“Eirene, daughter of Silvanus, whose mother is Senpnouthis. May her soul rise before Osiris-Sokar, the great god, lord of Abydos, forever.”
Meeting Times: TTh: 10:00-11:30 am  
Room: 173 Lorch  
Professor: Brendan Haug  
Office: 2124 Angell Hall  
Phone: (734) 764-4791  
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Office Hours: TBA

Description
This course will explore the social history of Graeco-Roman Egypt, a period during which the country was ruled not by native pharaohs but by a Graeco-Macedonian dynasty (330-31 BC) and later by the Roman Empire (31 BC-AD 641). Our theme will be the multiethnic, multilingual, and multicultural character of Egyptian society during this period, an era of sustained and intimate contact between Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans.

The image on the first page of this syllabus neatly encapsulates the cultural hybridity of this long phase of ancient Egyptian history. This Roman-era painting, although executed in the realistic style of Greek and Roman art, was affixed to the mummified remains of the deceased, who had been embalmed and wrapped in traditional Egyptian fashion. The prayer inscribed below the subject’s face is also composed in the Egyptian language and it draws upon Egyptian religious imagery. The deceased’s name, however—Eirene (“Peace”)—is Greek, while her mother and father bear, respectively, the Latin and Egyptian names Silvanus and Senpnouthis (“Daughter of the God”).

Despite this ostensibly unproblematic cultural syncretism, Graeco-Roman Egypt remained a conquered land ruled by a non-native minority elite. For this reason, one question will remain central to our investigations throughout the semester: Does the history of Graeco-Roman Egypt furnish a compelling example of racial, ethnic, and/or cultural discrimination from antiquity or do we require alternate terminology in order to make sense of the socio-political character of this pre-modern society?

Required Books
**All other readings will be posted to CTools**

Assessment
This course fulfills both the Race & Ethnicity and the Upper Level Writing Requirement. You will write three papers of increasing length through the semester, each of which will be subjected to either peer- or instructor-review, the latter requiring submission of both rough and revised final drafts. There will also be a Final Exam that will draw upon material from the entire semester.

Grading
Paper 1: 20%  
Paper 2: 20%  
Paper 3: 40%  
Final Exam: 20%
**Class Schedule**

_Survey Lectures_

**Tuesday, 8 September**
*Introduction: Greece, Egypt, and the Concept of “Race” in Antiquity*
Introductory remarks and discussion of course requirements.

**Topic for First Paper Circulated**

**Thursday, 10 September**
*Egypt during the Graeco-Roman Period*
2) N. Lewis, _Greeks in Ptolemaic Egypt_, 1-7.
3) N. Lewis, _Life in Egypt under Roman Rule_, 1-8.
4) R.S. Bagnall, _Egypt in Late Antiquity_, 15-23.

**Tuesday, 15 September**
*The Evidence: Papyri and Archaeology*
2) _Oxford Handbook of Papyrology_, 3-58.

**Thursday, 17 September**
*Beginnings: Herodotus and Egypt in the 5th Century BC*
Read: 1) Selections from Herodotus _Histories_ Book 2.

**Tuesday, 22 September**
*Greek Conquest and Ptolemaic Rule: A Racist Colonial State?*
Read: 1) N. Lewis, _Life in Egypt under Roman Rule_, 9-14.
2) J.G. Manning, _The Last Pharaohs_, 29-54.
3) D. Thompson, “Hellenistic Hellenes.”
4) D. McCoskey, _Race_, 81-109.

**Thursday, 24 September**
*Roman Conquest and Roman Rule: A Race-Conscious Empire?*
Read: 1) N. Lewis, _Life in Egypt under Roman Rule_, 9-17.
3) D. McCoskey, _Race_, 109-132

**Post First Paper to CTools. Read and Comment on Partner’s Paper.**

**Tuesday, 29 September**
*Peer-Review Session and Discussion of First Paper*
*Copy of Paper One Due in Class.*
*Topics for Second Paper Circulated.*

**The Ptolemaic Period**

**Thursday, 1 October**
*Law and Justice: Ptolemaic Apartheid?*
Read: 1) J.G. Manning, _Last Pharaohs_, 165-201.

**Response to Peer Comments Due in Class.**

**Tuesday, 6 October**
*Elephantine: Cultural Exchange on Egypt’s Southern Border*
Read: 1) “Introduction” in B. Porten et al., _The Elephantine Papyri in English_.

3
Thursday, 8 October  
Zenon and Kleon: Managing Land and People  

Tuesday, 13 October  
Dryton and Apollonia-Senmonthis: Mixed Marriage in the Countryside  
2) K. Vandorpe, “Apollonia, A Businesswoman in a Multicultural Society.”

Thursday, 15 October  
Menches, Village Scribe of Kerkeosiris: What’s in a Name?  
Read: 1) N. Lewis, *Greeks in Ptolemaic Egypt*, 104-123.  

Tuesday, 20 October  
No Class, Fall Study Break

Thursday, 22 October  
Egyptian Priests and Temples under the Ptolemies  
Read: 1) D. Thompson, *Memphis under the Ptolemies*, 99-143.  
**Rough Draft of Paper 2 Due in Class**

Tuesday, 27 October  
Revolts against the Ptolemies: Economics or Egyptian Nationalism?  
2) *The Oracle of the Potter*

Thursday, 29 October  
Cleopatra VII: The First Egyptian Ptolemy?  
Read: 1) S.-A. Ashton, *Cleopatra and Egypt*, 1-24; 190-196.  
**Second Paper Due in Class.**  
**Topics for Final Paper Circulated.**

Tuesday, 3 November  
Discussion: Three Cases of Interethnic Conflict  
Read: 1) Selection of Translated Papyri (*P.Col. Zen*. II 66, 256/5 BC+; *P. Ent.* 79, 218 BC; *UPZ* I 8, 161 BC).

**The Roman Period**

Thursday, 5 November  
The Coming of Rome: Reorganizing the State  

Tuesday, 10 November  
Reclassifying People: Personal Status under Rome  
Read: 1) Oxford Handbook of Roman Egypt, 247-276.

Thursday, 12 November  
The New Urban Elite: “Greek” Identity in the Roman Period  
Read: 1) P. van Minnen, “Αἱ ὑπὸ γαμνοσίου. ‘Greek’ Women and the Greek ‘Elite’ in the *Metropoleis* of Roman Egypt.”
Tuesday, 17 November  
*Egyptian Priests and Temples under the Romans*

**Jews, Christians, and the End of Egyptian Antiquity**

Thursday, 19 November  
*The Jewish Population(s) of Graeco-Roman Egypt*
Read: 1) E. Gruen, *Diaspora*, 54-83.

Tuesday 24 November  
*The Arrival and Establishment of Christianity*

Thursday, 26 November  
*No Class, Thanksgiving Recess*

Tuesday, 1 December  
*Christian Monasticism: An Egyptian Invention*
Read: 1) J.E. Gochring, “Monasticism in Byzantine Egypt.”

**Rough Draft of Final Paper Due in Class**

Thursday, 3 December  
*Native Egyptian Religious Identity after Christianity*
Readings TBA

Tuesday, 8 December  
*Arabs and Islam: The End of Antiquity*
Read: 1) P. Sijpesteijn, “The Arab Conquest.”

Thursday 10 December  
Read: 1) B. Isaac, “Racism: A Rationalization of Prejudice in Greece and Rome.”  
2) E.S. Gruen, *Rethinking the Other in Antiquity*, 76-114.  
3) D. McCoskey, *Race*, 1-80

**Final Paper Due at Final Exam. Date TBA**
Mummy of a child, *ca.* 100-120 AD. British Museum.