



Learn to read ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs

Start date 8 July 2016

End date 10 July 2016

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Sarah Symons

Course code 1516NRX118

Director of Programmes

Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact

Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr
clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Sarah Symons is a member of the School of Interdisciplinary Science at McMaster University in Ontario. She teaches aspects of history of science, science communication, mathematics, and astronomy. She is interested in innovative teaching methods and is an instructor in Integrated Science, an undergraduate degree programme taught by research. Her own main field of research is ancient Egyptian astronomy. She is also Director of the William J. McCallion Planetarium in Hamilton, Ontario.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Introduction and Workshop 1
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Workshop 2
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Workshop 3
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Workshop 4
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Workshop 5
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Workshop 6
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Workshop 7
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To translate basic Middle Egyptian
- To provide an insight into translation issues
- To establish basic knowledge that will enable students to continue study
- To appreciate and enjoy this beautiful script and language

In addition, for intermediate level students:

- To improve reading skills and confidence
- To engage with a wider selection of texts

Content:

The course is in workshop format with students working through material chosen to suit their level of experience. The tutor is on hand to give personal instruction, advice, and encouragement, as well as to facilitate group discussion on topics related to language and learning strategies. With students of different experience levels present, new learners will be able to see how more complicated texts are tackled.

Beginners:

Foundations of reading the hieroglyphic script

- Layout and grouping of signs
- Recognising the different functions of hieroglyphs: the alphabet, bi- and tri-literal signs, ideograms and determinatives
- Transcribe hieroglyphic texts into one's own "handwriting"
- Use transliteration to separate the signs into words and phrases
- Abbreviations and odd readings
- Names and titles

Common grammatical constructions and formulae

- Components of common "formulaic texts" which can be found frequently on museum objects
- Nouns, adjectives, and verbs
- Building towards simple sentences

Tools and advice for further study

- How to use a dictionary
- How to use a sign list

Intermediate level students:

- To revise and consolidate the skills above
- To add new grammatical constructions
- To engage with more complex texts as preparation for reading longer prose sections
- To become familiar with textbooks and resources for future study

Presentation of the course:

- Reference sheets, each dealing with an individual topic
- Related practice sheets containing repetitive, targeted exercises
- Reading sheets with genuine texts, supplementary notes, and context
- Further or background reading will be suggested
- Tutor will act as guide, give feedback on exercises, help overcome difficulties, give brief explanations to the whole class etc.
- Students can work individually or collaboratively in an informal and creative atmosphere
- This course is not a series of lectures: participants will be working at their own speed and level on texts and exercises throughout

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- recognise Egyptian words and phrases and be able to look up unknown words in a dictionary (beginners)
- understand basic (or more advanced, for intermediate level students) grammatical structures
- transcribe, transliterate, and translate simple (or more advanced, for intermediate level students) texts
- engage with text books for further, level-appropriate, study

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
COLLIER, M & MANLEY, B	<i>How to read Egyptian hieroglyphs</i>	British Museum Press 1998
FAULKNER, R O	<i>A concise dictionary of Middle Egyptian</i>	Griffith Institute (various reprints since 1962)
ALLEN, J P	<i>Middle Egyptian</i>	Cambridge University Press, 2010 (or 2000)
GARDINER, A	<i>Egyptian Grammar (Third Edition)</i>	Griffith Institute (various reprints since 1957)

If you have other Egyptian text books, feel free to bring them too.

Other useful items you may wish to bring:

- Ring binder with either plastic sleeves or a hole punch to help you organise your work sheets.
- A magnifying glass (especially if you find reading small details troublesome)
- A comfortable pen which will produce dots easily (biros tend not to be good at this). Black is the ideal colour, red may also be useful.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 04 March 2016