

SPRING COURSE

Warfare and Weaponry in Ancient Egypt



The image of the mighty pharaoh single-handedly slaying his enemies, always unquestionably victorious, is perhaps one of the most iconic royal images from Ancient Egypt. But could kings really live up to this timeless and all-powerful ideal? What about the realities of warfare in Ancient Egypt more generally? What do we know about ordinary soldiers? How did warfare change throughout the ages? What weapons were used? We will explore these questions and more, looking closely at some of the core elements of the written, artistic, and archaeological records and discuss some of the problems scholars have faced in piecing together what we know.

Instructor: **Carla G. Mesa Guzzo**

Carla G. Mesa Guzzo is a doctoral Candidate at the University of Toronto. Her proposed dissertation topic examines militaristic and imperial aspects of kingship in the New Kingdom. Since 2014, she has worked cataloguing weapons in the Egyptian Collection of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Dates: **Mondays** (May 1st, May 8th, May 15th and May 29th)

Location: TBA

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Cost: \$100.00 SSEA members/ \$125.00 non-members/ \$50.00 students/ per lecture enrolment may be available on request.

To register send a cheque payable to:

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Please write "Spring Course" in the memo line of the cheque. **Please include your contact information (phone or e-mail) with payment.** For more information about the SSEA see www.thessea.org or email us at toronto@thessea.org.

Warfare and Weaponry in Ancient Egypt- Syllabus

WEEK 1: *Warfare Through the Ages*

A broad overview of Egyptian military history from the Early Dynastic Period to the end of the New Kingdom. This will include a look at important conflicts, the evolution of the military, including its structure and social role, and more.

WEEK 2: *Tools of the Trade: Ancient Egyptian Weapon*

A survey of the various categories of weapons used in ancient Egypt, including those introduced from the Near East, such as the sickle sword, composite bow, and chariot. We will discuss how each of these weapons developed over time as well as touching upon their historical and symbolic significance.

WEEK 3: *Warrior Kings*

A discussion of the warrior-king ideal and the exploits of some of the most famous royal warriors in Egyptian history, including Thutmose III and Ramses II. Focusing on the New Kingdom, we will investigate what makes the ideal warrior-king, and ask whether or not this always matched reality.

WEEK 4: *The New Kingdom: Age of Imperialism*

After a brief survey of earlier forays into empire building, we will look at the development and structure of the Egyptian empire during the New Kingdom, as well as the underlying ideology that formed the basis for its existence.