

## Michael A. Freeman

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Texas Tech University | Department of Classical & Modern Languages and Literatures | Lubbock, TX

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### University Employment

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- 2024- Assistant Professor, Classics, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX
- 2023-2024 Instructor, Classical Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC

### Research & Teaching Interests

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Ancient Mediterranean history (esp. social and cultural history) | history of the book  
| Ethiopian writing culture | ancient magic, religion and mythology | papyrology and  
paleography | embodiment theory

### Education

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- 2023 **Duke University, Department of Classical Studies**  
Ph.D. in Classical Studies. Dissertation: “The Hands That Write: Life and  
Training of Greco-Roman Scribes.” Advisor: Dr. William A. Johnson
- 2017 **University of Pennsylvania, Department of Classical Studies**  
B.A. in Classical Languages and Ancient History  
*Summa cum laude* with Honors distinction, Phi Beta Kappa
- 2016 **Balkan Heritage Field School, Balkan Heritage Foundation**  
Apollonia Pontica Excavation Project
- 2015 **College Year in Athens, DIKEMES**

### Publications

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- 2025 Michael A. Freeman, “The Body of the Scribe,” *Classical Journal* 120.4, pp. 450-478.
- 2025 Michael A. Freeman, “The Fackelmann Papyri at Duke University,” *BASP* 62, pp. 247-262.
- [2025] Michael A. Freeman and Amanda C. Ball, “Embodying *Voces Magicae*,” (co-authored chapter in *Voces Magicae and the Power of the Unintelligible*, S. Torallas-Tovar, R. Martín-Hernández, P. Sarischouli, eds.; in press)

- 2016 Robert G. Ousterhout, Grant Frame, and Michael Freeman (eds.). 2016. *Magic in the Ancient World: An Exhibit at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, April 16, 2016-April 30, 2017*. Philadelphia: History of Art Department at the University of Pennsylvania. (exhibition catalog)

## **Works in Progress**

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### **Monographs**

Michael A. Freeman. *Hands That Write: The Training and the Lived Experiences of Ancient Mediterranean Scribes* (monograph under contract with Oxford University Press).

### **Articles and Chapters**

Michael A. Freeman, "Writing Technology," chapter in *A Companion to Science, Technology, and Medicine in Ancient Greece and Rome*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Georgia Irby ed. (chapter in preparation).

Michael A. Freeman, "Erasing Mistakes: Revisions to Our Understanding of Ancient Writing Tools Used for Correcting Errors," (article in preparation).

Michael A. Freeman, "Books Written by Children: New Evidence for the Age and Social Background of Copyists," (article in preparation).

Michael A. Freeman, "P. Duk. inv. 668: An Early Christian Liturgy from Egypt," (edition in preparation).

Michael A. Freeman, "PSI inv. 4278: Religious Association Account of Contributions," (edition in preparation for publication in *PSI XVIII*).

Michael A. Freeman, "PSI inv. 1587 v: Tax Register Reference Sheet for the Oxyrhynchite Nome," (edition in preparation for publication in *PSI XVIII*).

Michael A. Freeman, "PSI inv. 1587 r: Letter Concerning the Return of Property," (edition in preparation for publication in *PSI XVIII*).

Michael A. Freeman, "VM inv. 2533: Tax Receipt from Theban Family Archive," (edition in preparation).

## **Fellowships & Awards**

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2024 **ASP Travel Award**  
American Society of Papyrologists

2024 **Papyrology Summer Institute Fellowship**

- American Society of Papyrologists and Istituto Papirologico “G. Vitelli”
- 2023      **Presidential Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Presentation**  
Classical Association of the Middle West and South
- 2022      **Competitive Teaching Fellowship**  
The Graduate School and Dept. of Classical Studies, Duke University
- 2022      **Summer Course Development Fellow**  
Duke Learning Innovation, Duke University  
-Designed ancient Greek summer intensive course
- 2019      **Chester P. Middlesworth Award**  
Rubenstein Library, Duke University  
-For “excellence of research” using primary source and rare materials
- 2018-19      **Archival Expeditions Fellowship**  
Rubenstein Library, Duke University  
-Developed and taught hands-on module on Greek papyrology

## Reviews

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- 2025      Review of *Scribes and Language Use in the Graeco-Roman World*. BMCR, 2025.12.03. Edited by Sonja Dahlgren, Martti Leiwo, and Marja Vierros. *Commentationes humanarum litterarum*, 147. Helsinki: The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, 2024. Pp. 285. ISBN 9789516535206.

