

# Ancient Egypt

U3A Wellington

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2008

## Lecture One: Introduction

Space: Geography  
Time: Dating, Periodisation, and Chronology  
Discovery: Archaeologists, Writing  
Writing: Hieroglyphics, Hieratic, Demotic  
Origins of the Ancient Egyptians  
Protodynastic Pharaohs  
The Old Kingdom  
Pyramids

## Lecture Two: Religion and Mythology

Origins  
The Pantheon of gods  
Burial Customs  
Pyramids  
Mummification  
The Afterlife  
Valleys of the Kings & Queens  
Tombs of the Nobles  
The Priesthood and the Temple

## Lecture Three: The New Kingdom

New Kingdom Egypt  
The Pharaoh and State  
Dynasties Eighteen and Nineteen (1550-1186 BC)  
Ramses the Great  
Towns and Temples  
Temple Architecture  
Agriculture  
Labour  
Household  
The Ptolemaic Revival

## Further Reading

Barry Kemp, *Ancient Egypt: Anatomy of a Civilisation*  
W. Murnane, *The Penguin Guide to Ancient Egypt*  
Ian Shaw, (ed.) *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*

### Some Useful Information

#### Dates and Periods

Pre-Dynastic (5300 – 3000 BC; Naqada 3200 – 3000 BC)  
Early Dynastic (c. 3000-2686 BC)  
Old Kingdom Egypt (2696-2181 BC)  
First Intermediate Period  
Middle Kingdom Egypt (1991-1802 BC)  
Second Intermediate Period  
New Kingdom / Empire (1550-1069 BC)  
Third Intermediate Period  
Libyan / Nubian / Persian Period  
Ptolemaic Egypt (305-30 BC)

#### King Lists

Manetho (Dynasties)  
King Lists (Palermo Stone, Turin Canon, Royal Lists of Abydos and Karnak)  
The Sothic (Sopdet) Cycle (1460 Years, Heliacal Rising of Sirius)

