

Save Ancient Studies Alliance

Summer 2022 Texts-in-Translation Reading Group

Ancient Egyptian Gods in Ancient Texts and Modern Media



Binge-watched Marvel's 'Moon Knight' and fell into a Google deep dive to find out more about Ancient Egyptian gods and religion? We got you covered!

Ancient Egyptian religion is undeniably one of the most interesting subjects to explore. Most people have been exposed to ancient Egypt in elementary school where you learn about animal-headed gods, how to write your name in phonetic hieroglyphs, and discover that mummies probably don't actually come back to life and curse you. We promise!

This reading group on ancient Egyptian gods dives deep into ancient texts about Egyptian religion, examining how gods and goddesses and the divine realm are represented in literature and art. We will read texts such as the Book of the Dead, the Cannibal Hymn, the Book of the Heavenly Cow, and the Contendings of Horus and Seth. We will also integrate the readings with a heavy dose of art history, to learn how ancient Egyptians represented their gods, the underworld, and

the celestial realm. Furthermore, we will examine modern media such as the brand new Marvel TV series Moon Knight and video games such as Assassin's Creed Origins within the context of the ancient literature and art we will learn about.

By the end of the course, students will have a better understanding of ancient Egyptian religion and its main gods, concepts, and realms. They will have also gained the necessary tools for sharing with their friends the inaccuracies in the representation of ancient Egyptian religion in both ancient (looking at you, Herodotus!) and modern media!

Your SASA Educational Ambassadors:

Dr. Briana Jackson

I have a PhD in Egyptian art and archaeology from New York University. I specialize in the Amarna Period and Egypt's international relations during the Bronze Age, especially with Western Asia. I am an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Baruch College in the History Department; Visiting Assistant Professor at Pratt Institute in the History of Art and Design Department; and Adjunct at the University of Hartford (Connecticut) in the Art Department

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Kate Minniti

What you study & where you are getting your degree: PhD Candidate in Classical Archaeology, University of British Columbia (UBC), Department of Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies (AMNE)

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Dates (8-weeks):

Tuesdays @ 12 pm EDT

- Session 1: June 14th
- Session 2: June 21st
- Session 3: June 28th
- Session 4: July 5th
- Session 5: July 12th
- Session 6: July 19th
- Session 7: July 26th
- Session 8: August 2nd

Location:(Provided by SASA)

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83907148947?pwd=TmZhdzQ3TGIIIRmVoSDBOazlLTXQvQT09>

Zoom Meeting ID

839 0714 8947

Zoom Meeting Password

563653

Reading Group Google Folder: (PDF Readings and Recordings of Sessions)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sA5Fhuc4FdlaF-hQyaVA_cKpiO9i8r07?usp=sharing

Session 1: Introduction

Introduction to the gods: primeval, constellations, creation myths, and triads

- [The Book of the Heavenly Cow](#)
- [The Contendings of Horus and Seth](#)

Session 2: Pyramids, Part One

What are the pyramids? What was inside of them?

- Read Rigby: [Building the Great Pyramid at Giza](#)
- The Pyramid texts, including the Cannibal Hymn
 - [Selections](#)
 - [Unas \(with Cannibal Hymn\)](#)
 - [Teti](#)
 - [Pepi I](#)

Session 3: Pyramids, Part Two

Pyramids in media: tv shows, movies, video games

- Moon Knight
- The Pyramid
- Alien vs. Predator
- Assassin's Creed: Origins https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSPRAC-3xi8&list=PLLVc67-qUWSjogADw6Bh_j38TMDk6GIJN&index=11

Session 4: The Book of the Dead, Part 1

More of an instruction manual than a cursed book!

- Passages and vignettes from the Papyri of Ani, Hunefer, and others
 - [Selections from the Book of the Dead](#)
 - [Chapter 125](#)

Session 5: The Book of the Dead, Part 2

Afterlife and weighing of the heart in media

- Moon Knight
- The Pyramid
- The Mummy

- Assassin's Creed: Origins

Session 6: Atenism

The 'heresy' of Akhenaten: what happened to the gods?

- [The stela of Suty and Hor](#)
- [The Hymn to the Aten](#)
- [Boundary stela at Amarna](#)
- Visiting Amarna in *Assassin's Creed: Origins*

Session 7: Greco-Roman assimilations and additions, Part 1

New and assimilated gods: Apis, Sarapis, Isis and Osiris, Hermanubis, Harpocrates, Antinous

- Extracts from Herodotus, *Histories*, book 2
- Extracts from Apuleius' *The Golden Ass*

Session 8: Greco-Roman assimilations and additions, Part 2

Hellenistic and Roman gods and temples in media

- *Assassin's Creed: Origins* (<https://youtu.be/anIW5WeN3Xo?t=2255>)
- *Agora (Serapeum)* (https://youtu.be/f5ITRa_ZJn8?t=118)
- *Alexander* (
- *Cleopatra* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtuWZWB12uM>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvHqbsOBUNQ> and of course
<https://youtu.be/vB5Wv8IHVf0?t=66> but also <https://youtu.be/ucdaEid1Y4A?t=28>)
- *Moon Knight* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdSlv7RBJnQ>)

Google Drive with all the materials can be found [here](#).