DAILY LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT (EGYT 1465) SYLLABUS
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 1:00-1:50

Instructor: Julia Troche (Julia_Troche@brown.edu)
Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00-1:00; (and by appointment, please email)

Course Description

Ancient Egypt is remembered for its grand temples and enduring tombs. Histories too often favor these examples of grandeur, forgetting the daily lives of non-royal Egyptians. This class will investigate the daily lives of these underrepresented ancient Egyptians – craftsmen, servants, women, children – and address concerns such as social status, economy, magic, illness and death. In addition to investigating group concerns, we will also look at the experience of the individual and discuss topics such as sexuality, love, fashion, religious practice and the family. Class format will include lectures and discussions, presentations, and tours through virtual temples that will enable us to begin to reconstruct the daily lives of ancient Egyptians.

In this class we will engage with primary sources (in translation) and ancient artifacts in order to investigate the art, architecture, religion and social networks of ancient Egypt. Class format will be a mixture of lecture and discussions, trips to local museums, presentations, videos, and tours through virtual temples. In addition to daily discussions and small presentations, students will be assessed on a semester-long research project that will culminate in either an artifact re-creation (experimental archaeology) or a research paper in which students will examine and evaluate an ancient Egyptian object of daily life. There are no prerequisites.

Course Aims and Objectives

By the end of this course, students will...

I. Demonstrate a basic understanding of ancient Egypt and the daily lives of its underrepresented inhabitants.
II. Devise means of approaching the methodological challenges inherent to Egyptology and student specific research projects.
III. Interpret ancient Egyptian artifacts and texts and use this analysis in the reconstruction of daily life in ancient Egypt.
IV. Learn to communicate this knowledge effectively.
V. Develop critical thinking skills and modes of analysis useful for further research and coursework in a variety of fields.

Required Textbook: 1. Strouhal. Life of the Ancient Egyptians
2. Szpakowska. Daily Life in Ancient Egypt

+ All other reading materials will be posted to the CANVAS class site.
Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation (Attendance, Discussions)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments (Discussion leading, etc.)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Life Artifact Report (Midterm)*</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Life Artifact Reconstruction/Research Paper (Final)*</td>
<td>35%</td>
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*Note: These are a series of assignments, culminating in the midterm paper and final presentation. See the Assignment Description for detailed deadlines, explanations and expectations.

A cumulative score of 90% or higher will merit a grade of A; 80–89% B; and below 80% C.

Late assignments will only be accepted in rare circumstances and will lose one letter grade per day.

ASSIGNMENTS

20% of your overall grade

Additional assignments may be added as needed.

Leading Discussion

This will factor into your "Other Assignments" grade:

You will sign up for three class periods, during which you and a partner(s) will be responsible for leading a discussion based on the readings. You should become an "expert" on these texts and prepare to lead the class in an analytical, critical discussion of the texts. Your goal here is not to summarize the reading but encourage your fellow students in an in-depth discussion of the material and how it relates to the larger themes of the course. Note: your grade will be a combination of your group grade (based on quality of posted questions and your handling of the in-class discussion) and an individual grade (based on your write up).

You will be required to:

a) At least 24 hours before, together with your partner(s), post reading questions/discussion prompts to the website

b) At least 24 hours before, by yourself, upload to canvas a 1-2 page (single spaced) critical response to the readings in which you summarize the readings' main points and explain how the readings respond to the specific topics of the class and to the larger themes of the course

c) With your partner, lead discussion in class (approx. 20 minutes). You may use the questions you post as a starting off point, but it is wise to have more questions, or follow up questions to encourage discussion if there is a lull.
MIDTERM AND FINAL

ARTIFACT OF DAILY LIFE PAPER (Midterm)
RECONSTRUCTION/EXTENDED RESEARCH PAPER + PRESENTATION (Final)

General Description of Research Project
You will have a single, semester-long research project that will culminate in a midterm paper and a final presentation. Before each assignment is due we will discuss expectations in class.

Prompt: Develop a research question investigating an aspect of daily life centered on a specific artifact or corpus of artifacts. You will then write a paper, which, in its final form, will be turned in as your midterm. For your final, you will choose to (1) create and present a reconstruction of your artifact or (2) write a longer research paper from which a presentation will be produced.

