

The Female Pharaohs of Egypt

Women in Antiquity | Meeting #9

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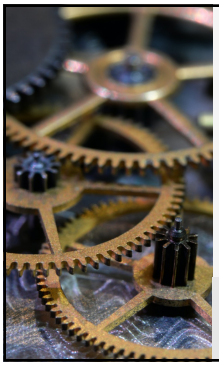

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, December 7
  Position Paper due
- Tuesday, December 15
  Final Exam

- Sunday, November 8
  Responses for Week 9 Due

2

Five things today

- The position paper
- Egypt
- Hatshepsut
- Nefertiti
- Hellenistic Egypt

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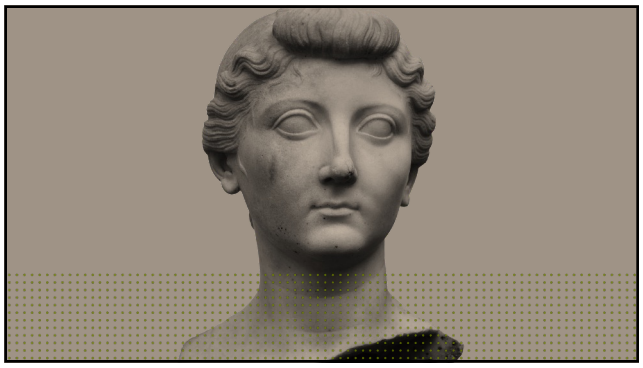

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Quiz #7 | Female Pharaohs of Egypt

1. All of the following are true of Hatshepsut before becoming queen EXCEPT:
   a. The only records we have of her childhood and time as a princess are those she left herself
   b. She denied all rumors she was descended from the god Amun-Re, claiming to be utterly human
   c. When her brother became king, she gained the titles of King's Wife and God's Wife of Amun
   d. Though she was married to her brother, Thutmose II, his son Thutmose III was not hers

2. By the seventh regnal year of herself and Thutmose III, Hatshepsut was
   a. representing herself as a male pharaoh on monuments
   b. hosting wild parties in the temple of Karnak
   c. dead, killed by a crocodile
   d. building pyramids like the old days

3. All of the following are true of the pharaoh Hatshepsut and her much younger co-ruler Thutmose III EXCEPT:
   a. They sponsored an expedition to Punt to obtain exotic materials
   b. They ruled jointly together for about 15 years
   c. On some monuments they are depicted as twin male rulers
   d. They were half-siblings, with the same mother

4. All of the following are true of Thutmose III's destruction of Hatshepsut's memory after her death EXCEPT:
   a. Her name was removed from monuments and her statues thrown in a pit
   b. Scholars now say the erasure occurred 20 years or more after her death, casting doubt on the theory that Thutmose was motivated by wrath and revenge
   c. Some of her images were defaced by carving false mustaches on them, ironically
   d. Her representations as Thutmose II's queen were left untouched; only her kingship after his death was erased

5. The epitaph of Kheredankh, daughter of Shepmin, included
   a. a claim that she ate only imported oranges in the form of smoothies
   b. a description of her work as a designer of snakeskin handbags made from asps
   c. a request for a libation of water from the visitor, because she was one who "loved to drink"
   d. a rumor that she was the bastard daughter of Nefertiti

Extra Credit

EC. Why do you think Hatshepsut was accepted as a "female king" and was able to rule for so long?

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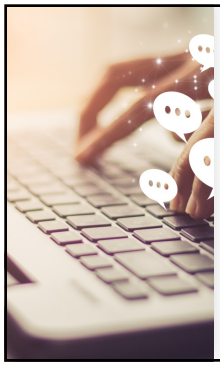

Questions from the Responses

- Does Athenian literature/drama show a cultural push against the myopic and self-obsessive behavior of the wealthy elite?
- Why is Klytaemnestra painted as more of a villain than Medea?

