



Tourists with Egyptian Egyptologist - Egyptian Museum at the Tahrir, Cairo, Egypt (January 2023)

From Egypt to the Near East: phenomena of the Mediterranean

HPHP4013

2025-2026, Block 4 (26/01-20/02/2026)



Thinking about Egypt (mirrored wall in an elevator of an Egyptian hotel and street art; Cairo, Egypt January 2023)

UWTSD, Institute of Education and Humanities



From Egypt to the Near East

This co-taught module introduces you to the Mediterranean from around 4000 BC until the modern time by touching on a variety of case studies which illustrate historical and cultural phenomena, presents specific time periods and areas and let you familiarise yourself with modern theoretical approaches and receptions. This will enable to not only position the Mediterranean in your understanding of the world as well as the past-present-future, but also will help you to find areas of interest you can follow in your second and third year of study.

Each week is dedicated to a specific topic which we will bring together by discussing different aspects of the Mediterranean.

➔ **Credits: 20**

Module convener: Associate Professor Katharina Zinn
office: **CJ217**

AIM

- To introduce students to the complex societies in the ancient Mediterranean (especially ancient Egypt Mesopotamia, but also other) and the different interdisciplinary methodology to study them

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Demonstrate a well-founded knowledge and understanding of a variety of phenomena of these cultures;
- Show an awareness of and evaluate the distinctions of particular civilisations in an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary setting

Portfolio 4000 words

All three parts of the assessment are due latest on **Friday 20/02/2026 @23:59** to the appropriate Turnitin links on MOODLE. This is deliberate to give you the chance to get used to plan your time and workload and get used to the setup of simultaneous submission. You can submit any time before, however. Each part will have its own assessment link, so you can submit each part in its own right / at its own time if you want. Developing the time management skills to structure your block in order to submit at the deadline is part of task and deliberately aimed for.

I will give an introduction to the assessments and their structure in the first session.

Part 1 – Illustrated Map – worth 1000 words

Create a themed, illustrated map of Egypt. You need to start from a blank map and add places of your theme (capitals, temples, touristic sites, ...). You would need to add a short annotation / introduction to understand your map and its purpose.

You can create this in PPTX or Publisher or any other software.

Please, bear in mind that you shall not write 1000 words, the assessment is worth 1000 words in regard to effort and input.

Part 2 – Academic Essay 2000 words

Choose **ONE** of the following essay questions

- How did the ancient Egyptians define themselves in contrast to their neighbours? What was their relationship to the world around them?
- Consider some of the ways / examples in which Egyptomania figures in “modern West”. You may limit yourself to detailed analysis of a single text / image / source or range more widely.

Part 3 – Creative / receptive response 1000 words

Choose **ONE** of the following tasks

1. Write a review about the following movie, commenting how the Mediterranean / Egypt is presented.

Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Adventure of the Egyptian Tomb

Poirot investigates the death of an archaeologist who drops dead, minutes after the opening of an ancient Egyptian tomb.

<https://www.itv.com/watch/agatha-christies-poirot/L0830/L0830a0033>

OR

2. Create a short story or poem placing ancient Egypt or an ancient Egyptian object at core / starting point.

OR

3. Create an activity for an outreach session introducing ancient Egypt. You can choose your topic yourself.

You will need to develop a plan of the activity with images / illustrations (including idea / topic, purpose of the event, intended audience, as short inscription about where/how long/how) and set out a short introductory Powerpoint (you will not asked to present this PPTX) or a handout for the audience.

All three parts will need to be uploaded to their respective Turnitin links on MOODLE latest by Friday 20/02/2026 @ 23:59.

The feedback will be available by Friday 27/02/26 @ 5pm.

You can find your Marking Criteria, which will be applied to the coursework and the exam, on MOODLE.

SYLLABUS

This is an on-campus module which will not be recorded or have online links. All sessions are in **Arts 4 (Lampeter Campus, Arts Building)**, except **Tues 21/01**, when we will meet in the **Founders Library**. On this day, we will be part of the Cross Disciplinary Forum (shared with students from Architecture and Art and Design (Swansea Campus), which this year discusses the “Production of Meaning”. I will give one of the papers about “Modern Egypt’s Relationships to pharaonic periods OR how to make the past meaningful for today”.

