



# Bachelor of Arts in Egyptology Course Handbook

**Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies**

Academic Year 2026-27

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The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at <https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/>.

If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns please contact the Senior Academic Administrator, [Edmund Howard](#).

The information in this handbook is accurate as at Michaelmas Term 2026; however, it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at [www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges](http://www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges). If such changes are made the Faculty will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

## This Handbook

The handbook sets out the basic framework for the BA in Egyptology. You should consult the current edition of the [Examination Regulations](#) for information regarding your course. The information in this handbook should be read in conjunction with:

- the Faculty's general Undergraduate Handbook;
- the Examination Conventions and Rubrics;
- the [Examination Regulations](#);
- the [University Student Handbook](#)
- your college handbook.

**If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination regulations, then you should follow the Examination regulations.**

Comments and criticism of the handbook are always welcome; they should be sent to the [Director of Undergraduate Studies](#) or the Senior Academic Administrator, [Edmund Howard](#).

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## Introduction

This handbook includes information relating to the BA in Egyptology.

The information contained in this document also covers the Egyptology provision for students taking the BA in Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies whose main subject is Egyptology.

Information relating to Egyptian as a subsidiary language, or to other subsidiary languages such as Coptic and demotic, can be found in the AMES UG Subsidiary Languages Handbook for this year.

## About the Course

The Egyptology undergraduate course focuses on the study of various phases of the ancient Egyptian language; emphasis is also placed on knowledge of literature, cultural and political history, material culture, and archaeology of the area. This is supplemented by study of a subsidiary language together with its associated literature, culture, and history, or by study of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The skills involved are comparable to those needed for other similar humanities courses focused on language, but their application is rather broader. No prior knowledge of any ancient language is expected.

At all stages, the course emphasises detailed familiarity with the primary sources: you study textual sources in the original languages and scripts and non-textual sources in other media. Opportunities are available to work with ancient artefacts in the Ashmolean Museum's collections, as well as to practise reading from original inscribed objects such as Egyptian stelae and papyri.

In addition to the first-language classes and essay writing, there are lecture courses on principal aspects of Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian cultures and history in the first year and an increased focus on Egyptian topics and artefacts in the second and third years. You should become familiar with a wide range of ancient cultural institutions. Your work on texts should be seen in the broader context of understanding these cultures.

## Programme Aims

This course is designed to be both wide-ranging and flexible. It aims to:

- instruct you on principal aspects of the field of Egyptology;
- introduce you to the histories and material cultures of the Ancient Near East and Egypt;
- give you an understanding of the Ancient Egyptian language in several phases
- provide you with skills to engage appropriately with primary written sources as a point of departure for studying these ancient cultures, appreciating the texts as archaeological artefacts;
- enable you to deepen your knowledge of particular areas of Egyptology through a chosen Special Option;

- supplement your knowledge through the study either of a subsidiary language or of Archaeology and Anthropology as a subsidiary subject.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this programme, you should:

- Acquire an advanced knowledge of the script, grammar, vocabulary, and syntax of Ancient Egyptian in several different phases, from Old Egyptian onwards, in the appropriate cultural contexts;
- Acquire a comparable, if less extensive, knowledge either of a subsidiary language or of Archaeology and Anthropology as a subsidiary subject;
- Acquire advanced knowledge of the field of Egyptology and aspects of the history and material culture of ancient Egypt;
- Acquire a less extensive knowledge of aspects of the history and material culture of the ancient Near East during your first year;
- Be familiar with the use of a range of historiographical, literary-critical, and other methods for understanding primary textual sources in Egyptian (and, if applicable, your subsidiary language);
- Have a good knowledge of the relevant secondary literature, including the various aids to study (reference works, bibliographies, dictionaries, sign lists, etc.), and how to make best use of them.

### Range of Subsidiary Languages and Subjects

For Egyptology students, the following languages may be available as subsidiaries:

- Akkadian
- Arabic
- Aramaic and Syriac
- Coptic
- Demotic
- Early Iranian
- Hebrew (Biblical and Rabbinic)

Classics as a subsidiary language is offered in the joint School of Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, so permission for a formal change of course will be required for any student not already enrolled in the joint school if they wish to take a subsidiary Classical Language.

**Archaeology and Anthropology** is often available as a subsidiary subject instead of a subsidiary language. Archaeology and Anthropology bring cognate disciplines into the course; this course is not focused specifically on ancient Egypt, although it is possible to take Special Options or develop dissertations that bridge the different fields.

