AHIS371
Egypt in the Old Kingdom
S1 Day 2016
Dept of Ancient History

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**General Information**

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Naguib Kanawati
naguib.kanawati@mq.edu.au
Contact via 9850 8855
W6A 535
Tuesday 12-1pm

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
6cp at 200 level including (AHIS178 or AHIS278 or AHST260)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
The unit will examine the archaeological remains of the Egyptian Old Kingdom period from different sites. Art, architecture and material culture from funerary contexts will also be examined. Special emphasis will be given to understanding the administrative system and the daily life of the Egyptians in the period. A study of the important texts of the period in the original language will be undertaken and these include the Westcar Papyrus and the biography of Weni.

**Important Academic Dates**

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in an oral form.
- Actively participate in group discussion.
- Plan and revise work according to the unit schedule.
- Transliterate and translate passages from seen and unseen Old Kingdom texts.
Analyse and express your judgement about historical issues in an oral and written form. Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding.

**General Assessment Information**

We aim to have all presentations and essays marked and returned to you a week after the essay is submitted.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation, Discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Translation Tests</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Weeks 6 and 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Class Essay</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Translation Test</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tutorial Participation**

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: 5%

Your tutor will look for evidence that you are sufficiently well-informed to contribute to discussions on topics presented and that you are able to express the concepts from this data in verbal form.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in an oral form.
- Actively participate in group discussion.
- Plan and revise work according to the unit schedule.
- Transliterate and translate passages from seen and unseen Old Kingdom texts.
- Analyse and express your judgement about historical issues in an oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding.

**Group Presentation, Discussion**

Due: **Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9, 11**

Weighting: 20%
In the first lecture you will be assigned one of the group presentation topics to present to the class in a specific session. Each student will then submit an essay on a specific aspect of the topic. We aim to have one group presentation per session that will last for 40 minutes and allow for 15 minutes of discussion and question time. Each group is asked to submit copies of a one page written summary with a list of references used to your tutor and to each student one week before your presentation.

You must submit your essay in the week following the presentation.

Length of essay: 1000 words

The tutorial presentations will start in week 3 and the list of tutorial topics are:

1. Argue for or against: Were the Egyptians monogamists or polygamists in the Old Kingdom? (Week 3)
2. Argue for or against: The Old Kingdom tomb was less a burial place than “a medium to display the status achieved by the deceased tomb owner” (N. Staring, ‘Fixed rules or personal choice: On the composition and arrangement of daily life scenes in Old Kingdom elite tombs in Old Kingdom’, in New Perspectives, eds N. and S. Strudwick, 2011, p. 258). (Week 5)
3. Argue for or against: The Egyptians were obsessed with death and the hereafter. (Week 7)
4. Argue for or against: The tomb of Neferseshemptah should be dated to late Dynasty 6. Its supposedly early features are a matter of archaising. (Week 9)
5. Argue for or against: Old Kingdom officials of modest background could reach the highest positions in the Egyptian administration. (Week 11)

Your essay will essentially follow a similar structure and methods as your presentation, simply in a written format with introduction, body and conclusion and references to support your statements.

Final checks to be made before submitting your essay:

- that the pages are numbered and in the correct order;
- that you have written the actual word-length in your essay on the coversheet;
- that you have a copy of your assessment tasks;
- that you have attached a signed copy of the Faculty of Arts essay coversheet after having read the information on the reverse side. Copies of the cover sheet may be found on the ground floor of W6A or online at http://www.anchist.mq.edu.au/teaching.html.

Your signature is essential to verify that it is entirely your own work. The University defines plagiarism in its rules: ‘Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one’s own’ and it carries significant penalties. Information about plagiarism can be found in the
On successful completion you will be able to:

- Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in an oral form.
- Actively participate in group discussion.
- Plan and revise work according to the unit schedule.
- Analyse and express your judgement about historical issues in an oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding.

