

# Middle Egyptian Texts I

EGPT 10103/1 — ANCM 30502/1

Brendan Hainline

[brendan.hainline@gmail.com](mailto:brendan.hainline@gmail.com)

*Office Hours:*

By Appointment

## *Course Description*

This course continues an introduction to ancient Egyptian culture and society through a close reading of its classic literature from the Middle Kingdom (circa 2025-1773 BCE) and beyond, until the disappearance of hieroglyphs over two thousand years later.

## *Learning Objectives*

By the end of the quarter, the students

- will be familiar with key genres of texts written in the Middle Egyptian language
- will know where to find and how to use important research tools — such as dictionaries, grammars editions, and translations
- will be able to read Middle Egyptian texts

## *Course Structure and Grading*

### **Grade Breakdown**

Participation	15%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm Exam	15%
Class Presentation	15%
Final Project	20%
Final Exam	20%

**Participation.** The portion of the student's grade will come from attending class. In class, a student will be expected to translate, answer questions, and take part in group discussions and activities.

**Quizzes.** There will be three quizzes every week. These quizzes will be posted on the Canvas site, will only take 5 minutes each, and will need to be completed before class. The focus of the quizzes is to assess the student's knowledge of vocabulary, particularly the vocabulary of the text for that week. Vocabulary lists will normally be provided the week before. At the end of the quarter, the lowest three quiz grades will be dropped.

**Midterm Exam.** For the midterm exam, the students will be given a text and asked to translate and answer grammatical questions.

**Class Presentation.** In the latter half of the course, the student will lead the class through reading a short text, as if they were the instructor.

**Final Project.** The student will select a short text and prepare an edition. The edition must include a transliteration, translation, grammatical commentary, and discussion.

**Final Exam.** Once again, the students will be given a text and asked to translate and answer grammatical questions.

## *Tools*

### **Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae (TLA)**

- <https://aaew.bbaw.de/tla/servlet/TlaLogin>
- Username: guest
- Password: guest

### **Transliteration Keyboard**

- <https://ucbclassics.dreamhosters.com/djm/demotic.html>
- Note: It says "Demotic," but the symbols are the same for Middle Egyptian

### **Unicode Fonts for Egyptian Transliteration**

- Brill: <https://brill.com/page/290?language=en>
- New Athena Unicode: <https://classicalstudies.org/publications-and-research/nau-download>

## **Translations**

- Simpson, William Kelly. 2003. *The Literature of Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Stories, Instructions, and Poetry*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Lichtheim, Miriam. 2006a. *Ancient Egyptian Literature, Volume I: The Old and Middle Kingdoms*. Berkeley: University of California Press,.
- Faulkner, Raymond O. 1973. *The Ancient Egyptian Coffin Texts, Volume 1: Spells 1-354*. Warminster: Aris & Philipps.

## *Course Schedule*

### **Module 0 – Finish the Grammar in Hoch**

#### **Module 1 - Papyrus Westcar**

*Weeks 1–2*

*Edition:*

- Blackman, A. M. 1988. *The Story of King Kheops and the Magicians: Transcribed from Papyrus Westcar (Berlin Papyrus 3033)*. Reading: J. V. Books.

#### **Module 2 - Poetical Stele of Thutmose III**

*Week 3*

*Editions:*

- De Buck, A. 1963. *Egyptian Readingbook: Exercises and Middle Egyptian Texts*. Leiden: Nederlandsch Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten.
- Lacau, P. 1909. *Steles du nouvel empire*. Catalogue Générale des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire 45. Le Caire.

### Module 3 - Maxims of Ptahhotep

#### Week 4

##### *Editions:*

- De Buck, A. 1963. *Egyptian Readingbook: Exercises and Middle Egyptian Texts*. Leiden: Nederlandsch Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten.
- Lacau, P. 1909. *Steles du nouvel empire*. Catalogue Générale des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire 45. Le Caire.

### Module 4 - Coffin Texts

#### Week 5–6

##### *Editions:*

- De Buck, A. 1935–1951. *The Egyptian Coffin Texts I–IV*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

##### *Translations:*

- Faulkner, Raymond O. 1973. *The Ancient Egyptian Coffin Texts, Volume 1: Spells 1-354*. Warminster: Aris & Philipps.

##### *Text Selections*

- CT 1
- CT 175
- CT 349

### Module 5 - Mortuary Stelae

#### Week 7–8

##### *Editions:*

- Teeter, Emily. 2003. *Ancient Egypt: Treasures from the Collection of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago*. Oriental Institute Museum Publications 23. Chicago: Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.
- Blackman, Aylward M. 1931. "The Stele of Thethi, Brit. Mus. No. 614." *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 17: 55–61.

##### *Text Selections*

- Stela of *Wḥꜥ*
- Stela of *Tḥj*

### Module 6 - Letters

#### Week 9

##### *Editions:*

- Allen, James P. 2002. *The Heqanakht Papyri*. Publications of Metropolitan Museum of Art. Egyptian Expedition 27. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

##### *Text Selections*

- Letter II