**Not all subsidiary languages and subjects are available in all years. Acceptance for the subsidiary language or subject is necessary in all cases.**

## Note on Reading Lists

The reading lists reflect the current state of research and the usual language accessibility of our students. We have tried to be inclusive and to provide a diverse range of views and authors. The field of Egyptology has developed in a colonialist context, and as a result many relevant studies were produced in European and American institutions; similarly, due to the historical gender imbalance in academia, men have often predominated. The course addresses issues of colonialism, gender and sexuality, and some members of staff pursue research in these areas. We welcome suggestions for making the course more diverse and inclusive. In general, you are encouraged to tell us if you see any ways in which the courses or this handbook might be improved.

## Course Outline

### Year 1 (First Public Examination)

The aim of the first year is to lay a foundation in knowledge of the language and culture that will provide a solid basis for the more diversified and detailed work of the second and third years; at the same time, you should gain a general knowledge of the history of both the Ancient Near East and Egypt.

### Examination

You sit the First Public Examination (FPE, also called the Preliminary Examination or Prelims) at the end of your first year. You take four written examination papers of three hours each:

1. Egyptian texts (Middle Egyptian)
2. Egyptian grammar and unprepared translation (Middle Egyptian)
3. Civilizations of the Ancient Near East and Egypt
4. History of the Near East and Egypt to 30 BCE

### Overview of teaching and learning

You spend at least half your study time on language and text work. You participate in intensive classes in Middle Egyptian grammar, followed by text-reading classes for the rest of the year.

Complementing the language classes is a lecture course in the cultures and history of the ancient Near East (focusing on Mesopotamia) and Egypt, accompanied by tutorials for which you write essays.

There are also formative written tests called collections throughout the course. These help you monitor your progress, but they do not contribute to your formal exam marks or your transcript.

### Subsidiary language or subject choice and looking ahead

By Trinity Term, you must discuss with your teachers which subsidiary language you wish to take, or whether you wish to take Archaeology and Anthropology as a subsidiary subject instead of a subsidiary language.

For Hebrew, there may be a few hours of introductory instruction at the end of Trinity Term. These are intended to allow a start to be made on the language during the Long (Summer) Vacation. Those intending to do Arabic or Ancient Greek should consult their teachers about possible summer schools in these languages.

You also need to find out about your second-year Egyptology course.

### Years 2 and 3 (Final Honour School)

In your second and third years you continue studying different phases of Ancient Egyptian (see below), and you select a Special Option (for a list of choices see below). In addition, you study a subsidiary language (for a list of choices see above) or, if available, the subsidiary subject Archaeology and Anthropology. You also write a dissertation of no more than 15,000 words.

### Examination

You sit your Final Honour School (FHS) examinations in the final term of your third year. You will take ten papers, as follows:

1. Egyptian translation paper (Middle and Late Egyptian unseen texts, and Old Egyptian set texts)
2. Egyptian prepared texts (Middle and Late Egyptian texts, and hieratic)
3. Egyptian Text Edition Essay (Middle and Late Egyptian texts)
4. A Special Option OR Egyptian Art and Architecture
5. Selected Egyptian artefacts together with essay questions on material culture
6. General paper on Egyptology
7. Dissertation
8. Subsidiary Paper I
9. Subsidiary Paper II
10. Subsidiary Paper III

For more details on these papers, please see the descriptions below.

### Year 2: Overview of teaching and learning

The second year is intensive in numbers of classes and lectures – an average is usually about 10–15 hours per week.

You continue work on Middle Egyptian, as well as learn an additional stage of Ancient Egyptian, starting either Old or Late Egyptian in Michaelmas Term. These stages of Ancient Egyptian alternate by year, and second- and third-year students are taught together.

These language classes involve some grammatical instruction, although most of the learning is through reading texts.

Hieratic, the cursive form of the hieroglyphic script, is also taught for two terms across Years 2 and 3 (two hours a week), covering first Middle Kingdom and then New Kingdom hieratic.

In Trinity Term, a weekly handling class on Egyptian materials and artefacts is held in the Ashmolean Museum.

You also study your chosen subsidiary language or Archaeology and Anthropology as subsidiary subject.

If you choose subsidiary Archaeology and Anthropology instead of a subsidiary language, you will do much more essay writing.

General reading should be kept up, so that an overall view of the subject is maintained, and you keep abreast with developments. The reading lists given out in Year 1 are quite full and are intended to be useful throughout the course; they will be replaced as necessary by new versions. You may also wish to approach staff for advice on supplementing what is given there, or for materials in areas not covered by the lists.