Example Research Questions:
- How does domestic architecture at Lahun reflect broader social power relations?
- What do depictions of aging and elderly women say about their social roles?
- What can the "letters to the dead," and "akh iqr n Ra stelae" tell us about the role(s) of the dead in the daily lives of the living?
- What can be said about cattle economy through an investigation focusing on the Meketre tomb model of cattle counting?
- What can the MET's "Cippus of Horus" tell us about magic as it intersects with medicine in Ptolemaic Egypt?

See also: http://www.carnegiemnh.org/online/egypt/necklace.html

The Midterm – Artifact of Daily Life Paper

Prompt: How does your artifact (or artifact type) reflect aspect(s) of daily life in ancient Egypt? Be sure to (1) describe the object/type (name, museum accession number, color, shape, size, and material), (2) explain its original context and use (where it was found, to when it dates, who used it, for what purposes, etc.) including a discussion of theoretical concerns that may affect your methodological approach, (3) discuss the technology used to accumulate the artifact’s materials and construct it (quarrying, wood working, ceramics, metallurgy, etc.), and (4) extrapolate what this artifact can tell us about daily life in ancient Egypt (thesis).

Your Midterm Paper will be:
+ Typed, 12pt font, double spaced, 1 inch margins
+ Approximately 2000 words (6-7 pages)
+ Respond to the prompt explicitly
+ Properly cited (refer to Chicago Style if unsure: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

Midterm Deadlines 25% of Total Grade (__/100pts)
Week 4: Explanation of topic (1 paragraph); Preliminary Bibliography (5-7 sources) (__/10pts)
Week 5: Description Write-up Due; updated bibliography due (__/15pts)
Week 6: Context Write-up Due; updated bibliography due (__/20pts)
Week 7: Technology Write-up Due; updated bibliography due (__/20pts)
Week 9: Midterm Final Report Due (__/35pts)
The Final – Artifact Reconstruction/Research Paper & Presentation

Your final project will be a direct evolution of your midterm paper.

(1a) You will re-write your midterm, taking into consideration my comments and feedback. You will continue research where necessary culminating in an 8-10 page final paper. Additionally, you will need to reproduce your artifact/artifact type. You may employ whatever skills you have to do this – you can create it digitally, or build it out of wood/cardboard/ceramic/etc. or do a number of detailed drawings/photographs. I will schedule time with the technology lab in order to provide you with access to digital software if desired. This can be done with pencil and paper – it does not need to be an elaborate reproduction and should not be expensive. I must approve your proposal first before moving forward.

(1b) Instead of a reproduction you may choose to write a longer thesis paper based on the research you have already prepared for your midterm (totaling approx. 15-20 pages). Your thesis topic will be developed in consultation with me and your deadlines will be the same.

(2) Whether doing a reconstruction or a final paper, you must also prepare a “Final Presentation”: 10 minute presentation in which you present your research. You will be graded on how well you present your project in addition to your research, and artifact reproduction/final paper.

Final Deadlines

| Week 11: | Submit written plan for reproduction of your artifact or thesis. Step by step plan of how you are going to go about the project (timeline), what materials you are going to use, how you are going to access them, etc. (approx. 1-2 pages). | 35% of total grade (___/140pts) |
| 25 April/28 April: | Turn in final paper during individual meeting | (___/50pts) |
| Monday 05 May 2014: | Final Presentations | (___/70pts) |

CLASS SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

| Week 1: | 22 Jan – 24 Jan | Background to ancient Egypt (history, geography) |
| Week 2: | 27 Jan – 31 Jan | Social Complexity: Status and Rank |
| Week 3: | 03 Feb – 07 Feb | House(holds), and communities |
| Week 4: | 10 Feb – 14 Feb | Growing up Egyptian [Midterm Topic Explanation & Bib] |
| Week 5: | 19 Feb – 21 Feb | Education [Midterm 'Description'] |
| Week 6: | 24 Feb – 28 Feb | Love, Sexuality, Women [Midterm 'Write-up'] |
| Week 7: | 03 Mar – 07 Mar | Style & Fashion, The Egyptian Aesthetic [Midterm 'Technology'] |
| Week 8: | 10 Mar – 14 Mar | Economy: Food, Crafts, Buying & Selling |