6

Questions about whatever



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The Position Paper

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The Position Paper

- Making an argument
- Giving three reasons
- Supporting with evidence from primary and secondary source

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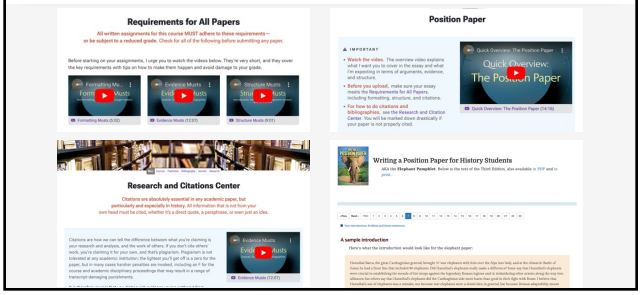
Guidance and resources



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Structure of an essay

Introduction
- State the problem (some say … others say …)
- Give your thesis (I believe…)

First reason
- ASSERTION #1
- Evidence from primary or secondary sources
- Discussion of how the evidence demonstrates your thesis

Second reason
- ASSERTION #2
- Evidence from primary or secondary sources
- Discussion of how the evidence demonstrates your thesis

Third reason
- ASSERTION #3
- Evidence from primary or secondary sources
- Discussion of how the evidence demonstrates your thesis

Conclusion
- Address counterarguments
- Connect your "reason" sections together
- Restate your thesis as having been demonstrated

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Approaches to research

- Assigned readings
  - Relevant primary sources
  - Ancient Texts index on my website — markbwilson.com/pages/texts.html
  - Articles assigned for class
  - Pomeroy's *Goddesses, Whores…*
- Search for library books
  - Lehman/CUNY OneSearch — lehman.edu/library
    - Digital resources
    - Books on the shelf
  - NY Public Library — browse.nypl.org
  - Worldcat — worldcat.org
- Footnotes in the books you've already found
- Good ol' Prof. Wilson

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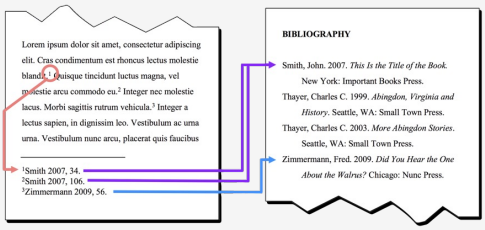
Citations and bibliography



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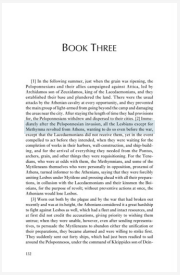
Citing ancient sources

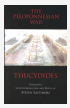

BOOK THREE

Footnote or parenthetical citation:

Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War* 3.2

Bibliography:

Thucydides and Steven Lattimore. *The Peloponnesian War*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1998.



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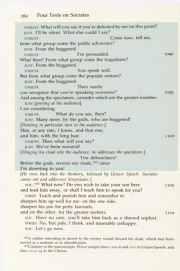
Citing a play or poem


Four Texts on Socrates

Footnote or parenthetical citation:

Clouds, lines 1087–1104

Bibliography:

West, Thomas G., Grace Starry West, Plato, and Aristophanes. *Four Texts on Socrates: Plato's Euthyphro, Apology, and Crito, and Aristophanes' Clouds* (Rev. ed). Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998.



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Points to remember

- Cite all information from outside your head
  - Direct quotes
  - Paraphrases
  - Information, facts, statistics
  - Ideas
- Everything in the paper should support your thesis argument
- Do not just narrate the history
- Check the requirements for all papers

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Egypt

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Ancient Egypt

- Today Egypt is a block of land defined by lines drawn on a map (nation-state)
- Identities in the ancient world originated from settlements and urban centers
- Ancient Egypt was the inhabited lands on either side of the Nile

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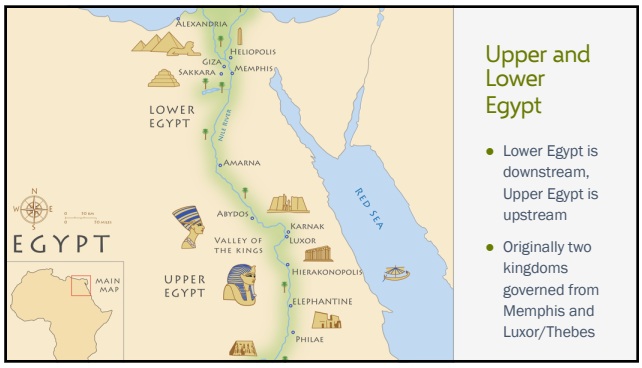