You may wish to attend lectures in related subjects in which you have an interest, e.g. archaeology, art history, and linguistics, but these may sometimes clash with other classes. You need to be realistic about the number of commitments you take on. You are expected to attend the Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies research seminars arranged during term time, at which local and visiting speakers present papers for discussion. These are usually followed by tea in the Common Room.

### Special Option and Dissertation Choice

Before the Long Vacation at the end of your second year, you need to decide on an area for your Special Option and an area for your dissertation topic, both in consultation with your tutors. The list of possible Special Options is available in the Special Option section below.

### Year 3: Overview of teaching and learning

In Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, the number of teaching hours remains roughly as in Year 2. In Trinity Term, most of the work in class is unprepared or consists of revision sessions. Because you have your Special Option, which can be essay and/or text focused, and your dissertation work, the number of essays on other topics is reduced in comparison with earlier years, but the overall proportion of writing rises.

You prepare set texts for your Egyptian language examinations, as well as your Text Edition Essay (see below).

You continue work on Middle Egyptian and begin the other additional state of Ancient Egyptian (i.e., Old Egyptian or Late Egyptian, whichever was not taken in Year 2).

Egyptian artefact classes in the Ashmolean Museum continue.

Much of the third year is devoted to work on your Special Option and dissertation. The pattern of work depends upon the topic chosen, how many students are doing the same subjects, and how particular topics are best taught. Subjects can be approached through essay writing and/or seminars, through text classes, or through a mixture of both.

Broadly, if the Special Option is in Egyptian, it should fill up to half of the time spent on the Egyptian part of the course for Michaelmas and Hilary Terms. About a quarter of the main subject time should be spent on the dissertation.

## Fieldwork and Internships

For fieldwork, students should note the following:

The course does **not** include a curricular period abroad, but some students undertake appropriate travel during their degree in line with advice from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Visiting the Middle East depends on current circumstances but there are usually areas where appropriate travel is possible. If studying Egyptology, you are usually encouraged to visit Egypt. If possible you should take part in some archaeological work elsewhere as this is not possible to arrange in Egypt for undergraduates due to long security procedures. Many Egyptology students in past years have visited Egypt as tourists during their undergraduate careers. From 2008 to 2017, a number of undergraduate and graduate students in Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies participated in excavation of the Bronze and Iron Age city of Zincirli in south-east Turkey (run by Tübingen University and the University of Chicago). In 2018, our students joined an archaeological survey project in Konya, Turkey, in 2024 the Pella Urban Dynamics Project in Greece. Ask your teachers for advice if you plan any subject-related travel during your degree or if you wish to participate in excavation projects. Colleges often provide financial assistance for appropriate travel.

A small number of undergraduate and graduate students can usually take up summer internships at museums and other organisations with Egyptian and Near Eastern collections, such as the British Museum and the Ashmolean Museum. You are welcome to discuss potential applications with your tutors, who can advise you on appropriate institutions.

## Papers for FPE (Prelims)

There are four 3-hour written papers for FPE (Prelims) in Trinity Term of the first year. All papers are compulsory. The exam regulations for Prelims can be found [here](#).

## Egyptian texts

and

## Egyptian grammar and unprepared translation

**Terms taught:** Michaelmas, Hilary, and Trinity

**Taught by:** Dr Robert Simpson and Dr Anne-Claire Salmas

Both these papers are supported by Egyptian language classes.

There are three hours of language classes every week. The grammar is generally completed, or nearly completed, during Michaelmas Term followed by text readings in Hilary and Trinity Terms.

Advice on books and study aids for use during the course is given at the start of Michaelmas Term and we recommend that students wait until then, rather than making any major purchases in advance (advice on preparatory work that can usefully be undertaken before the beginning of the course is circulated by email to prospective students over the preceding vacation).

For each hour of the elementary language class, you must read a portion of the grammar and prepare exercises that will be either corrected in class or taken away for feedback and returned at the next session. During Hilary and Trinity Terms, the chief focus of the language classes is on reading Middle Egyptian texts, including the *Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor* and biographical inscriptions displayed in the tombs of Egyptian officials. The prescribed texts listed in the set texts list are normally completed in the second half of Trinity Term and are followed by practice in unseen translation from Egyptian and some further grammatical work, leaving about a week for revision, during which classes are only held at the request of students.

