Egypt in the Graeco-Roman World
CLAH 31400
Seminsters 1&2 2010-11

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Lecture: Tue 9-10 Samuel Alexander A215
Seminars: 1 (a) & 2 (b) Tue 10-11 Samuel Alexander A215 (check carefully calendar below)

COURSE CALENDAR

FIRST SEMESTER

WEEK 1 (Sept. 28): Introduction to the course
Bowman 1986, chapter 1 (not compulsory, background)
No seminar

WEEK 2 (Oct. 5): Graeco-Roman objects at the Manchester Museum
(lecture and seminars a & b: two hours at the Manchester Museum on Oxford Road, we will meet at the front door at 9 )

WEEK 3 (Oct. 12): Egypt under the Ptolemies: historical outline
Bowman 1986, chapter 2 (pp. 22-33)
Seminar a: introduction to papyrological tools

WEEK 4 (Oct. 19): Egypt under the Roman Empire: historical outline
Bowman 1986, chapter 2 (pp. 33-53)
Seminar b: introduction to papyrological tools

WEEK 5 (Oct. 26): The Rylands Papyri Collection
(lecture and seminars a & b: two hours at the John Rylands Library at Deansgate, we will meet at the entrance desk at 9.15)

WEEK 6 Reading week no class

WEEK 7 (Nov. 9): The role of the rulers: pharaohs, kings and emperors
Bowman 1986, chapter 3
Seminar a presentations

WEEK 8 (Nov. 16): Religious systems
Bowman 1986, chapter 6
Seminar b presentations

WEEK 9 (Nov. 23): Controlling the people: status and the census
Bagnall, Frier 2006, pp. 1-30; 53-74
Seminar a presentations

WEEK 10 (Nov. 30): Brother-sister marriage in Egypt: fact or fiction?
Huebner 2007 and Rowlandson & Takashi 2009
Seminar b presentations

WEEK 11 (Dec. 7): Women status and role in Egypt
Pomeroy 1984 chapter 3 (pp. 83-124); Pomeroy 1988, pp. 708-723
Seminar a presentations

WEEK 12 (Dec. 14): Constructing identities I: Greek and Roman institutions
Bowman 1986, chapter 5 (pp. 121-141)
Seminar b presentations
SECOND SEMESTER
(ASSIGNMENTS FOR SECOND SEM. SEMINARS ARE LISTED IN THE APPENDED TABLE)

WEEK 1 (Feb. 1):  
*Constructing identities II: practices in everyday life*  
Bowman 1986, chapter 5 (pp. 141-164)  
Seminar a

WEEK 2 (Feb. 8):  
*Constructing identities III: Egyptian reactions*  
Lloyd 1982  
Seminar b

WEEK 3 (Feb. 15):  
*Schools, teachers and students*  
Cribiore 2009  
Seminar a

WEEK 4 (Feb. 22):  
*Books, readers and literacy*  
Turner 1968, chapter 6 (pp. 74-96)  
Seminar b

WEEK 5 (Mar. 1):  
*First Christians of Egypt*  
Martinez 2009  
Seminar a

WEEK 6 (Mar. 8):  
*Magical papyri: a long lasting Egyptian tradition?*  
Clarysse 2009  
Seminar b

WEEK 7 (Mar. 15):  
*An ancient megalopolis: Alexandria*  
Bowman chapter 7  
Seminar a

WEEK 8 (Mar. 22):  
*Cities and villages: Oxyrhynchus*  
Bowman chapter 4 (pp. 89-113)  
Seminar b

WEEK 9 (Mar. 29):  
*Cities and villages: Tebtunis*  
Bowman chapter 4 (pp. 113-120)  
Seminar a

WEEK 10 (Apr. 5):  
*Epilogue: the Arab conquest, continuity or change?*  
Sijpesteijn 2007  
Seminar a

WEEK 11 (May 3):  
*Reading papyri, writing ancient histories: micro and macro in history*  
Lecture and seminar a & b. Final discussion on issues connected with the second semester seminar readings  
(NB the essay is due to the School Undergraduate Office by tomorrow, May 4)

WEEK 12 (May 10):  
*Revision*  
Lecture and seminar a & b. Revision for final examination

**Calendar of assigned readings for the second semester seminars**

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Bagnall 1995, introduction and chapters 1&2