Upper and Lower Egypt

- Lower Egypt is downstream, Upper Egypt is upstream
- Originally two kingdoms governed from Memphis and Luxor/Thebes

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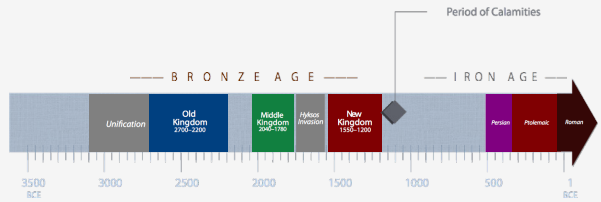
Timeline: Egypt



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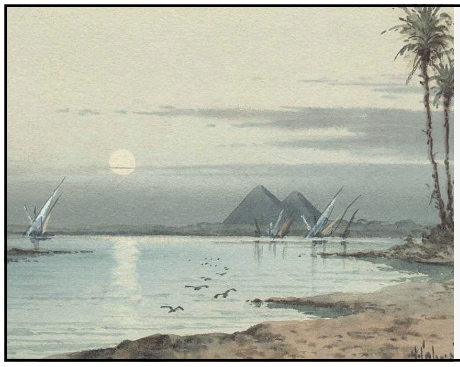

"The Gift of the Nile"

- Trade and transportation
- Annual flood
  - Every year
  - Provides layer of fertile soil

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The pharaoh

- Unifying presence
- Manifestation of the gods
- All-powerful

22



The pharaoh's death

- Elaborate tombs
  - Pyramids in the earlier dynasties (Old Kingdom)
  - Valley of the Kings in New Kingdom
- Records of accomplishments
- Mummification
- Seen as a cycle mimicking Horis and Osiris

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Ma'at

- Harmony, balance, justice
- Gods are benevolent; pharaohs must be benevolent and provide ma'at

24



The gods

- Benevolent and naturing
- Many depicted as part animal
- Cycle of Horus and Osiris

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Hieroglyphs

- Used to record official records and sacred texts
- Part of the preservation of the pharaoh's life after death
- Less formal versions used for other writings

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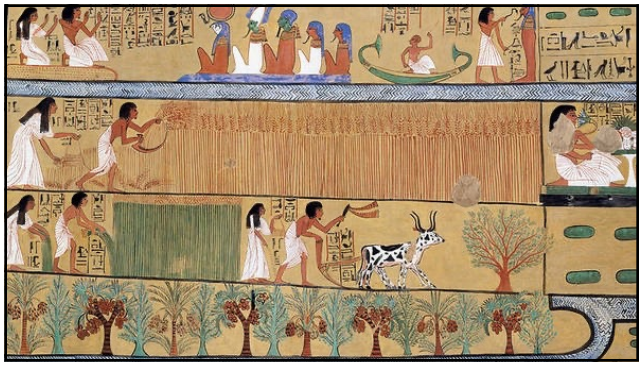

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Secondary Source Reading

Barbara S. Lesko

"Women's Monumental Mark on Ancient Egypt"

- Accustomed to seeing monuments in terms of ruling family
- In Egypt, there are many appearances of ordinary women and men
  - Monuments featuring pharaohs will show ordinary people as smaller in the conduct of their daily lives (tribute, needs of state)
  - Male and female forms being idealized
- Preservation of the material form being elemental to the continuation of the spirit in eternity
  - Even if you don't have a mummy (only the elite), can still have an image as a physical manifestation
  - Connects departed spirit to this life and ensure its contentment



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Secondary Source Reading

Annette Depla

"Women in Ancient Egyptian Wisdom Literature"