The text-reading classes, like those later in the course, involve reading the ancient texts beforehand, learning the relevant vocabulary, and preparing to read and translate passages from them in the classroom with the tutor's support. For many of the texts published translations are available, but these are frequently debatable or inaccurate and can only be an aid to the study of the original. During the classes, the translation of the texts into English, their genre and material form, their meaning and cultural import are reviewed and discussed. This reading of texts in class and discussion of their cultural significance and of the kinds of evidence they supply is at the core of the course and it is essential that you apply yourself to preparing the material beforehand, thinking about it both before and after the classes, and participating actively in class.

Egyptian classes are usually also attended by some MPhil students as well as undergraduates beginning Egyptian as their subsidiary language.

### **Examination**

Two 3-hour written papers in Trinity Term of the first year.

### **Civilizations of the Ancient Near East and Egypt and**

### **History of the Near East and Egypt to 30 BCE**

**Terms taught:** Michaelmas, Hilary, and Trinity

**Taught by:** Various members of the teaching staff

These papers are supported by a lecture course focusing on Mesopotamian and Egyptian cultures and history, attended by all first-year undergraduates in Assyriology and Egyptology.

Four essays on topics related to the culture and history course are written in each of Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, and two in Trinity Term. These essays will alternate in topic between the Ancient Near East (focusing on Mesopotamia) and Egypt.

Throughout the first year, you should be reading general works on ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian cultures and history. Reading lists for these are distributed during the year; you should read something in all the main categories by the end of the year.

Lectures usually end in Week 6 of Trinity Term, leaving about two weeks for revision.

Lectures are usually also attended by first-year Assyriology undergraduates, some MPhil students, and students from other subjects.

### Examination

Two 3-hour written papers in Trinity Term of the first year.

## Papers for FHS

### Ancient Egyptian Language and Text Papers

Ancient Egyptian language teaching primarily supports the **Egyptian translation** paper, **Egyptian prepared texts** papers and the **Egyptian Text Edition Essay** (take-home paper).

**Years taught:** Year 2 and Year 3

**Terms taught:** Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity

**Taught by:** Dr Robert Simpson, Prof. Elizabeth Frood, Dr Anne-Claire Salmas

In your second and third years, you build upon your work on Middle Egyptian, and learn Old and Late Egyptian, working with texts from all three stages. For all these phases of the language, the range of genres of material read is very wide. Class work involves discussion of such topics as interpersonal communication in letters, biography, law, religion, historiography, and literature. The texts are grouped both by theme and progressively in terms of difficulty. The selection of texts may be varied in order to relate the material to choices of subsidiary languages and to take advantage of new editions. Some ancient texts have assumed a central position in Egyptology and will almost always be included (in whole or in part). Examples of these are the *Tale of Sinuhe* and *The Tale of Wenamun*, as well as parts of the Pyramid Texts, the Coffin Texts, and the Book of the Dead. Among historical texts, the Annals of Thutmose III have a similar status, as do some autobiographies like the Old Kingdom text of Harkhuf.

### Set texts

You prepare set texts for your Ancient Egyptian language examinations, in Old, Middle and Late Egyptian. At the end of Hilary term of Year 3, the division of Egyptian set texts for FHS examination is announced and distributed in the form of a copy of the list of prescribed texts. This list makes clear which texts should be prepared for the FHS Text Edition Essay (take-home) paper and which texts should be prepared for other FHS (invigilated) papers.

Middle Egyptian texts form the largest category that is read.

Other set texts studied in Egyptian language classes may also support your chosen Special Option. Any set texts for the Special Option are registered later.

### Middle Egyptian

Middle Egyptian text classes continue, typically for 2 hours per week, with the prescribed syllabus normally being completed at the end of Michaelmas Term of Year 3.

The class also moves on to reading unprepared texts in Old and Late Egyptian, both in preparation for the unseen translation paper in the final examination and in order to broaden your experience of Egyptian texts as a whole. Unprepared texts continue to be read until about the middle of Trinity Term.

#### Additional Stages: Old and Late Egyptian

An additional stage of Egyptian, that is Old or Late Egyptian in addition to Middle Egyptian, is begun in Michaelmas Term of both the second and the third years. These classes are taken by second- and third-year students together in a single group. Because these stages of the language are not fundamentally different from Middle Egyptian, grammatical instruction is confined to a few hours and much of the learning of the language is through reading texts.

Texts in the first additional stage of the language are read over Michaelmas and Hilary Terms in Year 2. There are 2 hours of classes in Old or Late Egyptian per week, and in the case of Late Egyptian, 3 or 4 hours of preliminary instruction may be available at the end of Trinity Term of the previous year.