Two Translation Tests

**Due:** Weeks 6 and 9  
**Weighting:** 25%

The hieroglyphic texts to be translated in each class are included at the back of this unit outline. You will be asked to **transliterate and translate** a short passage from these texts and show knowledge of the grammar of Egyptian hieroglyphs.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
- Plan and revise work according to the unit schedule.
- Transliterate and translate passages from seen and unseen Old Kingdom texts.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding.

In Class Essay

**Due:** Week 10  
**Weighting:** 25%

The questions will relate to the presentations and discussions on Old Kingdom history and culture. You will be asked to write one essay within 50 minutes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
- Plan and revise work according to the unit schedule.
- Analyse and express your judgement about historical issues in an oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding.
Final Translation Test

Due: **Week 11**
Weighting: **25%**

The final test will be an **unseen** text from the Old Kingdom and you will be asked to **transliterate and translate** a short passage using a dictionary and grammar book and show knowledge of the grammar of Egyptian hieroglyphs.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
- Plan and revise work according to the unit schedule.
- Transliterate and translate passages from seen and unseen Old Kingdom texts.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding.

Delivery and Resources

Lecture

**Time:** Tuesday 2-5pm  **Location:** C5A 307

Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials

There are no required textbooks for this unit.

Unit Webpage and Technology Used and Required

Online units can be accessed at: [http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/](http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/).

PC and Internet access are required. Basic computer skills (e.g. internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a requirement.

Please consult teaching staff for any further, more specific requirements.

Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tuesday 01.03.2016</td>
<td>• General introduction (N. Kanawati)</td>
<td>Allocation of presentation topics</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|    | Tuesday 08.03.2016 | • Development of royal architecture: Dynasties 1-6 (A.-L. Mourad)  
• Old Kingdom Texts (N. Kanawati) | No tutorial                             | None       |
### Unit guide AHIS371 Egypt in the Old Kingdom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Tutorial</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3    | Tuesday 15.03.2016 | • Decoration of royal complexes: Dynasties 1-6 (A.-L. Mourad)  
• Old Kingdom Texts (N. Kanawati) | Tutorial 1 | Presentation 1 |
| 4    | Tuesday 22.03.2016 | • Development of elite tomb architecture: Dynasties 1-4 (A.-L. Mourad)  
• Old Kingdom Texts (N. Kanawati) | No tutorial | None |
| 5    | Tuesday 29.03.2016 | • Decorative program of tombs of the elite officials, Dynasty 4 to 6 (A.-L. Mourad)  
• Old Kingdom Texts (N. Kanawati) | Tutorial 2 | Presentation 2 |
| 6    | Tuesday 05.04.2016 | • How to date an Old Kingdom tomb? (N. Kanawati)  
• Old Kingdom Texts (N. Kanawati) | No tutorial | Test I |
| 7    | Tuesday 26.04.2016 | • The monarchy and the priesthood (N. Kanawati)  
• Old Kingdom Texts (N. Kanawati) | Tutorial 3 | Presentation 3 |
| 8    | Tuesday 03.05.2016 | • Mereruka and Teti’s succession to the throne (N. Kanawati)  
• Old Kingdom Texts (N. Kanawati) | No tutorial | None |
| 9    | Tuesday 10.05.2016 | • Conspiracies in the Egyptian palace during the early 6th Dynasty (N. Kanawati)  
• Old Kingdom Texts (N. Kanawati) | Tutorial 4 | Test II  
Presentation 4 |
| 10   | Tuesday 17.05.2016 | • The cattle count and dating in Old Kingdom Egypt (N. Kanawati)  
• Old Kingdom Texts (N. Kanawati) | No tutorial | Essay |
| 11   | Tuesday 24.05.2016 | • The distinguished career of an Old Kingdom official: Weni (N. Kanawati)  
• Old Kingdom Texts (N. Kanawati) | Tutorial 5 | Final Test  
Presentation 5 |
| 12   | Tuesday 31.05.2016 | • The reign of Pepy II and the fall of the Old Kingdom (N. Kanawati)  
• Old Kingdom Texts (N. Kanawati) | None | None |
| 13   | Tuesday 07.06.2016 | Classes will be held if necessary | None | None |

### Mid-semester Break (11.04.2016 – 22.04.2016)

### Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/57524/unit_guide/print). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


Disruption to Studies Policy: http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html. The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/) of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in *eStudent*. For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](ask.mq.edu.au).

