Syllabus Spring 2013
MWF: 1-1:50 Hums 327
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Lecturer, History
Office: Humanities 324
Hours: MWF 2:30-4 and by appointment
Email: TBA

Overview:
Each week a new digital technique is introduced utilizing data related to ancient Egypt (c. 3250-1000 BCE). Goals for the course include the integration of innovative digital technologies into the historian's methodological toolset, and an introduction to ancient Egyptian history. The class focuses on better visualization of real world data sets, the framing of suitable research questions, and effective hypothesis testing.

Course work includes two exams (midterm and final) administered in class; lab exercises; preparation (250 word prospectus), presentation (15 min), and 1500-2000 word write-up of a group project; and class participation.

Readings:
Purchase via amazon.com or related site:


A copy of the book is available for use during office hours in Hums 324. In an effort to provide the most current information on research and application, additional readings drawn from journals, books, and edited volumes will be posted to the course website.

Lab Activities:
Most lab activities are designed for student to complete the exercises during designated class periods. Students are required to download the relevant freeware prior to attending labs. Failure to do so results in an unexcused absence.

Group Project:
The group presentation and write-up incorporates one or more of the digital technologies discussed during the course applied to a dataset of the students’ choosing. The data need not relate to ancient Egypt. Students may work in groups composed of 1-3 persons. A 250 word prospectus is due Feb 20. Results will be reported to the class in a 15 min oral presentation during the final week of class (Apr 15 and 17). The presentation may be a collaborative effort. The prospectus and final write-up (1500-2000 words) should be single authors. Figures and illustrations encouraged. If preferred, students map opt out of the final exam in exchange for writing a 3000-3500 word paper, focusing on the interpretation and impact of results. (Please note: repetitive and/or unclear writing will be marked down.)
Attendance:

Regular attendance of class is expected. If you must miss a class, please contact the instructor in advance via email. Unexcused absences result in deductions to the class participation component of the grade.

Grading:

Written work should demonstrate a thorough and clear understanding of historical topics and potentially useful digital methods applied to relevant data sets presented in the lectures and readings. Performance is not evaluated based upon technical expertise.

Course grade consists of the following components:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Prospectus</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project write-up (1750-2500 words)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Exercises</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Prospectus</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project write-up (3000-3500)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Exercises</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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Grades are based on successful completion of course requirements as follows: 100-90%=A, 90-80%=B, 80-70%=C, 70-60%=D, <60%=F. To ensure student privacy, the professor will not discuss specific grades via email. If you have questions about your grade on an assignment or for the class, please come to the office hours listed above or by appointment.

Honor System:

Students are reminded of the existence of the Rice Honor System, the basic provisions of which can be found at http://honor.rice.edu/index.cfm. For the purposes of this course, it is essential that students:

a) Give credit where credit is due in all papers by citing sources for all quotations, paraphrased arguments or summaries of basic evidence.

b) Refrain from copying a fellow student’s work

Students with questions should see me prior to the submission of any work which might violate the Honor System.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the instructor during the first two weeks of class. In order to maintain confidentiality, please come to office hours or by appointment. Students with disabilities should also contact Disabled Student Services in the Ley Student Center.
**Week 1: Jan 7, 9, and 11**
Syllabus Overview; Introduction to the digital humanities discipline; incentives and disincentives; overview of Egyptian history; ancient Egyptian Historiography; available data and freeware sources.

**Readings:**


**Supplementary Readings:**


**Lab 1:**
Identifying Digital Waste

**Downloads (for week 2):**
Autodesk 123D Catch; Google My Maps

**Week 2: Jan 14, 16, and 18**
Precursors to the Pharaonic state; importance of writing; Khor Abu Subeira South 1; Wadi Abu Tanqurah 1; introduction to Photogrammetry software.


**Week 3: Jan 23, 25**
**Mon, Jan 21 (MLK day, university classes do not meet)**
Photogrammetry, Laser Scanners, cont.

**Lab 2:**
3-D Reconstruction of Varied Surfaces

Download (for week 3):
Google Earth

**Week 4: Jan 28, 30, Feb 1**
Military conquest in the south, cultural conquest in the north; importance of writing; rock art evidence (late fourth and early third millennia BCE); Nag el Hamdulab; Scorpion Tableau, Gebel Tjauti.

Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


Lab 3:
Tracing Early Dynastic Military Routes with Google Earth

Week 5: Feb 4, 6, 8
Egypt and Nubian foreign relations during the Old Kingdom; Autobiography of Harkhuf; Pyramid builders III-VI Dynasty.

Readings:


Autobiographies of Weni; Harkhuf; Ka (in translation)

Lab 4:
Visualization/Spatial Mapping of Routes with ArcGIS

Week 6: Feb 11, 13, 15
Pepy II; Autobiography of Harkhuf; Decline of OK; Ankhtifi-tomb at Mo’alla, nomarch; Antef I-Montuhotep I- Antef II- Antef III; Herakleopolitan-Theban War-alluded to in Teachings of Merykara and the Tale of the Eloquent Peasant.

Readings


Week 7: Feb 18, 20, 22
**Prospectus due Feb 20**
**Midterm Feb 22**
End of FIP; Deir el Ballas inscription; Rise of Middle Kingdom; Wadi Shatt el-Rigal

Readings


translation excerpts from J.C. Darnell, “A Stela of Tutankhamun from the Region of Kurkur Oasis,” *SAK* 31 (2003).

**Week 8: Spring Break**

**Spring Break, no classes meet**

**Week 9: Mar 4, 6, 8**
Recap FIP thru MK. Decline of MK; beginning of SIP; Hyksos.

**Readings**

**Lab 5:**
FIP→MK Military Movements

****following schedule is subject to change****

**Week 10: Mar 11, 13, 15**
Second Intermediate Period (cont.); rise of New Kingdom; Kamose and Ahmose

**Readings**
Second Stela of Kahmose (in translation).


**Lab 5 (cont.):**
SIP Military Movements

**Week 11: Mar 18, 20, 22**
New Kingdom; Hatshepsut voyages to Punt; Thutmose III Annals; Boundary Stelae of Thutmose I and III at Kurgus; Annals of Thutmose III at Karnak; Fisher’s Integrative Analysis

Readings

Thutmose III Annals (in translation)


Lab 6 (optional):
Visualization, Viewshed

**Week 12: Mar 25, 27**
*Mar 29 - Mid-term Recess, university classes do not meet.*
Amarna Period; relations between Egypt and the Near East; Amarna letters

Readings
R. Cohen and R. Westbrook, eds., Amarna Diplomacy, the Beginnings of International Relations (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000).

*additional readings added

**Week 13: Apr 1**
*Apr 3 and 5 Groups meet to work on semester project, class does not meet.*
Post-Amarna Period

J. C. Darnell and C. Manassa, Tutankhamun’s Armies Battle and Conquest in Ancient Egypt’s Late Eighteenth Dynasty (Wiley, 2007)

*additional readings added

**Week 14: Apr 8, 10, 12**
Current State of the study of ancient Egyptian History.

Download (for week 14):
Google Ngram Viewer; Wordle

Lab 7 (optional):
Is recent history influencing the study of ancient history?

**Week 15: Apr 15, 17, 19**
**April 15 and 17 - Group presentations**
**April 19 - Final Exam**

**Finals Week**
May 1 - Project write-ups due