Bagnall 1995, chapter 3

Bagnall 1995, chapter 4

Bagnall 1995, chapter 5

Bagnall 1995, chapters 6&7

General discussion of the book in the context of the course
Course content: Egypt is the best-documented region of the Greco-Roman world. The quality and quantity of evidence related to and coming from this area allow historians to study the society and even people lives to a scale that it is impossible to be achieved for other regions of the ancient world. The course will involve an in-depth study of a selection of themes, such as literacy and education in a multicultural society, ethnicity and power, demography and social structures, women and gender, religions and magic, etc. on the basis of the reading and analysis of translated papyri, combined with literary and archaeological evidence where appropriate. Three important University’s collections of manuscripts and artifacts coming from Egypt - the papyri of the John Rylands Library, the Egyptian collection of the Manchester Museum, and the textiles of the Withworth Art Gallery - will allow the rare opportunity of a close, direct study of the material aspect of the sources. ALL ANCIENT SOURCES WILL BE READ IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

Course aims: To be introduced to the history and culture of Egypt, from Alexander the Great to the Arab conquest, and to learn how to use papyri as primary sources for the study of this region in the wider context of the ancient Mediterranean world.

Learning outcomes: An awareness of the history and culture of Egypt under the Ptolemaic and Roman rules; an understanding of the major methodological and historiographical issues connected with the study of the subject. Knowledge of a specific type of source, papyri, which are the far richest evidence we have from the ancient world in terms of quantity (about 80,000 published texts available so far…), and quality (they are the only corpus of evidence that collects writings not exclusively produced by and relating to the highest strata of the ancient society). Intellectual skills, including the ability to construct an argument in written and oral form, to pose questions about complex issues, to locate and retrieve relevant information from primary sources, to conduct bibliographic searches, and to present the results in a professional manner with appropriate reference to sources and modern published scholarship. Transferable skills, including the ability to manage time, to work co-operatively in small groups, to engage in independent research and to combine individual cases and general theories, micro- and macro-analysis, in historical research.

Textbooks: This course has no textbook. Required and recommended weekly readings are posted on the CLAH 31400 Blackboard Site accessible via the Student Portal https://www.portal.manchester.ac.uk/ (Under ‘My Studies’) and/or left into a box in the Student resource room. Check carefully weekly instructions on Blackboard. Reading assignments must be completed before lecture and seminars according to the instructions given in the course calendar and the second semester seminars calendar above.

Lecture, seminar and independent study: The course is based on a weekly lecture and a fortnight seminar. The lecture will introduce you to key aspects and themes in the history of Graeco-Roman Egypt. The seminar will be divided into first and second semester. During the first semester we will have two common sessions for visiting the Manchester Museum and The John Rylands Library at Deansgate. After Reading week we will use the tutorials for your presentations. The second semester seminars will be devoted for in-depth readings of sources associated with the study of Roger S. Bagnall, Reading Papyri, Writing Ancient History (1995).

This course put a great emphasis on both lectures and seminars, i.e. on work done together in the classroom, with a clear intent to save your time. I remind you that it is compulsory to come to classes and seminars. Each week, after class, power point presentations and other material discussed at lectures and/or seminars will be available on-line: they are conceived as a part of the course. The final examination
will be based on information, documents and images from course materials, assigned readings, power point presentations and your notes.

**Email and office hours:** I like meeting my students in person during office hours, or by appointment: use that time for clarifications, doubts and questions! I also answer email, but I really encourage you to come and have a chat instead of writing. I answer emails regularly, but since I have many students take into consideration at least 48 hours for an answer. Also, if you do not receive an answer something may have gone wrong: ask me in class and/or send me a second email. Use your University account because sometimes other accounts are filtered as spam.

**Assessment:** One presentation (10%) and one 3,000-3,500 report-essay on a project chosen in consultation with the course tutor (40%, more below); one 2-hour final examination (50%, more below).

**Term-time assignments:** This course puts a great emphasis on source analysis. The term-time assignment will consist in an in-depth study of an artifact (text or object). In the first semester you will analyze one source and prepare a short report for the seminar (presentation 10%). In the second semester you will submit a 3,000-3,500 words essay based on that artifact (report-essay 40%); it is due by May 4 to the School Undergraduate Office. Timing is vital, especially in your third year when you must also submit the dissertation. Please consider the fact that I did not assign readings for week 5 in order to give you time for preparing your presentations: do not waste time that week and the following reading week.

**Final unseen examination:** The final unseen examination will consist of two sections. You must choose one question from each section. **Section a)** source analysis: you will have to comment on a papyrus analyzed in class or in the seminar. **Section b)** will be a general essay-question on one of the main topics covered by the course.

Each question counts 50% of the final examination mark.

**Bibliography**

**(Assigned readings)**