You begin the other additional stage of the first language (that is Old or Late Egyptian, whichever was not taken in year 2), in Michaelmas Term of Year 3, and texts in this second additional stage of the language are read over Michaelmas and Hilary Terms in Year 3.

#### Hieratic

Students learn to read the hieratic originals of texts they have already read in transcribed hieroglyphic versions, such as the Middle Egyptian *Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor* for Middle Kingdom hieratic and the Late Egyptian will of Naunakhte, a papyrus detailing a woman's disinheritance of her poorly behaved children (this is read from the original papyrus in the Ashmolean Museum).

#### Preparation for examination

During Hilary and/or Trinity Terms, written practice may be given in timed answers relating to set texts to help develop the relevant skills, in addition to term-based collections. This work is relevant both to the Text Edition Essay paper and to other final examination (FHS) papers.

About a third of the set texts are examined in the Text Edition Essay (take-home) set in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of Trinity Term of Year 3.

There is little Egyptian class work during Trinity Term of Year 3 so that you can concentrate on preparing for the examination. Trinity Term is mostly left free for independent revision, although revision sessions can be held at the request of students with the agreement of tutors. Classes are mostly confined to unprepared translation and to revision sessions, in which either prepared texts or general topics are reviewed.

Apart from the Text Edition Essay, the final examination is usually in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Weeks, possibly extending into 9<sup>th</sup> Week.

#### Examination

Egyptian translation: one 3-hour written paper in Trinity Term of the final year.

Egyptian prepared texts: one 3-hour written paper in Trinity Term of the final year.

Egyptian Text Edition Essay: one text edition essay of 3000 to 3500 words set in the 1<sup>st</sup> Week and submitted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Trinity Term of the final year.

### The Special Option

**Year taught:** Year 3

**Terms taught:** Michaelmas and Hilary

**Taught by:** Various, depending on chosen option

For the Special Option, students may choose from the options given in the list below, but it may also be possible to select an option tailored for a group of two or three students, or sometimes individually; either way, the choice of option is dependent on availability of relevant tuition at the time. Your Special Option topic must be different from your dissertation topic. Your Special Option can be offered in either your main subject, or your subsidiary language or subject, or bridge your main and subsidiary studies.

The format and hours of teaching depend on the Special Option chosen.

**Past Special Options include:**

- Demotic
- Egyptian art and architecture
- Deir el-Medina: sources and analysis
- New Kingdom private documents
- Gender and sexuality
- Hieroglyphic texts of the Graeco-Roman period
- Middle Kingdom literature
- Magic and religious practices
- Ancient Egyptian Letters
- Inscriptions and history of the Late New Kingdom and/or Third Intermediate Period
- Texts of healing

Depending on teaching capacity, up to 3 different Special Options can be available in any year.

### Selected Egyptian artefacts together with essay questions on material culture

**Year taught:** Year 2 and Year 3

**Terms taught:** Trinity of Year 2; Michaelmas and Trinity of Year 3

**Taught by:** Prof. Liam McNamara and various tutors

In Michaelmas Term and the first half of Trinity Term, individual artefacts from all periods are studied in a chronological sequence. The classes last two hours per week. Towards the end of these classes, practice is given in preparing formal written descriptions of artefacts.

This covers a full range of object types and materials, and discusses how artefacts should be approached, relating them to archaeological contexts where possible, and studying what can be learned about them as individual pieces as well as what they tell us more broadly about Egyptian culture. These classes are often also attended by MPhil and DPhil students.

These classes may continue into Trinity Term of Year 3, for about half the term.

### General Paper on Egyptology

There is no specific coursework just for the final general paper, which includes questions on the cultures and history of ancient Egypt. Preparation for this paper includes essays, seminar work, and independent reading, which is essential for the final examination. You are free to discuss this work with your teachers and, with your teachers' agreement, you may wish to write practice examination answers for comment by your teachers.

### Dissertation

You write a dissertation of no more than 15,000 words, to be submitted in Hilary Term of your final year.

Your dissertation topic must be different from your Special Option topic. Your dissertation can be offered in either your main subject, or your subsidiary language or subject, or bridge your main and subsidiary studies.

You may focus on textual sources, or aspects of material culture, or both; some students choose to work on the collections of the Ashmolean or Pitt Rivers Museums for their dissertations.

You should approach potential supervisors no later than Trinity Term of Year 2. As a first step, you should discuss potential dissertation topics with your regular tutors who will be able to advise you on this. Initial discussions with your supervisor are a key element in preparing you to start independent work in the Long Vacation at the end of Year 2. In Michaelmas and Hilary Terms of Year 3, students usually have about 3 tutorials per term.