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- **Workshops**
- **StudyWise**
- **Academic Integrity Module for Students**
- **Ask a Learning Adviser**

**Student Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au
Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University’s IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
• Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in an oral form.
• Plan and revise work according to the unit schedule.
• Transliterate and translate passages from seen and unseen Old Kingdom texts.
• Analyse and express your judgement about historical issues in an oral and written form.
• Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding.

Assessment tasks

• Group Presentation, Discussion
• Two Translation Tests
• In Class Essay
• Final Translation Test

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess,
write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in an oral form.
- Actively participate in group discussion.
- Analyse and express your judgement about historical issues in an oral and written form.

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial Participation
- Group Presentation, Discussion

**Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative**

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in an oral form.
- Actively participate in group discussion.
- Analyse and express your judgement about historical issues in an oral and written form.

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial Participation
- Group Presentation, Discussion

**Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills**

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific
knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in an oral form.
- Plan and revise work according to the unit schedule.
- Transliterate and translate passages from seen and unseen Old Kingdom texts.
- Analyse and express your judgement about historical issues in an oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding.

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial Participation
- Group Presentation, Discussion
- Two Translation Tests
- In Class Essay
- Final Translation Test

**Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in an oral form.
- Plan and revise work according to the unit schedule.
- Transliterate and translate passages from seen and unseen Old Kingdom texts.
- Analyse and express your judgement about historical issues in an oral and written form.
- Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding.

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial Participation
Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in an oral form.
- Actively participate in group discussion.
- Analyse and express your judgement about historical issues in an oral and written form.

**Assessment tasks**

- Group Presentation, Discussion
- In Class Essay

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
- Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in an oral form.
- Actively participate in group discussion.

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial Participation
Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in an oral form.
• Actively participate in group discussion.

Assessment tasks

• Tutorial Participation
• Group Presentation, Discussion

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Find, analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources and present the information in an oral format.
• Work with and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit in an oral form.
• Plan and revise work according to the unit schedule.
• Transliterate and translate passages from seen and unseen Old Kingdom texts.
• Analyse and express your judgement about historical issues in an oral and written form.
• Interpret written and archaeological evidence with appreciation and understanding.

Assessment tasks

• Tutorial Participation
• Group Presentation, Discussion
• Two Translation Tests
• In Class Essay
Final Translation Test

Topic Planner

WEEK 1

Lecture: General Introduction

Tutorial: Allocation of presentation topics

Tasks:

The first tutorial will be a general introduction to the tutorial structure and readings for this unit, an outline of the sources you should be using in your research as well as some general advice on presentation style.

For this week I would like you to get to know the types of online resources available for the Old Kingdom. The internet is a useful source of information, however please be careful of the sorts of sites you use and reference. Think carefully about whether the information you have used is reliable and I would generally stick to sites that are attached to an institution or a museum such as the Giza Archives Project from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. For this week’s task please look up the following archival sites listed below:

- AEB (Annual Egyptological Bibliography- see the Reference desk in the MQ library) www.aebnet.nl
- ETANA (Electronic Tools and Ancient Near Eastern Archives) www.etana.org
- The EEF Guide to Online resources for Ancient Egyptian Texts http://www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Alley/4482/EEFtexts.html MFA

Readings:

The second task for the week involves going to the Macquarie University library and locating these works in the Reference or the Ready Reference section. Please have a browse through these books to see how useful they are for your tutorial presentation:


WEEK 2

Lecture/tutorial: Development of royal architecture: Dynasties 1-6
Translation: Old Kingdom text

Tasks:

This week visit a few museum/university websites and have a look through the collection for Old Kingdom artefacts:

- Louvre Museum [www.louvre.fr/llv/commun/home.jsp]
- Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York [www.metmuseum.org]
- Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology [www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk] also the Griffith Institute [www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk/Griffith]
- Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology [www.petrie.ucl.ac.uk]
- University of Halle – Lepsius Project [http://edoc3.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/lepsius/]

Readings:

This week I would like you to read brief outlines of the Old Kingdom in:


WEEK 3

Lecture: Decoration of royal complexes: Dynasties 1-6

Translation: Old Kingdom text

Tutorial Topic 1: Argue for or against: Were the Egyptians monogamists or polygamists in the Old Kingdom?