Spring Break 24 Mar – 28 Mar

| Week 10: | 31 Mar – 04 April | Medicine and Magic: Illnesses, Curses and Cures [Final Plan] |
| Week 11: | 07 April – 11 April | Let’s Have some Fun – recreation in ancient Egypt |
| Week 12: | 14 April – 18 April | Attitudes towards Death and the Afterlife |
| Week 13: | 21 April – 23 April | Realities of Life & Ancient Egypt, Modern Museums |

Reading Period: 25 April - 06 May

Final Presentation, papers due

Finals Week: 07 - 16 May You're done!
### Week 1 (1/22-1/24): INTRODUCTION & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

**[Class 1-2; Wednesday 22 Jan & Friday 24 Jan]**
Review Map from *The Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt*
Review Chronology from Baines and Malek, *Atlas of Ancient Egypt*
Read James P. Allen, "Language" & "Writing" & "Ancient Egyptian History" in *Middle Egyptian*, p1-11
Explore a Timeline at [http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/time/explore/main.html](http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/time/explore/main.html)
Read Strouhal, Ch 17 “Builders of the Royal Tombs” p187-200

### WEEK 2 (1/27-1/31): SOCIAL COMPLEXITY--STATUS AND RANK

**[Class 3; Monday 27 Jan]** *Theoretical Framework*
Selections from Marx, Weber (Economy and Society, 1978; Chapter IV "Status Groups and Classes," 302-307)

**[Class 4; Wednesday 29 Jan]** *Status in Egypt*
Strouhal, Ch 16 “Administrators and Managers,” 215-222
Grajetzki, “Position and Possessions” in *Egyptian Archaeology*, 180-199
Loprieno, “Slavery and Servitude” from UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology

**[Class 5; Friday 31 Jan]** *Identity*
Wendrich, “Identity and Personhood” in *Egyptian Archaeology*, 200-219
Robins, "Hair and the construction of identity" *JARCE* 36 1999, 55-69
Riggs and Baines, "Ethnicity" UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology
Suggested Extra Reading: Kemp, "Dynamics of Culture" in *Anatomy of a Civilization*, 64-107

### Week 3 (2/3-2/7): HOUSE(HOLDS) AND COMMUNITIES

**[Class 6; Monday 03 Feb]** *House(holds), and communities (I): Background*
Strouhal, Ch 6 "Homes and Communities" 63-77

**[Class 7; Wednesday 05 Feb]** *House(holds), and communities (II): Lahun, a case study*
Szpakowska ch1 "The Setting"
Selection from Kemp, "Model Communities" in *Anatomy*, ONLY pages 149-157
Uphill Ch 5 "Lesser royal residences and frontier towns" 27-38

**[Class 8; Friday 07 Feb]** *House(holds), and communities (III): Families and Communities*
Frood, "Social Structures and Daily Life: Pharaonic" ONLY pages 469-476
Robins, "The Family and the Household" in Women in Ancient Egypt, 92-110
Week 4 (2/10-2/14): GROWING UP EGYPTIAN
DUE FRIDAY 14 FEB: Explanation of topic and preliminary bibliography (5-7 sources)

[Class 9; Monday 10 Feb] Growing up Egyptian (I): pregnancy and birth
Strouhal, Ch 1 "The Start of Life"
Szpakowska Ch 2 "Birth"
Janssen and Janssen Chapters 1-2 "Pregnancy and Birth" & "The Baby" in Growing Up in Ancient Egypt

[Class 10; Wednesday 12 Feb] Growing up Egyptian (II): childhood
Strouhal Ch 2 "Carefree Childhood"
Szpakowska Ch 3 "Close to Home"
Janssen and Janssen, Ch 3-4. in Growing Up in Ancient Egypt "The Infant Dressed and Groomed" and "The Realm of Childhood"

[Class 11; Friday 14 Feb] Library Visit
Trip to library, the Hecker Room- how to conduct research at Brown, library resources, etc.

