



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Death Burial And The Afterlife in Ancient Egypt - 220000*

*Last update 24-09-2025*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 1st degree (Bachelor)

*Responsible Department:* Archaeology & Ancient near East

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 1st Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Racheli Shalomi Hen

*Coordinator Email:* [msrhen@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:msrhen@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* By Appointment

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Teaching Staff:

Dr. Racheli Shalomi-Hen

Course/Module description:

The course deals with Ancient Egyptian burial as preparation for the afterlife. As part of the study, we will discuss the Egyptians' hopes for the Realm of the Dead, and their fears of what awaits them after death. We will also learn about the ways the Egyptians dealt with the fears and difficulties expected in the Realm of the Dead.

Course/Module aims:

To introduce students to the central ideas expressed in Egyptian burial on the one hand, and in the large corpus of funerary texts and tomb decoration in ancient Egypt on the other.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

List key ideas in the Egyptian Realm of the Dead.

Identify key themes in tomb decorations.

Distinguish between the various types of funerary texts and know how to associate them with the different historical periods in ancient Egypt.

Point out conceptual developments according to a timeline.

Locate a bibliography relevant to the topics being studied.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture, reading and presentation in class.

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction.
2. Death in the Predynastic Period.
3. The Tombs of the Kings at Abydos.
4. Pyramids.
5. Egyptian Funerals from Tomb Decorations.
6. Egyptian Funerals from Funerary Literature.
7. Cult of the Ancestors.
8. Letters to the Dead.

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9. *The Judgement of the Dead - from the Old Kingdom and the Middle Kingdom.*
  10. *The Judgement of the Dead - Beginning with the New Kingdom.*
  11. *Tombs of the Kings in the New Kingdom.*
  12. *Mummification and Coffins.*
  13. *Summary.*

*Required Reading:*

*To be assigned later.*

*Additional Reading Material:*

*To be assigned later.*

*Grading Scheme:*

*Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 60 %*  
*Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %*  
*Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports*  
*/ Forum / Simulation / others 10 %*  
*Personal Guide / Tutor / Team Evaluation 10 %*  
*Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 10 %*

*Additional information:*