## Conference Papers and Talks

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### Papers Delivered

- 2025      “Embodied Knowledge in Ancient Mediterranean Scribal Practices,” Writing as an Event and a Process: Ancient and Medieval Scribes at Work. Basel. September 10, 2025.
- 2025      “A ‘Human Turn’ in the Study of Scribal Cultures,” Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures. Workshop: Learning to Write. Hamburg. June 12, 2025.
- 2025      “Expunging Mistakes: Revising Understanding of Ancient Erasing Tools,” Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting. January 4, 2025.
- 2024      “Scribes and School Texts,” Beyond the Codex; Workshop 2. October 17, 2024 (invited; online conference)
- 2024      “Scribes & Schoolchildren,” Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures, Texas Tech University, Lubbock Texas. April 5, 2024 (invited).

- 2024      “Books Written by Children: New Evidence for the Age and Social Background of Copyists,” SCS Annual Meeting. January, 7 2024.
- 2023      “Power Inscribed on Their Skin,” *Voces Magicae* and the Power of the Unintelligible: Session 4. September 14, 2023. Delivered together with Amanda C. Ball (invited; online conference).
- 2023      “The Body of the Scribe,” Classical Association of the Middle West and South Annual Meeting. April 1, 2023.
- 2022      “The Fackelmann Papyri,” SCS Annual Meeting. January 8, 2022 (online conference).
- 2021      “Scribes and Grammarians in Roman Egypt,” SCS Annual Meeting. January 8, 2021 (online conference).
- 2019      “The Rise of Reading Culture Made Poetry Palpable to the Platonists,” CAMWS Annual Meeting. April 5, 2019.
- 2019      “Speaking Power to Power: A Hypothesis for the *Inscripfenfiguren* Magical Gems.” Duke-UNC Annual Classics Graduate Symposium. February 9, 2019 (graduate student conference).

### Conference and Panel Organization

- [2026]      *Scribal Cultures of the Ancient World*. SCS Annual Meeting. January 7-10, 2026. Organizer and chair of organizer-referee panel.
- 2023      *Manuscript Migration: The Multiple Lives of the Rubenstein Library’s Collections*. Manuscript Migration Lab at the Franklin Humanities Institute. Duke University. 31 August 2023. Co-organized with Jennifer Knust, Andrew Armacost, and Eli Meyerhoff. (exhibition opening panel).
- 2023      *Duke-UNC Classical Studies Graduate Symposium*. Duke University. 4 March 2023. Chaired organizational committee and panels (graduate student conference).
- 2020      *Duke-UNC Classical Studies Graduate Symposium*. Duke University. 22 February 2020. Co-chaired organizational committee and panels with Alex Karsten (graduate student conference).
- 2018      *Duke-UNC Classical Studies Graduate Student Colloquium*. UNC Chapel Hill. 17 February 2018. Member of organizational committee chaired by Nick Winters (graduate student conference).

**Teaching**

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**Texas Tech University**

- Spring 2026 Papyrology and Epigraphy – graduate seminar
- Fall 2025 Classical Mythology – undergraduate lecture  
Religion in the Ancient World – undergraduate capstone seminar
- Spring 2025 Classical Mythology – undergraduate lecture  
Greek Prose – graduate survey
- Fall 2024 World of Greece – undergraduate lecture  
Magic in the Ancient World – graduate/undergraduate capstone seminar

**Duke University**

- Spring 2024 Elementary Latin – Semester II
- Fall 2023 Elementary Latin – Semester I
- Fall 2022 Elementary Latin – Semester I
- Spring 2022 Greek History (co-taught with Dr. Joshua Sosin) – undergraduate lecture
- Spring 2021 Elementary Latin – Semester II
- Fall 2020 Elementary Latin – Semester I