For the dissertation, bibliographies are discussed with the supervisor, initially in Trinity Term of Year 2, and an outline is agreed, usually early in Michaelmas Term of Year 3. If the dissertation is to involve museum work, this needs discussing with the museum staff as early as possible and by Trinity Term of Year 2 at the latest. The supervisor can give feedback on at least some chapters of dissertations as they are produced; some students, however, prefer to work more on their own.

### Subsidiary Languages and Subjects

**Students should note that not all subsidiary languages/subjects may be available in a given year.**

You must choose either a subsidiary language or subsidiary Archaeology and Anthropology. You take three core papers in your chosen subsidiary.

If you would like to take Classics as a subsidiary language, you will need first to transfer to the Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies course, subject to approval.

### Subsidiary Languages:

- Akkadian
- Arabic
- Aramaic and Syriac
- Coptic
- Demotic
- Early Iranian
- Hebrew (Biblical and Rabbinic)

More information about each of these subsidiary languages is available in the AMES UG Subsidiary Languages Handbook.

### Archaeology and Anthropology as a Subsidiary Subject

You can take subsidiary Archaeology and Anthropology as an alternative to a subsidiary language if available.

Those who choose Archaeology and Anthropology as their subsidiary subject will be given access to handbooks from the School of Archaeology. The subsidiary Archaeology and Anthropology option is much more strongly focused on essay writing than the Egyptology main subject or the alternative subsidiary languages. You will attend lectures and tutorials in three relevant papers during the second and third years.

You must make contact with the EANES Archaeology and Anthropology Subject Co-ordinators (Dr Nancy Highcock: [nancy.highcock@ashmus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nancy.highcock@ashmus.ox.ac.uk); Dr Christoph Bachhuber: [christoph.bachhuber@ames.ox.ac.uk](mailto:christoph.bachhuber@ames.ox.ac.uk)) before the beginning of each term to arrange tutorials.

The papers are:

1. The Nature of Archaeological and Anthropological Enquiry  
and
2. One from the following Archaeology papers:  
'Urbanism and Society' **or**  
'The late Bronze Age and early Iron Age Aegean'  
and
3. One from the following Anthropology papers:  
'Social Analysis and Interpretation' **or**  
'Cultural Representations, Beliefs, and Practices'.

For more information, see the handbooks from the Schools of Archaeology.

### Egyptian as a Subsidiary Language

Students taking BA Egyptology, BA Hebrew and BA Classics with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies may take Egyptian as a subsidiary language subject to acceptance.

Please refer to the AMES UG Subsidiary Languages Handbook for more information.

## Recommended Patterns of Teaching (RPT)

Below is an indication of the type and number of teaching hours for Egyptology as a main subject. This does not include the teaching for the chosen subsidiary language or subject in Years 2 and 3 of the course.

### FPE – Year 1

| Subjects and Papers for Examination                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Term | Faculty  |         |           |         | Comments                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      | Lectures | Classes | Tutorials | Classes |                                                                    |
| <b>[1.] Elementary Middle Egyptian language and texts</b><br><br>Feeds into the exam papers [1.] 'Ancient Egyptian texts', and [2.] 'Ancient Egyptian grammar and unprepared texts'                                                  | MT   |          | 24      |           |         | <i>Figures in this table are in hours unless otherwise stated.</i> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | HT   |          | 24      |           |         |                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | TT   |          | 21      |           |         |                                                                    |
| <b>Egyptian Culture and History</b><br>Feeds into the exam papers:<br>[3.] Civilizations of the Ancient Near East and Egypt, and<br>[4.] History of the Near East and Egypt to 30 BCE                                                | MT   | 16       |         | 2         |         |                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | HT   | 16       |         | 2         |         |                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | TT   | 12       |         | 1         |         |                                                                    |
| <b>Cultures and History of the Ancient Near East (focusing on Mesopotamia)</b><br><br>Feeds into the exam papers:<br>[3.] Civilizations of the Ancient Near East and Egypt, and<br>[4.] History of the Near East and Egypt to 30 BCE | MT   | 16       |         | 2         |         |                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | HT   | 16       |         | 2         |         |                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | TT   | 12       |         | 1         |         |                                                                    |

## FHS – Years 2 and 3

The below is an indication of hours of teaching over Years 2 and 3. This does not include the teaching for the chosen subsidiary language or subject. The precise number of hours will vary according to the options chosen, the individual circumstances of students, and the judgement of tutors.

