages):

Module 1: Introduction to the Ancient Sudan and Prehistory
Module 2: Early Interactions of Nubia and Egypt
Module 3: Ancient Sudan in the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (Kerma)
Module 4: The Late Kerma Period and the Conflict with 17th/18th Dynasty Egypt
Module 5: Ancient Sudan in the New Kingdom Period
Module 6: End of Egyptian Domination in Sudan in the Third Intermediate Period
Module 7: The Rise of the Kingdom of Napata
Module 8: The 25th Dynasty in Egypt
Module 9: The Later Napatan Kingdom
Module 10: Meroitic Kingdom and Interactions with Ptolemaic Egypt
Module 11: Meroitic Kingdom and Interactions with Rome
Module 12: End of Meroe
Module 13: Kingdom of Aksum (Ethiopia)
Week 14: Nubia After Aksum (Summary)

Grading:

Participation: 130 points (Moodle postings, FlipGrid, Twitter) (extra credit possible)
Mid-Term Test: 100 points
Map Test: 100 points (extra credit possible)
Quizzes: 50 points (extra credit possible)
Final Test: 150 points
Paper: 250 points
Site Essay Posting: 20 points (extra credit possible for replies)
Presentation: 200 points

Assignments:

Participation in weekly online discussion forums, 1.5 minute FlipGrid assignments and Twitter. (4 points for an original Moodle post, 2 points for each response to a Moodle post (3 max), 2 points for the FlipGrid response and 1 point for each Twitter contribution (2 max))
Original Moodle posts should be a minimum of 300 words and have at least 3 reference entries.
Replies should be around 100 words and have at least 1 reference entry.
Map Test and other quizzes
Site Essay Posting on Site of student’s choosing from Fisher et al. text. Must be minimum 300 words with at least 2 reference entries. Must be posted to the Moodle forum by the middle of the last week of class.
Mid-Term and Final Tests.
Paper on topic of student’s choice related to course material (3000-4500 words for undergraduate students, 4500-6000 words for graduate students). Due the last week of class.
Video presentation shared online with class about topic of student’s choosing related to course content. Minimum 25 slides/10 minutes. This assignment may be done individually or in groups. Must be posted to the Moodle forum by the middle of the last week of class.

**Extra Credit**

Extra Credit opportunities will exist in the following areas:
An extra 66 points can be earned for completing all available weekly participation activities
An extra 10 points can be earned if you have a perfect score on each of the 6 10 point quizzes
An extra 6 points may be earned by responding to 3 Presentation postings
An extra 6 points may be earned by responding to 3 Site Essay postings
An extra 8 points may be earned if you have a perfect score on the Map Test

**Policy on Scholastic Misconduct**

Scholastic misconduct is broadly defined as "any act that violates the rights of another student in academic work or that involves misrepresentation of your own work." Scholastic dishonesty includes, (but is not necessarily limited to): cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, which means misrepresenting as you own work any part of work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of all instructors concerned; depriving another student of necessary course materials; or interfering with another student's work.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty in any portion of the academic work for a course shall be grounds for awarding a grade of F or N for the entire course.

**Grading System: Definition of Grades**

A - achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B - achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
C - achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
D - achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
S - achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better (achievement required for an S is at the discretion of the instructor but may be no lower than equivalent to a C-)
F (or N) - Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I (see also I).
The grading for this course is as follows:

A 95 – 100%  (950+ points)
A- 90 – 94%  (900-949 points)
B+ 87 – 89%  (870-899 points)
B  84 – 86%  (840-869 points)
B- 80 – 83%  (800-839 points)
C+ 77 – 79%  (770-799 points)
C  74 – 76%  (740-769 points)
C- 70 – 73%  (700-739 points)
D+ 67 – 69%  (670-699 points)
D  60 – 66%  (600-669 points)
F Below 60%  (below 600 points)

Incomplete Grades
The grade of "I" is not a regular University grade and cannot be given without special arrangements under unusual circumstances. It cannot be given merely to extend the time allowed to complete course requirements. If family or personal emergency requires that your attention be diverted from the course and that more time than usual is needed to complete course work, arrangements should be made with the instructor of the course before the quarter ends and consent obtained for receiving an "Incomplete" or 'I' grade. These arrangements should be made as soon as the need for an "I" can be anticipated. A written agreement should be prepared indicating when the course assignment will be completed. Normally an "Incomplete" grade for a course should be removed within one quarter of its receipt.

Statement on accommodations
It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

Statement on academic misconduct
Scholastic misconduct is broadly defined as "any act that violates the rights of another student in academic work or that involves misrepresentation of your own work." Scholastic dishonesty includes, (but is not necessarily limited to): cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, which means misrepresenting as you own work any part of work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of all instructors concerned; depriving another student of necessary course materials; or interfering with another student's work.

Statement regarding sexual harassment
"Sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic advancement in any University activity or program; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis of employment or academic decisions affecting this
individual in any University activity or program; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment in any University activity or program. University policy prohibits sexual harassment.