Centre of Humanities and Social Science

Institute of Education and Humanities

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

AHAH7022

(Boundary Stela Amarna)

Religious Change and Resilience: The case study of Amarna

2023-24

Semester 2

PRIFYSGOL CYMRU
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
UNIVERSITY OF WALES
Trinity Saint David

Akhenaten and Amarna: Religion, culture and people

The Amarna Period in the Egyptian New Kingdom occupies a central place in Egyptology since the discovery of its protagonist Akhenaten and his Middle Egyptian capital Akhetaten in the 19th century. As an alleged precursor of modern Western civilization, from monotheistic belief to innovative artistic conventions, this period still receives more academic and popular attention than any other within the civilisation of ancient Egypt. The module attempts to trace the religious changes during these 30 something years and also demonstrates the biases of modern judgments about the Amarna Age. In doing so, it aims to develop a comprehensive and more balanced view of this particular period of Egyptian history, art, and religion and wants to show how the mechanisms of the ancient Egyptian interpretation of this period in order to upkeep the resilience of the pharaonic Egyptian culture.

Credits: 30

Lecturer: Dr Katharina Zinn (Arts Building A110)

AIM(S)

- To endow students with the relevant tools and theories from religious studies, anthropology and Egyptology enabling them to deal with case studies in the wider and comparative subject of ancient religions
- To encourage students to develop their independent critical and informed thinking and interpretation of religious experiences in the past as well as a problematic historical period which needs an interdisciplinary approach to be understood

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate a thorough and advanced knowledge of religious change and resilience in ancient civilisations with particular focus on the Amarna Period in the historical context of the ancient Egyptian New Kingdom.
- Be aware of modern biases towards changes in ancient religious systems and see the difficulties of reaching a balanced reconstruction on the base of fragmented and distorted historical sources.
- Effectively formulate their own hypotheses regarding the problems encountered by critically evaluating and interpretating of ancient data and sources as well as their modern presentation.

ASSESSMENT

Your portfolio covers a continuous research project as well as an essay. The topic of your project needs to be agreed with me latest at the beginning of week 2.

The portfolio need to be passed overall irrespective if all parts are passed.

All submission deadlines are due @23:59 on the day indicated below via Turnitin.

A. <u>Research project</u>

1. Abstract of your research project → 500 words, to be submitted by **Sunday, 24/02/2024** (10% of overall portfolio mark)

   This abstract should introduce the project and indicate your topic, sources and research methods. Please add an indicative bibliography (7-10 secondary sources).

2. Poster → WORTH 1500 words, to be submitted by **Sunday, 21/04/2024** (worth 25% of overall portfolio mark)
3. Thesis – 4000 words, to be submitted by **Friday, 10/05/2024** (40% of portfolio mark)

B. Discussion of an heritage aspect

Discuss **ONE** of the following → 1000 words, to be submitted by **Friday, 12/04/2024** (25% of the portfolio mark)

a. Discuss the restitution fight between Germany and Egypt for the Nefertiti bust.

OR

b. What is the relevance of the conservation of the site of Amarna undertaken by the Amarna Project?

Syllabus:

Please bear in mind that we have 7 weeks before and 3 weeks after the Easter break

SESSION	FORUM / SEMINAR	Topic	Readings and tasks
Sess 1 07/02/ 2025		Welcome to the module: aims, assessments, administration	
		Introduction to the approach of the module, the Amarna Period and setting the stage, Amarna as place and its rediscovery	**Seyfried. In: Seyfried. 2012. 43-49.** **Kemp. In: Seyfried. 2012. 50-55.** Kemp. 212. Ch. 1 (22-45). Hanus. In: Seyfried. 2012. 32-41. Stevens. 2015. Stevens. 2016. Williamson. 2015.
Sess 2 14/02	13/02	**Latest day to agree research topic with module convener**	
		Setting the Stage: The 18th dynasty and Amenhotep III – Historical and religious foundations of the Amarna period Historical Overview of the Amarna Period	**Bryan. 2003** **Baines. 2001** Montserrat. Akhenaten. 55-94.
Sess 3 21/02		Amarna and Religion – the Aten, the King and the people	**Allen. In: Arnold. 1996. 3-5.** Assmann. In: Seyfried. 2012. 79-83.
24/02	Submission of portfolio part A1 (abstract) via Turnitin on MOODLE		
Sess 4 w-c 26/02		Amarna Art and Architecture	**Labouri. 2011** Arnold. In: Seyfried. 2012. 143-152. Hill. In Seyfried. 2012. 153-163. Kemp. 2012. Ch. 3 (78-121) Kemp. 2012. Ch. 4 (122-153)