[illegible]

| Subjects and Papers for Examination                                                                                                                                                                  | Term | Year 2   |         |           |         | Year 3   |         |           |         | Comments                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      | Faculty  |         | College   |         | Faculty  |         | College   |         |                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      | Lectures | Classes | Tutorials | Classes | Lectures | Classes | Tutorials | Classes |                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      | TT   |          |         |           |         |          |         |           |         | Figures in this table are in hours unless otherwise stated. |
| <b>[5.] Selected Egyptian Artefacts together with essay questions on material culture</b><br>Examined as FHS Paper 5 ‘Selected Egyptian artefacts together with essay questions on material culture’ | MT   |          |         |           |         |          | 16      |           |         |                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      | HT   |          |         |           |         |          |         |           |         |                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      | TT   |          | 16      |           |         |          | 16      |           |         |                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |          |         |           |         |          |         |           |         |                                                             |
| <b>[6.a] Unseens in Middle and Late Egyptian</b><br>Examined in FHS Paper 1 ‘Ancient Egyptian translation paper’                                                                                     | MT   |          |         |           |         |          |         |           |         |                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      | HT   |          |         |           |         |          | 16      |           |         |                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      | TT   |          |         |           |         |          | 4       |           |         |                                                             |
| <b>[6.b.] Revision for FHS Paper 6 ‘General Paper on Egyptology’</b>                                                                                                                                 |      |          |         |           |         |          |         |           |         |                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |          |         |           |         |          |         |           |         |                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |          |         |           |         |          |         |           |         |                                                             |
| <b>[7.] Dissertation</b><br>FHS Paper 7 ‘Dissertation’                                                                                                                                               | MT   |          |         |           |         |          |         | 4         |         |                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      | HT   |          |         |           |         |          |         | 4         |         |                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      | TT   |          |         |           |         |          |         |           |         |                                                             |

Note: Tutorials are organised by the Faculty.

Students also take 3 papers in their subsidiary language or subject. For subsidiary languages taken within AMES, please see the RPT tables in the AMES UG Subsidiary Languages handbook. For Archaeology and Anthropology as a subsidiary subject, please refer to the handbook distributed by the School of Archaeology.

## Teaching Staff

- Dr [Moudhy Al-Rashid](#), Honorary Fellow, Assyriology (Wolfson College)
- Dr [Christoph Bachhuber](#), Associate Faculty Member, College Lecturer in Archaeology, Middle East and Mediterranean (St John's College)
- Professor [John Baines](#), Emeritus Professor of Egyptology (Queen's College)
- Dr [Francisco Bosch-Puche](#), OEB Coordinating Editor, TopBib Editor & Archive Curator, Griffith Institute
- Professor [Jacob Dahl](#), Professor of Assyriology (Wolfson College)
- Dr [Stephanie Dalley](#), Emerita Fellow in Assyriology, Senior Research Fellow (Somerville College)
- Dr Parsa Daneshmand, Junior Research Fellow in Assyriology (Wolfson College)
- Mr [Vivian Davies](#), Faculty Member, Director of the Oxford Epigraphic Expedition to Elkab, Griffith Institute
- Dr [Lauren Dogaer](#), Lady Wallis Budge Junior Research Fellow in Egyptology (University College)
- Professor [Elizabeth Froom](#), Associate Professor of Egyptology (St Cross College and Queen's College)
- Dr [George Heath-Whyte](#), Junior Research Fellow in Assyriology (Christ Church)
- Dr [Nancy Highcock](#), Assistant Keeper, Jaleh Hearn Curator for the Ancient Middle East, Ashmolean Museum
- Dr [Linda Hulin](#), Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology (Harris Manchester and Magdalen Colleges)
- Dr Marie-Chistine Ludwig, Lecturer in Assyriology
- Professor [Liam McNamara](#), Associate Professor and Keeper of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum
- Professor [Christopher Metcalf](#), Professor of Ancient Literature and Religion (Queen's College)
- Professor [Richard Bruce Parkinson](#), Professor of Egyptology (Queen's College) [on sabbatical leave 2026-27]
- Professor [Frances Reynolds](#), Shillito Fellow and Associate Professor of Assyriology (Queen's College) [on sabbatical leave Trinity Term 2027]
- Dr [Daniela Rosenow](#), Manager of the Griffith Institute
- Dr Anne-Claire Salmas, Departmental Lecturer in Egyptology (Queen's College)
- Dr [Marina Sartori](#), AMES Teaching Fellow in Egyptology
- Professor [Maren Schentuleit](#), Associate Professor of Egyptology and Coptic Studies; Lady Wallis Budge Fellow (University College)
- Dr [Robert Simpson](#), Lecturer in Egyptian and Griffith Egyptological Fund Research Fellow
- Professor [Mark Smith](#), Emeritus Professor of Egyptology and Coptic (University College)
- Dr [Elizabeth Tucker](#), Emerita Fellow in Indo-Iranian Philology, Supernumerary Fellow (Wolfson College)
- Professor [Yuhan Sohrab-Dinshaw Vevaina](#), Bahari Associate Professor of Sasanian Studies (Wolfson College)

