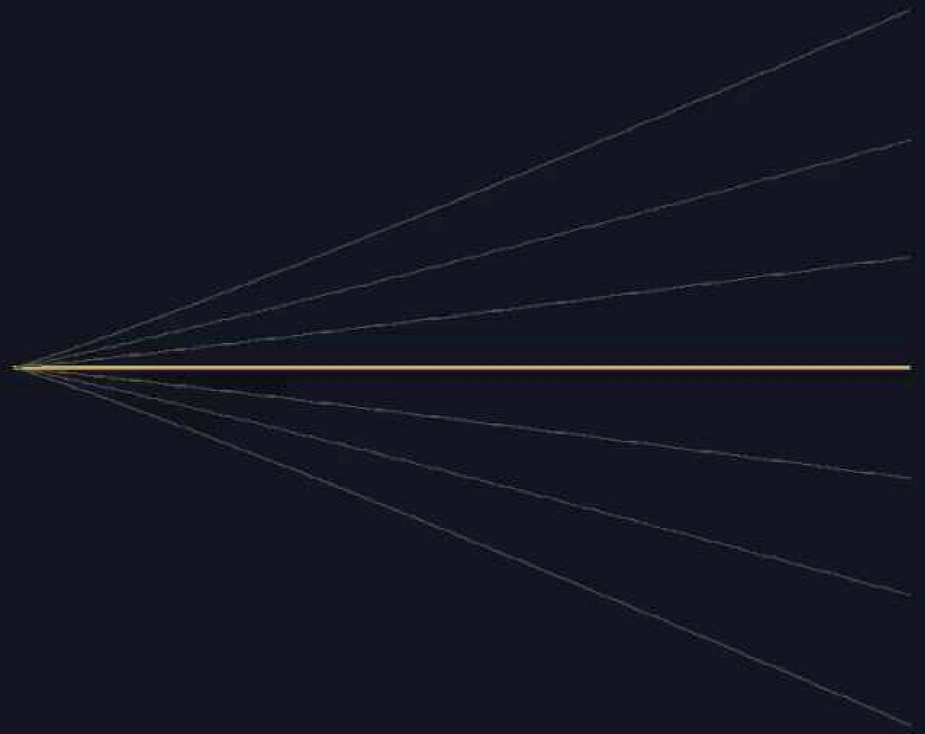
ANDERSON ACADEMY

EGYP 101 B · Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs Middle Egyptian (Brief course)

Course Overview · about 5 min

Course Overview



A library of university-level courses

Pay it forward

- Be of service to humanity
- Tell us what you did and learned
- Email or a post on X
- That is full compensation

¶ 0.1

by email to garyanderson@mail.grokbot or in a post on X to @garyanderson. That is full compensation.

This course

- Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs
- Middle Egyptian
- An overview plus six lectures
- About one hour in total

¶ 0.2

The letter B means Brief: an overview, then six short lectures that together take about an hour.

A long written life

- **About 3200 BC** — first hieroglyphs
- **About 2000 BC** — Middle Egyptian
- **AD 394** — last hieroglyphic inscription
- **Today** — Coptic in church liturgy

¶ 0.3

Its final stage, Coptic, is still used in the liturgy of the Coptic Church.

Why Middle Egyptian

- The classical stage
- Used on monuments for centuries
- Opens temples, tombs, and stelae
- The usual first stage taught

¶ 0.4

and they kept writing their monuments and religious texts in it for many centuries.

How signs appear here

Signs

- Described in words
- Named by Gardiner number

Words

- Words in transliteration
- Spoken in conventional form

¶ 0.5

Egyptian words appear in transliteration, a way of writing Egyptian sounds with Latin letters, which lecture two explains.

Lectures 1 to 3

1. Language, scripts, decipherment
2. How the script works, the alphabet
3. Biliterals, triliterals, word signs

¶ 0.6

Lecture two covers how the script works and the one-consonant signs, the so-called alphabet.

Lectures 4 to 6

4. Determinatives, nouns, gender, number

5. Pronouns, sentences, the verb

6. Royal names, offering formula, reading

¶ 0.7

Lecture five covers grammar: pronouns, adjectives, the genitive, prepositions, simple sentences, and the basic verb form.

Three big ideas

- Signs mostly write consonants
- Silent signs classify meaning
- Repeated formulas reward a small vocabulary

¶ 0.8

Third, patterns: the same formulas and names repeat across Egypt, so a small vocabulary reads a great deal.

Before you begin

- No background needed
- Keep a sign list beside you
- Copy signs by hand
- Keep a notebook

¶ 0.9

Drawing a sign fixes it in memory far better than looking at it.

How to study

- Paragraph numbers like 2.5
- Five-question quiz per lecture
- Fifty-question final exam
- Tripos paper with model answers

¶ 0.10

There is also a fifty-question final exam and a tripos paper of six essay questions with model answers.

How this course was made

- Written with AI under human direction
- Checked against Gardiner and Allen
- Conventions noted where they differ
- Report errors by paragraph

¶ 0.11

Egyptologists do not agree on every reading or translation, and the course notes where conventions differ.

Contact

- Email: garyanderson@mail.grokbot.com
- X: @garyanderson
- Next: Lecture 1, language and scripts

¶ 0.12

Now let us begin with the long story of the Egyptian language and how its writing was lost and found again.