**Guest Lecturer**

- 2024 “Intro to Papyrology”, “Scribal Practicum,” Duke University
- 2023 “*Paideia* and Scribal Training,” Duke University
- 2022 “Intro to Papyrology”, “Scribal Practicum,” Duke University
- 2019 “Intro to Papyrology”, “Scribal Practicum,” Duke University

**Other Teaching Experience**

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**Interim Upper School Latin Instructor, Durham Academy**

- 2023 Latin, all levels (Novice through AP)

**Pedagogical Training**

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- 2021-23 **Certificate in College Teaching**  
The Graduate School, Duke University  
-Multi-semester program of pedagogical coursework and workshops
- 2021-22 **Pedagogy Mentorship Group**  
Department of Classical Studies, Duke University

- Weekly workshops on pedagogy and course design
- Teaching observation with instructor and peer feedback

- 2020-21      **Digital Pedagogy Team Leader for Latin**  
Department of Classical Studies, Duke University
- Designed online and hybrid coursework for Latin seminars
  - Trained fellow instructors with digital resources

### **Professional Service at Texas Tech**

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#### **Texas Tech University**

- 2025-      **Religious Studies Interdisciplinary Minor**  
Program Director
- 2025-      **Phi Beta Kappa**  
Transcript Review Committee Member
- 2024-      **Tech Classical Society**  
Academic Advisor
- Oversee, mentor and support classics-focused student organization

### **Professional Experience with Library and Museum Collections**

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- 2022-24      **Coordinator, Manuscript Migration Lab**  
Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University
- Curated exhibition “Manuscript Migration: The Multiple Lives of the Rubenstein Library’s Collections”
  - Directed student and faculty archival research projects
- 2020-      **Manuscript Migration Lab Affiliate**  
Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University
- Ethics-focused provenance research of Duke’s rare books collection
- 2020      **Papyri.info Research Assistant**  
Duke Collaboratory for Classics Computing, Duke University
- Encoded over 100 texts in the papyri.info using Leiden+
- 2015-17      **Penn Museum Curatorial/Research Fellow**  
Penn Museum, University of Pennsylvania
- Developed exhibit “Magic in the Ancient World” with museum curators
  - Conducted original research project on Penn Museum’s artifact collection

### **Public History and Engagement**

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- 2023      *Manuscript Migration: The Multiple Lives of the Rubenstein Library's Collections*. Exhibition in Duke University's Mary Duke Biddle Room. Curated together with Jennifer Knust and Andrew Armacost in collaboration with colleagues at the Franklin Humanities Institute's Manuscript Migration Lab and the Rubenstein Library exhibition team.
- 2016      *Magic in the Ancient World*. Exhibition in the Penn Museum. Developed together with curators Robert Ousterhout and Grant Frame and the Penn Museum exhibition team.

### **Research Languages**

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Ancient Greek, Latin.  
Reading: French, German, Spanish.  
Basic: Modern Greek.

### **Digital Humanities and Technological Proficiencies**

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Code: Text Encoding; Leiden+ (transcription/markup syntax)  
Data: Database Development; Data Management; Data Visualization  
Design: Exhibition Software (Omeka, Neatline); Adobe Creative Cloud  
LMS: Canvas, Blackboard, Sakai, Veracross, Google Classroom  
Productivity: Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, Zoom

### **References**

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- William A. Johnson, Professor of Classical Studies, Duke University:  
[william.johnson@duke.edu](mailto:william.johnson@duke.edu) | (919) 684-2082
- Jennifer Wright Knust, Professor of Religious Studies, Duke University:  
[jennifer.knust@duke.edu](mailto:jennifer.knust@duke.edu) | (919) 660-3523
- Joshua D. Sosin, Associate Professor of Classical Studies, Duke University:  
[joshua.sosin@duke.edu](mailto:joshua.sosin@duke.edu) | (919) 681-2992
- Jennifer Clare Woods, Associate Professor of Classical Studies, Duke University:  
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