			Vergnieux. In: Seyfried. 2012. 84-91. Tietze. In: Seyfried. 2012. 57-70.
Sess 5 w-c 04/03		Amarna as city: Living and dying in Amarna	**Williamson. 2017** **Stevens. 2018** Kemp. 2012. Ch. 6 (196-229) Ockinga. 2008. Von der Way. 1996.
Sess 6 w-c 11/03		Royal and other women in Amarna	**Zinn. 2016.** Stevens. 2004. Tyldesley. 2018. Zinn. 2015.
Sess 7 w-c 18/03		Interlude: Amarna Heritages (in preparation of your assessment Portfolio B)	
EASTER BREAK			
Sess 8 w-c 08/04		Personal Religion in Amarna **TASK: Choose one object / text as evidence for personal / private religion in Amarna → bring into class and talk about (2-3 min)**	**Stevens. In: Seyfried. 2012. 92-97.** Kemp. 2012. Ch. 7 (230-263) Stevens. 2006.
12/04	Submission of portfolio part B (heritage discussion) via Turnitin on MOODLE		
Sess 9 w-c 15/04		The dark years as preparation of The end and aftermath: Back to the religious past or future?	**Allen. 2009.** **Van der Perre. In: Seyfried. 2012. 195-197.** Van der Perre. 2014. **Hawass. 2010.** **OR** **Eaton-Krauss. 2016. Ch.3 (33-51)**
21/04	Submission of portfolio part A2 (poster) via Turnitin on MOODLE		
Sess 10 w-c 22/04		Poster discussion	
		Summary: What is civilisation resilience and how can religion threaten and foster resilience at the same time?	
10/05	Submission of portfolio part A3 (thesis) via Turnitin on MOODLE		

BIBLIOGRAPHY

To be aware of: There is more written on the Amarna Period than any other time period in Egypt. A bibliography compiled by Geoffrey Martin lists over 2000 titles (A Bibliography of the Amarna Period and its Aftermath, London, 1991). There is also an enormous amount of dubious writing on Amarna, which gets the chief of the “alien” literature about Egypt as well as an enormous amount of well-meaning but amateur attention. Be wary. Ask about sources before using them if they aren’t on the syllabus. See also the complementary longer bibliography of helpful readings on MOODLE.

As "nearly" textbooks:

Seyfried, F. 2012. *In the Light of Amarna: 100 years of the Nefertiti discovery*. Berlin: Staatliches Museum.

Kemp, B. 2012. *The city of Akhenaten and Nefertiti: Amarna and its People*. London: Thames & Hudson.

Kemp, B. 1989 (OR 1991 – reprints until 2004). Egypt in a microcosm: the city of Amarna. In: *Ancient Egypt: Anatomy of a Civilization*. **FIRST Edition (not the second revised Ed.)**. 261-320. London: Routledge. (Do not forget to go back to the particular pages, Kemp is referring to in his text!) → this chapter is back (and updated) in the 3rd edition (2018): book is not yet in library, ask Katharina for a copy

Essential

Arnold, D. (Hg.). 1996. *The royal women of Amarna: images of beauty from ancient Egypt*, New York: Abrams.

Cohen, R. & R. Westbrook. 2002. *Amarna Diplomacy: The Beginnings of International Relations*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins Univ. Pr.

David, A. 2021. *Renewing Royal Imagery: Akhenaten and Family in the Amarna Tombs*. Leiden: Brill.

Hawass, Z. et.al. 2010. *Ancestry and pathology in king Tutankhamun's family*. JAMA 303(2010)7, 638-647.

Krauss, R. 2000. Akhenaten: Monotheist? Polytheist? BACE 11, 93–101.

Montserrat, D. 2000. *Akhenaten: History, Fantasy and Ancient Egypt*. London: Routledge.

Silverman, David, Wegner, Joseph and Wegner, Jennifer. (2006). Akhenaten and Tutankhamun: Revolution and Restoration. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology.

Stevens, A. 2006. *Private Religion at Amarna: the material evidence*. Oxford: Archaeopress.

Stevens, A. 2015. The Archaeology of Amarna. In: Oxford Handbooks Online. Available: https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199935413.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199935413-e-31

Stevens, A. 2016, Tell el-Amarna. In: Wendrich, W. (ed.), *UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology*, Los Angeles. http://digital2.library.ucla.edu/viewItem.do?ark=21198/zz002k6x4x

Williamson, J. 2015, Amarna Period. In: Grajetzki, W. and Wendrich, W. (eds.), *UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology*, Los Angeles. http://digital2.library.ucla.edu/viewItem.do?ark=21198/zz002k2h3.

Essential Readings for some sessions

Allen, J.P. 2009. The Amarna succession. In: Brand, P. (ed.): *Causing His Name to Live. Studies in Egyptian Epigraphy and History in Memory of William J. Murnane.* 9-19. Leiden: Brill.

Baines, J. 2001. The Dawn of the Amarna Age. In: O'Connor, D.; Cline E.H. *Amenhotep III: Perspectives on His Reign*. 271-312. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.

Bryan, B. 2003. The 18th Dynasty before the Amarna Period. In: Shaw, I. *Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*. 218-60. Oxford: OUP.

Collins, P. T. and L. McNamara. 2014. Discovering Tutankhamun. Oxford: Ashmolean Museum.