Week 5: (Monday 17 Feb NO CLASS) Wed 19 February 2014 – Friday 21 February 2014
Education, Science and Industry
DUE FRIDAY 21 FEB: Description Write-up Due; updated bibliography due

[Class 12; Wednesday 19 Feb] Education
Strouhal, Ch 3 "Education and Learning" 31-38
Janssen and Janssen, Ch 6 "The Schoolboy" in Growing up in Ancient Egypt
Szpakowska Ch 6 ONLY "Education" & "Non-literate Professions" pages 102-112

[Classes 13; Friday 21 Feb] Science and Industry
S. Clarke and R. Engelbach. Ch 1 "The earliest Egyptian masonry" (5-11); Ch 2 OR 3 "Quarrying: Soft/Hard Rocks" (p12-22/23-33); Ch 20 "Egyptian Mathematics" (216-223) in Ancient Egyptian Construction and Architecture
Leach, "Papyrus Manufacture" UEE
Suggested Additional Reading: Strouhal, Ch 13 "Quarries, Boats, Pyramids," 169-186

Week 6: Monday 24 February 2014 – Friday 28 February 2014
Love, Sexuality, Women
DUE FRIDAY 28 FEB: Context Write-up Due; updated bibliography due

[Class 14; Monday 24 Feb] Gender Studies, Theoretical Framing
Anne Bolin "Two-Spirit Traditions" in Gender Reversals and Gender Cultures: Anthropological and Historical 27-30
Sweeney, "Sex and Gender" UEE
[Class 15; Wednesday 26 Feb] Love and Sexuality
Szpakowska Ch 10 "Love" 208-224
Meskell, "Re-em(bed)ding Sex: Domesticity, Sexuality, and Ritual in New Kingdom Egypt" in Archaeologies of Sexuality, 253-262
Explore: Turin Erotic Papyrus (p55001) at http://www.reshafim.org.il/ad/egypt/partytime/turin1.htm

[Class 16; Friday 28 Feb] Women
Strouhal, Ch 5 "Marriage and the Standing of Women" 51-62
Robins, Ch 3 "Marriage" in Women in Ancient Egypt, 56-74
Robins, Ch 7 "The Economic and Legal Position of Women" in Women in Ancient Egypt, 127-141

Week 7: Monday 03 March 2014 – Friday 07 March 2014
Style and Fashion – The Egyptian Aesthetic
DUE FRIDAY 07 MARCH: Technology Write-up Due; updated bibliography due

[Class 17; Monday 03 March] Egyptian 'Art'
Robins, "Understanding Egyptian Art" in The Art of Ancient Egypt, 12-29.
Strouhal, Ch 12 "Immortality through Art" p157-168
Selection from Baines, "Status and purpose of ancient Egyptian art"

[Class 18; Wednesday 05 March] Style and Fashion
Szpakowska ch 4 "The Stuff of Life", 64-80
Strouhal, Ch 7 "Dress, Adornment, and Body care" 77-90
Selections from Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, Pharaonic Egyptian Clothing

[Class 19; Friday 07 March] The Evidence
Selection from Malek, Egypt: 4000 years of art: pages 17, 21, 24, 30-31, 50-51, 54, 110-111, 122-125, 144-146, 165, 226
Trip to Haffenreffer museum

Week 8: Monday 10 March 2014 – Friday 14 March 2014
Economy: Food, Crafts, Buying & Selling

[Class 20; Monday 10 March] Food and Foodways
Strouhal, Ch 8 "The Bounty of the Black Earth," 91-108
Strouhal Ch 9 "Stockbreeding and the Hunt," 109-123
Strouhal, Ch 10 “The Ancient Egyptians’ Diet,”125-136

[Class 21; Wednesday 12 March] Crafts and Trades
Kemp, “The Bureaucratic Mind” in Anatomy, 111-137
Szpakowska Ch 5 "Crafts and Trades," 81-101
Suggested Additional Reading: Strouhal, Ch 11 "Craftsmen at Work" 136-155

