

Introduction to Old Egyptian

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Class Goals:

The purpose of this class is to introduce you to the grammar of the stage of the Egyptian language known as Old Egyptian. You will be acquainted with several of the most prominent text genres of this language phase. By the end of the class, you should be able to read and analyze the majority of Old Egyptian texts.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, the students

- will be familiar with key genres of texts written in the Old 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 Old Egyptian texts

Grading:

50% class participation/translation

20% midterm

30% final paper

Options for final paper: You can pick a longer text or group of shorter texts that we haven't read in class and do a thorough textual edition with commentary.

Alternately, you can choose to write about a grammatical/historical/cultural/religious/etc. topic, but you must draw heavily from texts that you provide your own translations for.

Either way, you should discuss your text(s) with me by the beginning of week 6 (if you are graduating, week 5). The paper should come to about 10 pages, but this might vary depending on how long your text is.

Grammatical Sources:

Edel, Elmar. 1955. *Altägyptische Grammatik I*. *Analecta Orientalia: Commentationes Scientifcae de Rebus Orientis Antiqui* 34. Rome: Pontificum Institutum Biblicum.

———. 1964. *Altägyptische Grammatik II*. *Analecta Orientalia: Commentationes Scientifcae de Rebus Orientis Antiqui* 39. Rome: Pontificum Institutum Biblicum.

———. 1967. *Altägyptische Grammatik - Register der Zitate*. *Analecta Orientalia: Commentationes Scientifcae de Rebus Orientis Antiqui* 39. Rome: Pontificum Institutum Biblicum.

Doret, Eric. 1986. *The Narrative Verbal System of Old and Middle Egyptian*. Geneva: Patrick Kramer.

Oréal, Elsa. 2011. *Les particules en Égyptien Ancien: de l'ancien égyptien à l'égyptien classique*. Bibliothèque d'Étude 152. Cairo: Institut français d'archéologie orientale

Allen, James P. 1984. *The inflection of the verb in the Pyramid texts*. Malibu, CA.: Undena Publications.

Dictionary

Hannig, Rainer. 2003. *Ägyptisches Wörterbuch I: Altes Reich und Erste Zwischenzeit*. Mainz: Verlag Philipp von Zabern.

Text Sources:

Brovarski, Edward. 2000. *The Senedjemib Complex Part I: The Mastabas of Senedjemib Inti (G 2370), Khnumenti (G 2374), and Senedjemib Mehi (G2378)*. Giza Mastabas 7. Boston: Art of the Ancient World, Museum of Fine Arts.

Goedicke, Hans G. 1967. *Königliche Dokumente aus dem Alten Reich*. Ägyptologische Abhandlungen 14. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.

Onderka, Pavel. 2009. *The Tomb of Unisankh at Saqqara and Chicago*. Prague: National Museum.

Piankoff, Alexandre. 1968. *The Pyramid of Unas: Texts translated with commentary by A. Piankoff*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Posener-Kriéger, Paule. 1979. "Le Prix Des Etoffes." in *Festschrift Elmar Edel 12. März 1979*, by Edel, Elmar, 318-331. edited by Görg, Manfred and Pusch, Edgar B. Ägypten und Altes Testament 1. Bamberg: Manfred Görg: pp.318-331

Sethe, Kurt. 1908-1912. *Die altägyptische Pyramidentexte nach dem Papierabdrucken und Photographien des Berliner Museums*, 4 vols. Leipzig: J.C. Hinrichs.

———. 1926. "Ein Prozessurteil aus dem alten Reich." *Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde* 61 : 67-79.

———. 1932-1933. *Urkunden des Alten Reichs*. Urkunden des Ägyptischen Altertums: Translations I. Leipzig: J.C.Hinrichs.

Smither, Paul C. 1942. "An Old Kingdom Letter concerning the Crimes of Count Sabni." *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 28 : 16-19.

WEEK 1 – 3 : Introduction to Old Egyptian Grammar / Weni

- Biography of Weni : Urk. I, 98-110
- Grammar reviews (as needed)
- If we finish Weni, we will move on to the other biographies (see Week 4-6)

WEEK 4 – 5 : Letters

- Letter from Pepy II Neferkara in the Tomb of Harkhuf: Urk. I, 128-131
- Letter from Izezi in the tomb of Reshepses : Urk. I, 179-180
- Tablet no. 3686 and no. 4965 (Strudwick #99A and B) : plates on chalk.
- **FRIDAY OF WEEK 5 = MIDTERM**

WEEK 6 : Royal Texts

- **Palermo Stone Selections:** plates on chalk
 - Recto: For each of the first five rows, pick one year from each row to translate. Read all three years from row 6.
 - Verso: Read row II
- Two Expedition Inscriptions: Plates are on Chalk.
- **NOTE:** By the beginning of Week 6, you should talk to me about your paper topic.

WEEK 7 – 8 : Legal Texts

- **Coptos Decree B :** Goedicke 1967, Abb.8; Urk. I, 280-83
- **Berlin P 9010:** Sethe 1926
- **END OF WEEK 7:** Working bibliography for your paper is due.

WEEK 9 – 10 : Pyramid Texts

- **The Cannibal Hymn :** PT 273+274, Piankoff pl.28-30
- **Offering List Spells :** PT 125, PT 166, Piankoff pl.62-67
- **Apotropaic Spells :** PT 226, Piankoff pl.68-69
- PT 211, Piankoff pl.57
- PT 213, Piankoff pl.39