Aims:

- To review the prehistory, history and archaeology of the period from Predynastic Egypt to the Hyksos Period, evaluating evidence from a variety of source materials.
- To introduce students to the study of museum objects.
- To introduce students to the use of online resources.
- To introduce students to the study of Egyptian hieroglyphs.

Learning Outcomes (knowledge of):

- The principal sources for the study of Egyptology;
- The basis of Egyptian chronology
- The geography of Egypt
- The evidence, key figures, events, social organisation, religion, funerary beliefs and customs, art, architecture and literature relating to the period
- The history of the interpretation of hieroglyphs

Skills Acquired:

- Understanding of the critical considerations underlying the use of sources for the study of ancient Egypt
- Understanding of the development and decipherment of hieroglyphs

Transferable Skills Acquired:

- An ability to gain access to, and make appropriate use of, source materials in libraries and museums,
- An ability to gain access to, and make appropriate use of, online source materials,
- An ability to use sources accurately and begin to apply critical judgement,
- An ability to present structured and reasoned written work with appropriate referencing,
- Problem solving,
- Computer skills.

Content:

Topic 1.1: Introduction and Background to Ancient Egypt

- 1.1(1): Introduction to the Course
- 1.1(2): The Geographical Background
- 1.1(3): Dating Ancient Egypt
1.1(4): The Archaeological Background

Topic 1.2: Earliest Egypt

- 1.2(1): Predynastic Egypt
- 1.2(2): Unification
- 1.2(3): Funerary Customs and Beliefs
- 1.2(4): The Early Dynastic Period (Dynasties 1-2)

Topic 1.3: The Old Kingdom

- 1.3(1): Dynasty 3: The Step Pyramid
- 1.3(2): Dynasty 4: Snefru and the Evolution of the True Pyramid
- 1.3(3): Dynasty 4: The Great Pyramids
- 1.3(4): Dynasties 5 and 6: Sun Temples and Pyramid Texts

Topic 1.4: Collapse and Recovery: The First Intermediate Period

- 1.4(1): A Basic Introduction to Egyptian Art
- 1.4(2): Old Kingdom Texts
- 1.4(3): The First Intermediate Period (Dynasties 7- early 11)
- 1.4(4): Recovery (Dynasty 11)

Topic 1.5: The Early Middle Kingdom (Dynasty 12)

- 1.5(1): Dynasty 12
- 1.5(2): Foreign Affairs
- 1.5(3): Osiris and the Afterlife
- 1.5(4): The Two Brothers: A Case Study

Topic 1.6: The Late Middle Kingdom and the Second Intermediate Period

- 1.6(1): Jewellery
- 1.6(2): Domestic Architecture: the Town of Kahun
- 1.6(3): Everyday Life in the Middle Kingdom
- 1.6(4): The Second Intermediate Period

Topic 1.7: Language Studies I

- 1.7(1): Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs
- 1.7(1): The Decipherment of Egyptian Hieroglyphs
- 1.7(2): The Names of the Gods
- 1.7(3): Advanced Tutorial: Reading Royal Names

End of Year Activity (non-compulsory)
Assessment:

- **Formative assessment**: Completion of Personal Portfolio; posting of at least two-thirds activity work to the discussion boards; completion of all quizzes
- **Summative assessment**: Two essays each of 2,500 words