[Class 22; Friday 14 March] Economics Without Money
Kemp, "The Birth of Economic Man" in Anatomy, 232-260
Vernus "The Strikes" in Affairs and Scandals in Ancient Egypt, 50-69
Haring, "Economy" from UEE
Week 9: Monday 17 March 2014 – Friday 21 March 2014

Religion in Daily Life

DUE: MIDTERM FRIDAY 21 MARCH

[Class 23; Monday 17 March] Religion I
Ritner, “Household Religion in Ancient Egypt” in Household and Family Religion in Antiquity, 171-196
Friedman, "Aspects of Domestic Life and Religion" in Pharaoh’s Workers: the Villagers of Deir el Medina, 95-118

[Class 24; Wednesday 19 March] Religion II
Pinch & Waraksa, “Votive Practices” from UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology
Luiselli, "Personal Piety" from UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology
Szpakowska Ch 7 "Religion"122-149

[Class 25; Friday 21 March] Temples
Strouhal, Ch 17 "Inside the Temples" 223-234

[--Spring Break NO CLASS: Monday 24 March 2014 – Friday 28 March 2014 --]

Week 10: Monday 31 March 2014 – Friday 04 April 2014

Medicine and Magic: Illnesses, Curses and Cures

[Class 26; Monday 31 March] Magic, general
Pinch, Magic in Ancient Egypt
Ch 1 "Egyptian Magic," (9-18)
Ch 4 "Magicians and Priests" (47-60)
Ch 6 "Magical Techniques" (76-89)

[Class 27; Wednesday 02 April] Magic, medicine
Strouhal, Ch 19 "For Every Malady a Cure" 243-252
Szpakowska Ch8 "Sickness," 150-178
Allen, The Art of Medicine in Ancient Egypt (Read 9-13 and explore the catalog)

[Class 28; Friday 04 April] Curses
Pinch, Ch 7 “Magical Figurines and Statues” in Magic in Ancient Egypt, 90-103
Muhlestein, "Excoration Ritual," from UEE
**Week 11: Monday 07 April 2014 – Friday 11 April 2014**

*Let's Have some Fun – recreation in ancient Egypt*

**DUE FRIDAY 11 APRIL:** Submit written plan for reproduction of your artifact or thesis. Step by step plan of how you are going to go about the project (timeline), what materials you are going to use, how you are going to access them, etc. (approx. 2-3 pages).

**[Class 29; Monday 07 April]** *Leisure*
Meyer-Dietrich, "Dance," from UEE
Emerit, "Music and Musicians" from UEE
Szpakowska Ch 6 ONLY "Leisure" 112-119

**[Class 30; Wednesday 09 April]** *Sports*
Decker, "Sports of private persons" in *Sports and games of Ancient Egypt* (translated by Guttmann), 60-103

**[Class 31; Friday 11 April]** *Games*
Decker, "Games" in *Sports and games of Ancient Egypt* (translated by Guttmann), 111-135
In-class: Play *senet*

**Week 12: Monday 14 April 2014 – Friday 18 April 2014**

*Attitudes towards Death and the Afterlife*

**[Class 32; Monday 14 April]** *Death is only the beginning*
Szpakowska Ch 9 "Death," p. 179-207
Strouhal Ch 15 "...Whence No Traveller Returns," 253-266
Janssen and Janssen, "Perceptions of the Older Generation" (142-150); "Care of the Elderly" (220-230); "The Ancestors" (184-193) in *Getting Old in Ancient Egypt*

**[Class 33; Wednesday 16 April]** *Mummification*
Ikram and Dodson, "Mummies and the Art of Mummification" in *The Mummy in Ancient Egypt: Equipping the Dead for Eternity*, 103-136

**[Class 34; Friday 18 April]** *Tombs, houses for eternity*
Ikram and Dodson, "The Ancient Egyptian Burial" in *The Mummy in Ancient Egypt: Equipping the Dead for Eternity*, 15-60
Daily Life in Ancient Egypt (Instructor: J.Troche), Syllabus