## Examinations and Assessment

Please refer to the [Examination Regulations for Prelims and FHS](#).

In Trinity Term of Year 1, students will sit 4 written examinations. Students must pass all papers to proceed into Year 2 of the course.

Please refer to the conventions for Prelims examinations for the papers to be taken, available on the [Student Hub](#).

In Trinity Term of Year 3, students will take a total of 9 examinations. Students will submit their dissertations in Hilary term of Year 3.

Please refer to the conventions for FHS examinations for the papers to be taken, available on the [Student Hub](#).

## Examination Regulations

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at <https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk>. If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations, then you should follow the Examination Regulations.

## Deadlines

| Date                                                   | Year of Course | Event                                                                                      | How                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Week<br>Trinity Term            | 1              | Provisional start date of the First Public Examinations.                                   |                                                                         |
| Monday 0 <sup>th</sup> Week<br>Michaelmas Term         | 3              | Deadline for applications for approval by the Subject Group of FHS Special Option choices. |                                                                         |
| 12 noon<br>Monday 0 <sup>th</sup> Week<br>Hilary Term  | 3              | Deadline for submission of dissertation titles for Faculty Board approval.                 | Online Thesis Title Approval Form available through the Academic Office |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> Week<br>Michaelmas Term       | 3              | Deadline for exam entry.                                                                   | Via Student Self Service                                                |
| 12 noon<br>Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Week<br>Hilary Term | 3              | Deadline for submission of dissertation.                                                   | Via Inspira                                                             |

|                                                        |   |                                                                                                |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 10am<br>Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> Week<br>Trinity Term    | 3 | The paper for Text Edition Essay (take-home paper) in Egyptian released by the Faculty Office. |             |
| 12 noon<br>Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week<br>Trinity Term | 3 | Deadline for submission of Text Edition Essay (take-home paper) in Egyptian.                   | Via Inspira |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Week<br>Trinity Term            | 3 | Provisional start date of FHS examinations.                                                    |             |

## Student Information and Support

### Student Hub

The [Student Hub](#) is an ongoing project to provide a live online version of the handbook, together with more detailed course information and further resources such as forms and exam conventions, as well as archived documents from previous years. You can also access the Student Hub through the top bar of the Faculty Website, through the '**NEW Faculty Intranet**' button. You will need to log in using your SSO.

### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

In accordance with our [Statement of Values](#), the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies is committed to creating a teaching, learning, and research environment in which every member of our community – at every academic level from undergraduate to senior academic, and among library and administrative staff – can achieve their full professional potential without discrimination on the basis of age, disability, gender, marriage or civil partnership, nationality, pregnancy or parenthood, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

We welcome suggestions for making our courses more diverse and inclusive. In general, you are encouraged to tell us if you see any ways in which the courses or this handbook might be improved. Staff and students are welcome to contact the Equality and Diversity team with any suggestions or concerns:

**EANES Group Equality and Diversity Representative: TBC**

**Faculty Equality and Diversity Officer: TBC**

### Welfare and Support

Our community aims to encourage and support all students. The student experience at Oxford offers lots of opportunities for you to thrive, grow, and look after your own wellbeing, but we know that sometimes there can be stresses and challenges too.

We want to give you the agency to navigate welfare support, and to make your own decisions. This includes by:

- Keeping in touch with your College and Department, and letting them know if you need help
- Seeking support when needed
- Supporting your fellow students
- Registering with Disability Advisory Service for structured support if you have a disability

Should you have any concerns, or for guidance and support, please do not hesitate to contact the following people:

**Disability Coordinators:** [Thomas Hall](#) and [Edmund Howard](#)

**Welfare Contact:** [Edmund Howard](#)

**Harassment Adviser:** [Leyla Najafzada](#)

Details of the range of sources of support available in the University are available from the **Oxford Students** website, including in relation to mental and physical health and disability.

More information about the support and resources available can be found in the general Undergraduate Handbook and on the Faculty and University websites.