David, A. 2016. Akhenaten as the Early Morning Light: Revisiting the "Consecration" Ritual in Amarna. Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt 52(2016)1. 91-99. DOI: 10.5913/jarce.52.2016.a005

Eaton-Krauss, M. 2016. *The unknown Tutankhamun.* London: Bloomsbury.

Eaton-Krauss, M. (2016). Some Amarna Anomalies. *Orientalia (Roma)* 85(2016)3. 236-241.

Eaton-Krauss, M. 2020. *Post-Amarna period statues of Amun and his consorts Mut and Amunet*. Leiden: Brill.

Kulmar, T. 2018. On a Possible Characteristic of the Governing System of Pharaoh Amenhotep IV (Akhenaten). *Folklore* 74(2018). 115-128. https://doi.org/10.7592/fejf2018.74.kulmar

Martin, G.T. 2016. Tutankhamun's regent: scenes and texts from the Memphite tomb of Horemheb for students of Egyptian art, iconography, architecture, and history. London: EES.

Ockinga, B. 2008. The Non-Royal Concept of the Afterlife in Amarna. *Ancient History: resources for teachers* 38(2008)1. 16-37.

Schoske, S. 2008. At the Centre of Power: Tiye, Ahhotep and Hatshepsut. In Ziegler, C. (Ed.). *Queens of Egypt: From Hetepheres to Cleopatra*. 188–199. Monaco: Grimaldi Forum.

Stevens, A. 2004. The Amarna royal women as images of fertility: perspectives on a royal cult. In: *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 4(2004). 107–27.

Stevens, A. 2018. Death and the City: The Cemeteries of Amarna in Their Urban Context. Cambridge Archaeological Journal 28(2018)1. 103-126. Available online: https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/cambridge-archaeological-journal/article/death-and-the-city-the-cemeteries-of-amarna-in-their-urban-context/DBD79DE7272127369D22A805525D3D08

Tyldesley, J.2018. *Nefertiti's Face: The Creation of an Icon.* Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Pr.

Van der Perre, A. 2014. The Year 16 graffito of Akhenaten in Dayr Abū Ḥinnis. A Contribution to the Study of the Later Years of Nefertiti. *Journal of Egyptian History* 7(2014). 67–108

Williamson, J. 2017. Death and the Sun Temple: New Evidence for Private Mortuary Cults at Amarna. The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology 103(2017)1. 1–7.

Zinn, K. 2015. Nofretete – eine Königin ihrer Zeit? In Eldamaty, M.; Hoffmann, F.; Minas-Nerpel, M. (Eds.) *Königinnen in Ägypten*. 27–67. Vaterstetten: Brose,

Zinn, K. 2016. Women in Amarna. In: S. Budin, J. Turfa (eds.). *Women in antiquity: Real women across the Ancient World*. 255-275. London: Routledge.

Recommended

El-Masry, Y. 2002. New Evidence for Building Activity of Akhenaten in Akhmim. In: *MDAIK* 58(2002). Pp. 391-398, pl. 40-41.

Freud: Moses and Monotheism

Friedman, F. 1986. ꜣḫ in the Amarna Period. In: *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 23(1986). 99-106.

Hodgkinson, A.K. 2018. *Technology and Urbanism in Late Bronze Age Egypt*. Oxford: OUP.

Ikram, S. 1989. Domestic Shrines and the Cult of the Royal Family at el-'Amarna. In: *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*, 75(1989). 89-101.

Koltsida, A. 2006. Birth-Bed, Sitting Place, Erotic Corner or Domestic Altar? A Study of the So-Called "Elevated Bed" in Deir el-Medina Houses. In: *Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur* 35 (2006), 165-174

Kozloff, A.P., L.M. Berman and B.M. Bryan. 1992. *Egypt's dazzling sun : Amenhotep III and his world*. Cleveland : Cleveland Museum of Art.

Mahfouz, N. 2000. *Akhenaten, Dweller in Truth*. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell.

Martin, G.T. 2016. *Tutankhamun's regent: scenes and texts from the Memphite tomb of Horemheb for students of Egyptian art, iconography, architecture, and history*. London: Egypt Exploration Society.

Reid, D.M. 2015. *Contesting Antiquity in Egypt: Archaeologies, Museums and the Struggle for Identities from World War I to Nasser.* Cairo: AUC Pr. (especially ch. 2)

Van Dijk, J. 2009. The Death of Meketaten. In: Causing His Name To Live. Studies in Egyptian Epigraphy and History in Memory of William J. Murnane. Ed. by P.J. Brand and L. Cooper. 83–88. Leiden/Boston: Brill.

Von der Way, T. 1996. Überlegungen zur Jenseitsvorstellung in der Amarnazeit. *Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde* 123(1996). 157–164.

Wegner, J. 2017. *The Sunshade Chapel of Meritaten from the* ***House-of-Waenre*** *of Akhenaten.* Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Williamson, J. 2016. *Nefertiti's Sun Temple* (2 Vols.): A New Cult Complex at Tell El-Amarna. Leiden: Brill.

Dr Katharina Zinn

And... done!

Now you should be able to laugh about this...