**Week 13: Monday 21 April 2014 – Wednesday 23 April 2014**
Realities of Life & Ancient Egypt, Modern Museums

[Class 35; Monday 21 April] *Realities of Life*
Strouhal, Ch 15 "The Fortunes of War," 201-214
Coulon, "Famine" from UEE
Kopp-Junk, "Travel" from UEE

[Class 36; Wednesday 23 April] *Ancient Egypt, Modern Museums*
Foreword of the Virtual Egyptian Museum by its curator Georges Ricard
http://www.virtual-egyptian-museum.org/About/Story/About.WhyVirtual-PR.html
Karl Pilkington, "Tate Modern" (62-77) & "The Tutankhamun Exhibition" (114-123)
Trip to RISD museum

[Reading Period, individual meetings and Final Presentations: Friday 25 APRIL 2014 – Tuesday 06 May 2014]
**Friday 25 April/Monday 28 April:** You will sign up for an individual meeting to discuss your final project and turn in your final, revised artifact report.

**FINAL PRESENTATION DUE MONDAY 05 MAY 2014**

**Finals Week: Wednesday 07 May 2014 – Friday 16 May 2014**
YOU’RE DONE!
Suggested Additional Readings

**Week 1: Background to ancient Egypt**

Baines, John and Malek. *Atlas of Ancient Egypt*

Kemp, Barry. *Anatomy of a Civilization*

Shaw, Ian. *Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*

**Week 2: Social Complexity**


**Week 3: House(holds), general**


Moreno Garcia, Juan Carlos. "Households" UEE


**Week 3: House(holds), Lahun**


**Week 4: Growing up Egyptian**

Janssen and Janssen. Growing Up in Ancient Egypt

Douglas Brewer and Emily Teeter "Ancient Egyptian Society and Family Life" at http://fathom.lib.uchicago.edu/2/21701778
Week 5: Education, Science and Industry

Lehner, Mark. *The Complete Pyramids*

Strouhal, Ch 13 “Quarries, Boats, Pyramids” p169-186

Nicholson, Paul. *Ancient Egyptian Materials and Technologies*

UEE articles on the production of: Faience, Pottery, Papyrus, Glass, Leatherworking, Cordage, etc.

Week 6: Love, Sexuality, Women

Foucault, *The History of Sexuality volume 1*

Toivari-Viitala, Jaana. "Marriage and Divorce" UEE

Vernus, "The Harem Conspiracy under Ramesses III, in *Affairs and Scandals in Ancient Egypt*, p108-120

Week 7: The Egyptian aesthetic

Andrews, Carol. *Ancient Egyptian Jewelry*

Baines, John. *Visual and Written Culture in Ancient Egypt*

Robins, Gay. *The Art of Ancient Egypt*

Week 8: Economy

Alcock, Joan. *Food and Drink in the Ancient World*


Wilson, *Egyptian Food and Drink*, p1-62

**Week 9: Religion**

Jan Assmann, *The Search for God in Ancient Egypt*


John Baines. "Practical Religion and Piety..." in *JEA* 73, p. 79-98

Dunand and Zivie-Coche *Gods and Men in Ancient Egypt*

Henri Frankfort, *Ancient Egyptian Religion*

Henri Frankfort, *Kingship and the Gods*

Erik Hornung, *Conceptions of God in Ancient Egypt*

Wilkinson, *The Complete Temples of Ancient Egypt*

**Week 10: Magic and Medicine**

Pinch, “Medicine and Magic” in *Magic in Ancient Egypt*, p. 133-146

Borghouts, “Magical Practices among the Villagers” in *Pharaoh’s Workers: the Villagers of Deir el Medina*, p. 119-130

**Week 11: Recreation and Leisure**

Decker *Sports and games of Ancient Egypt* (translated by Guttmann) more on: competition, acrobatics, and hunting

Joyce Tyldesley, *Egyptian Games and Sports (Shire Egyptology)*

**Week 12: Attitudes towards Death and the Afterlife**

Dodson and Ikram, *The Tomb in Ancient Egypt*

Sigrid Hodel-Hoenes, *Life and Death in Ancient Egypt: Scenes from Private Tombs in New Kingdom Thebes*

Hornung, *The Ancient Egyptian Books of the Afterlife*