

NES 18: Introduction to Egyptology Section Guidelines and Section Project

Your section grade is divided into two parts. Half is based on attendance, which is mandatory. Your GSI will take attendance at the beginning of each section; please don't be late. The other half of your section grade is based on your section project, described below.

Section Project Overview:

The **section project** is divided into four parts (see below); each part is worth a specified number of points towards your total section project grade. Your final product is a short research essay of approximately 6 double-spaced pages, due in section week 11. The subject of your research essay is a Hearst Museum Egyptian object (for example, the baby crocodile mummy or the Reserve Head) or group of objects (for example, the cosmetic palette with ochre and grinding pebble, or beads and amulets) of your choice. You are to select your object from among those presently on display in the museum. In the week 4 section your GSI will pass around a sign-up sheet for object selection. No more than three people may sign up per object (so please keep alternate selections in mind in case three people have already selected your first choice). You are *highly* encouraged to come to office hours and discuss your choice(s) with your GSI as soon as possible.

Part I of your assignment is a brief description of your object(s) in paragraph form; this is due in section no later than **week 7**. **Part II** consists of an annotated bibliography of research sources you will use for your essay and is due no later than the **week 9** section. **Part III**, the core of your research essay, is a prose narrative about your object. **Part IV** is your completed section project, where you combine or package Parts I-III into a single product. Parts III and IV are due in section **week 14**. The four parts of your section project, along with the grading points for each part, are described in greater detail below.

Each part of the section project has one or more associated learning goals. Part I introduces you to the Hearst Museum's Egyptian collection and gives you experience viewing, describing and classifying a real ancient object. Such objects are primary sources for archaeological and Egyptological research. The goal here is to give you experience dealing with archaeological primary source material. Part II introduces you to the different types of professional secondary literature available for understanding and interpreting your object and its cultural context. The goal of this part of the section project is to help you find and evaluate appropriate and different research sources. Part III gives you an opportunity to apply the secondary literature you have examined to understanding and interpreting your primary source object. The goal here is to give you experience with critical historical and archaeological thinking and expository writing. Part IV brings your project to completion; the goal is to give you practice in the production of an appropriately packaged, professional-looking, timely product.

All written work that you submit in this course, except for acknowledged quotations, must be original. In other words, it must be expressed in your own words according to a plan of your own devising. Work copied from a book, from another student's paper, or from any other source is not acceptable. The submission of such copied work will, under University rules, result in an F for the assignment or for the course or for both, and also will make you liable for referral to the Director of the Office of Student Activities and Programs for further disciplinary action. See below for further details on academic integrity and plagiarism.

Section Assignment Specifics:

Part I: Museum Object Description (15 points; due in section week 5)

Your first assignment is to examine your object and write a brief paragraph describing it, including the following information:

- identification—what is it (e.g., Stone Bowl)
- provenance (the site it comes from--e.g., Giza; and its archaeological context, if known, as specifically as possible—e.g., Tomb G70)
- date (with Dynasty if possible--e.g., Old Kingdom, Dynasty 4)
- material (what it is made of—e.g., diorite; include color if relevant—e.g., blue faience)
- museum catalog number (e.g. 6-12345)
- function (what it might have been used for)

Part II: Annotated Bibliography (30 points; due in section week 8)

Your second assignment is to identify an appropriate bibliography of secondary sources for researching your object, choose at least five sources, and construct an Annotated Bibliography of your sources. Your sources might deal with information relating to your exact object (available for a few of the major Hearst Museum Egyptian pieces such as the Wepemnofret Stela or the Reserve Head), or regarding the class of objects and the cultural context(s) of those objects.

Your bibliography must include at least five sources divided as follows: two web-sites, one journal article, and two books, one of which must be an edited volume. Before you make your final selection, you must take the library tutorial available on line at the NES 18 b-space web site under Assignments: Section: "Choosing and Evaluating Sources." After you have completed the on line survey, select your sources and create an annotated bibliography following the instructions posted on the web site under Assignments: Section: Annotated Bibliography.

Parts III and IV: Prose Narrative (45 points) and Final Research Essay (10 points); due in section week 11

For your third assignment, compose a prose narrative of approximately three pages about your topic according to one of the following two perspectives:

a) You are an ancient Egyptian and you or your family owns your object. Use your imagination to construct a narrative around your object, but ground that narrative in the research you have done about the object. In general, you might find it helpful to think in terms of the five question rubric we use for class i.d.s: "who, what, when, where, why important." You also might consider incorporating in your essay the answers to questions such as: How did you get it? How would you use it? Who else might use it? Does it say anything about your socio-economic position or your family, and, if so, what? When are you living? Where do you live?

b) You are a famous archaeologist. You are publishing your object, which is one of the most significant discoveries of your most recent excavation season. What do you say about it? Again, use your imagination to construct a narrative around your object and ground it in your research. Again, you might find it helpful to think in terms of the five question rubric we use for class id.s: "who, what, when, where, why important." And you might consider incorporating in your essay the answers to questions such as: Where was the object found? How was it used? What type of person might have used it? How unusual or typical is it? What type of deposit belonging are you excavating? If it was one of your most significant finds, what does this say about your field season? The goal of this part of your section project is for you to learn to extract information relevant to your

assignment from your sources and to construct that information into a coherent essay, as well as to think about the various components that make up the cultural context(s) of ancient objects.

Finally, the fourth and last part of your section project assignment is finalize your essay. After you have completed your prose narrative, place it between your object description and annotated bibliography to produce your final research essay. This part of the section project is about packaging—to give you practice producing an appropriately formatted, professional-looking product. Your final essay **must be typewritten, double-spaced, in 12-point font size, and with 1-inch margins all around and page numbers. Remember to edit your grammar and to spell-check!**