Readings:


• G. Jéquier, *Le monument funéraire de Pepi II*, 3 vols (Cairo, 1936-40).

• N. Kanawati, ‘Polygamy in the Old Kingdom of Egypt?’, *SAK* 4 (1976), 149-160.

• W. K. Simpson, ‘Polygamy in Egypt in the Middle Kingdom’, *JEA* 60 (1974), 100-105.


WEEK 4

Lecture: Development of elite tomb architecture: Dynasties 1-4

Translation: Old Kingdom text

Readings:


WEEK 5

Lecture: Decorative program of tombs of the elite officials, Dynasties 4 to 6

Translation: Old Kingdom text

Tutorial Topic 2: Argue for or against: The Old Kingdom tomb was less a burial place than “a medium to display the status achieved by the deceased tomb owner” (N. Staring, ‘Fixed rules or personal choice: On the composition and arrangement of daily life scenes in Old Kingdom elite tombs in Old Kingdom’, in *New Perspectives*, eds N. and S. Strudwick, 2011, p. 258).

Readings:

• A. McFarlane and A.-L. Mourad (eds), *Behind the Scenes: Daily Life in Old Kingdom*
WEEK 6

Lecture: How to date an Old Kingdom tomb?

Translation: Old Kingdom text

Readings:

- K. Baer, Rank and Title in the Old Kingdom (Chicago, 1960).
- N. Cherpion, Mastabas et hypogées. Le problème de la datation (Brussels, 1989).
- N. Kanawati, Governmental Reforms in Old Kingdom Egypt (Warminster, 1980).
- E. Martin-Pardey, Untersuchungen zur ägyptischen Provinzialverwaltung bis zum Ende des Alten Reiches (Hildesheim, 1976).

WEEK 7

Lecture: The monarchy and the priesthood

Translation: Old Kingdom text
Tutorial Topic 3: Argue for or against: The Egyptians were obsessed with death and the hereafter.

Readings:


WEEK 8

Lecture: Mereruka and Teti's succession to the throne

Translation: Old Kingdom text

Readings:


WEEK 9

Lecture: Conspiracies in the Egyptian palace during the early 6th Dynasty

Translation: Old Kingdom text

Tutorial Topic 4: Argue for or against: The tomb of Neferseshemptah should be dated to late Dynasty 6. Its supposedly early features are a matter of archaising.

Readings:

- N. Kanawati, *Mereruka and King Teti: The Power Behind the Throne* (Cairo, 2007),


**WEEK 10**

**Lecture:** The cattle count and dating in Old Kingdom Egypt

**Translation:** Old Kingdom text

**Readings:**

• M. Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian Autobiographies Chiefly of the Middle Kingdom: A Study and an Anthology* (Göttingen, 1988).

• N.C. Strudwick, *Texts from the Pyramid Age* (Atlanta, 2005).

**WEEK 11**

**Lecture:** The distinguished career of an Old Kingdom official: Weni

**Translation:** Old Kingdom text

**Tutorial Topic 5:** Argue for or against: Old Kingdom officials of modest background could reach the highest positions in the Egyptian administration.

**Readings:**


**WEEK 12**

**Lecture:** The reign of Pepy II and the fall of the Old Kingdom

**Translation:** Old Kingdom text

**Readings:**
Unit guide AHIS371 Egypt in the Old Kingdom

- K. Baer, *Rank and Title in the Old Kingdom* (Chicago, 1960).
- N. Kanawati, *Governmental Reforms in Old Kingdom Egypt* (Warminster, 1980).