- Unlike other ancient societies, choice of husband is in hands of the mother, in collaboration with daughter
- Discussion of adultery – men and women have an equal responsibility to marriage and an equal temptation
- Gender stigma associated with adultery not present in ancient Egypt as far as we can tell
- Some aspects of Egyptian life in which men have priority, and other aspects in which men and women have some parity
  - Different across time and across class
  - Any culture's understanding of gender is conditioned by their philosophy and their understanding of how the world works



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New Kingdom Egypt

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Egypt during the New Kingdom

- No longer isolated
- Must become a bronze power to compete
- Pharaoh is no longer all-powerful

32

Secondary Source Reading

Catharine H. Roehrig

Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh



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Hatshepsut

- Pharaohs had always been male
- Hatshepsut had a better claim to the throne
- Long, successful reign

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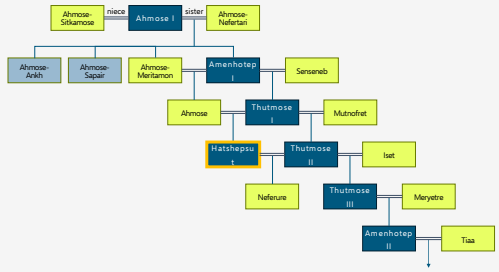
The Eighteenth Dynasty



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Primary Source Reading

Unknown

Birth of Hatshepsut



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Hatshepsut's success

- What stands in the way of a woman being pharaoh?
- How is Hatshepsut a better choice than Thutmose III?
- What actions does Hatsheptut take to help ensure she is seen as a successful pharaoh?

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Secondary Source Reading

Gay Robins

"The God's Wife of Amun in the 18th Dynasty in Egypt"

- Article is historiographic—the way historians have talked about this subject
- Most Egyptian priests are men, but there are exceptions to this, including God's wife of Amun
- Always knew this person existed, but there's been debate over what it means that this person exists
  - Previously: indicative of the power of the pharaoh passing on via women
  - Representative of pharaoh deriving power through women
- What we can say about the role of aristocratic women in the religious life of women
  - Institutional
  - Private



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Damnatio memoriae

- Thutmose III's removal of Hatshepsut's inscriptions and statues
- Different theories for his actions

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Akhenaten

- Took the throne as Amenhotep IV
- Changed his throne name to Akhenaten
- Religious reforms in favor of one dominant god, Aten

40



Nefertiti

- Queen alongside Akhenaten
- Worked side by side with Akhenaten to build the new religion
  - Kept going after his passing until her own death
- Active role of women in New Kingdom Egypt

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Nubia

- Exploited by Egypt for resources
- Heavily influenced culturally
- Maintained a distinctive identity in defiance of Egypt

42

Iron Age Egypt

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Iron Age Egypt

- Bronze Age glory and power
- Divided or subjugated during the Iron Age
  - Neo-Assyrian Empire
  - Persian Empire
  - Alexander the Great

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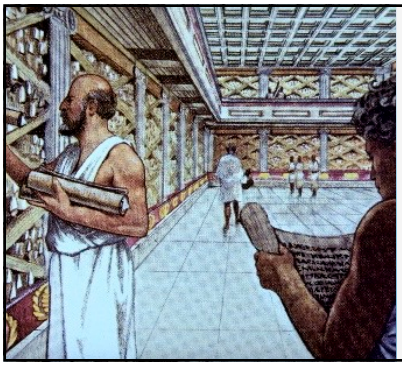

Ptolemaic Egypt

- Alexander conquers Egypt and found Alexandria
- Alexandria becomes a world cultural center
- After Alexander's death, his general Ptolemy makes himself pharaoh
  - Ptolemies ule for 300 years
  - Ptolemies honor both Egyptian and Greek cultural heritage

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Primary Source Reading

Unknown

Epitaph of Kheredankh, Daughter of Shepmin



46



Cleopatra VII

- Installed on the throne as a teenager
- Forced to marry / outmaneuver brothers
  - Ptolemy XIII Theos Philopator
  - Ptolemy XIV

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Cleopatra's image

- Now seen mostly through Roman eyes
- Complex image
  - Beauty
  - Cunning
  - Wisdom
  - Strength
  - Love of country

48



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