

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS
SUMMER 2019
COURSE OFFERINGS



Summer 2019, First Summer Session May 22 – June 28

ARCH 0026 A Ancient Egypt Taught On Line

4 SHU

Matthew Harrington

ONLINE (SSA): This course is an exploration of the civilizations of Ancient Egypt and the Near East, examining their art, architecture, and history. We will examine the close interplay between the religion of the Egyptians and their funerary practices, including the development of the pyramid tombs and the practice of mummification. The pharaoh served as an incarnate link between the eternal gods and the world of mortals; the pharaoh's victories and virtues filled the temples, but the tombs of ordinary Egyptians were filled with images of their own aspirations for eternal life. Hieroglyphic texts recorded diplomacy and sacred ritual, as well as literature and science while dynasties rose and fell, just as cuneiforms texts did in Mesopotamia and beyond. We will examine the internal and external relations of Egypt in the context of a world system that included the kingdoms and empires of the Near East and the Mediterranean: from the Sumerians, Assyrians, Hittites, and Babylonians, to the Persian Empire, Alexander the Great, and the Imperium Romanum. In each of these cultures, individuals competed to assert their identities within a shared system of meaning embedded in their art and architecture as well as their texts and social hierarchies.

Summer 2019, Second Summer Session July 2 – August 9

CLS 0075 B Classical Mythology Taught On Line

3 SHU

Matthew Harrington

ONLINE (SSB): We will explore the world ancient mythology and its intersections with art, ideology, and ritual, from the creation of the universe to the foundation of Rome and the mytho-historical divinization's of Julius Caesar and Augustus. Stories of the gods and heroes were more than simply entertainment; they were cognitive tools for interrogating the essential questions of being human: justice and morality, fate and identity, humor and heroism, suffering and triumph -the meaning of life. For this reason, ancient myth has remained a powerful source of inspiration for millennia, informing the art and narratives of the Renaissance to the present. In their constant retelling and re-adaptation, these stories serve as a template for the concerns of every age: humor and heroism, suffering and triumph. This course will closely examine the nature of Greco-Roman myth, its essential human meaning, and its intersections with ancient art and ritual.