	Week 1	26/01-30/01/2026
1	Mon 26/01	• Introduction to module (including assessments) • Defining the Mediterranean
2	Wed 28/01	Mapping Egypt: spatial aspects
3	Thu 29/01	Mapping Egypt: temporal aspects
	Week 2	02/02-06/02/2026
4	Mon 02/02 → 10-1	Mapping Egypt: temporal aspects – activity in the Immersive Rom
5	Mon 02/02	Egyptian Empires in the Levant
6	Wed 04/02	Egypt and its neighbours – the Egyptian perspective Late Period
	Thu 05/02	No teaching, Katharina hospital appointment
	Week 3	09/02-13/02/2026
7	Mon 09/02	Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt
8	Wed 11/02	From Egypt to Misr – the Arab conquest in the 7 th cent.
9	Thu 12/02	Egyptomania and Reception
	Week 4	16/02-20/02/2026
10	Mon 16/02	Facts and Infotainment – Sakkara as TV star
11	Wed 18/02	Between Pharaonism and Arab Spring – Whose heritage or the relevance of the past in the present

12	Thu 19/02	• Summarising - Thinking about the Mediterranean • Assessment Surgery
	Fri 20/02	Submission of ALL parts of the portfolio

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Essential Reading

- Bohls, Elizabeth A., *Romantic Literature and Postcolonial Studies* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2013)
- Bunbury, J. 2019. *The Nile and Ancient Egypt: Changing Land- and Waterscapes, from the Neolithic to the Roman Era*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Bunbury, J. 2021. *The Nile: Mobility and Management*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Bussmann, R. 2023. *The Archaeology of Pharaonic Egypt: Society and Culture, 2700–1700 BC*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Carruthers, W. 2022. *Flooded Pasts: UNESCO, Nubia, and the Recolonization of Archaeology*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Fernandez Pichel, A. I. 2024. *How Pharaohs Became Media Stars: Ancient Egypt and Popular Culture*. Archaeopress. <https://doi.org/10.2307/ji.14638132>
- Fleischhack, M. 2015. *Narrating Ancient Egypt: The representation of Ancient Egypt in Nineteenth-Century and Early-Twentieth-Century Fantastic Fiction*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang.
- Fluck, C.; G. Helmecke; E.R. O'Connell. 2015. *Egypt: Faith after the pharaohs*. London: The British Museum.
- Fritze, Ronald H. 2016. *Egyptomania: a History of Fascination, Obsession and Fantasy*. London: Reaktion Books.
- Hamer, M. 2008. 'A body for Cleopatra' and also "Afterword: Cleopatra in the twenty-first century: The debate over race". In: *Signs of Cleopatra: Reading an Icon Historically*. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press. pp. 104–159. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt5vm38.11>
- Hanna, M. 2022. Repatriating Cultural Identity: The Egyptian Discontinuity Pretext. In: S. Leeb, N. Samuel (eds.). *Museums, Transculturality, and the Nation-State Museum*. Bielefeld: Transcript. 87-101.
- Hanna, M. 2023. Contesting the Lonely Queen. In: *International Journal of Cultural Property* (2023). 1-19.
- Kemp, B. 2018. *Ancient Egypt: anatomy of a civilization*. London: Routledge. 3rd ed.
- Lloyd, A. (ed). 2010. *A companion to Ancient Egypt*. 2vols. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Manzo, A. 2022. *Ancient Egypt in its African Context: Economic Networks, Social and Cultural Interactions*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Matić, U. 2020. *Ethnic Identities in the Land of the Pharaohs: Past and Present Approaches in Egyptology*. Cambridge: CUP.

Nielsen, N. 2020. *Egyptomaniacs : how we became obsessed with ancient Egypt*. Yorkshire : Pen and Sword History.

Rodenbeck, John and جون رودنيك. Travelers from an Antique Land: Shelley's Inspiration for "Ozymandias" / المرتحلون من أرض بائنة : مصادر الوحي عند شيلي في نظمه لقصيدة "أوزيماندياس" / *Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics: Archaeology of Literature: Tracing the Old in the New* 24(2004), 121-148. / اقتفاء أثر القديم في الجديد

Teeter, E.; Brewer, D. 1999. *Egypt and the Egyptians*. Cambridge: CUP

Van De Mieroop, M. 2011. *A history of Ancient Egypt*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Wassil, G. 2000. Keats' Orientalism. *Studies in Romanticism*, 39(2000)3, 419–447.

Wilkinson, R.H. (ed.). 2008. *Egyptology today*. Cambridge: CUP

Further Reading

- Aruz, J. et al (eds.) 2013. *Cultures in contact: From Mesopotamia to the Mediterranean in the second millennium B.C.* New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- Brier, B. 2013. *Egypt-omania: our three thousand year obsession with the land of the pharaohs.* London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Coniam, M. 2017. Egyptomania goes to the movies: from archaeology to popular craze to Hollywood fantasie.
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<http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt5vjm38.11>
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- Versluys, M.J. 2020. *Beyond Egyptomania: Objects, Style and Agency.* Berlin: De Gruyter.

Detailed reading lists including compulsory reading to be done BEFORE class for each session can be found on MOODLE. It is required to check MOODLE every day.

