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OT 752 Biblical Archeology

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OT 752
Biblical Archaeology

Asbury Theological Seminary
Spring 2002
Fri 1:00-2:45 pm

Instructor:
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Office: 858-2032

Office Hours:
Wednesday 11:00-12:30 pm
Thursday 1-2:00 pm

Course Description:
Within this century, Biblical Archaeology has proven itself a discipline essential to the serious study of the Old Testament. In many instances, this particular discipline has served to clarify difficult passages, fill in correlative sociological and historical details, and, generally, shed important light on the intent of the biblical narrative. Moreover, archaeology has helped to correct minimalist viewpoints regarding the historical integrity of the text. Recognizing the imperative nature of this still-young discipline, this class seeks to (1) expose the student to the major archaeological and epigraphic discoveries of the biblical world, and (2) to train the student in a sound biblical archaeological method.

Course Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, the successful student will have gained the following:

1) An enhanced knowledge of the history, sociology, and geography of the Israelite people through the lens of “external” (i.e. non-biblical) evidence.
2) An introductory understanding of the goals and methods of archaeology in the land of the Bible and its application to biblical studies.
3) The ability to interact with scholarship demonstrating the intersection of archaeology (i.e. the remains of material culture) and the Bible.
4) A growing ability to distill from the remains of material culture meaning significant to the interpretation of the Old Testament.

Course requirements:
Method of Instruction:
Slide-presentations, lecture, and class discussion of materials read will dominate the first two-thirds of this class. Students will be responsible to thoroughly prepare for and participate in these class meetings. The last third of this class will consist primarily of student presentations on various topics critical to the discipline of biblical archaeology.
(Course requirements, cont.)

**Required Textbooks:**

**Recommended Textbooks:**

**Class Expectations:**

25% **Class Participation.** As this is a seminar class, students must come to class prepared to discuss (intelligently!) the topic of the day. Periodically you will be given specific discussion/brief presentation topics due in the following class meeting.

35% **Quizzes.** Five quizzes will be given on announced topics ranging from the topographic profile of Palestine to the nature of a tell to the material culture of the Iron I Age to archaeological eras of the Levant.

40% **In-class Student Presentations.** Each student will be responsible for a class presentation in which s/he will teach the class for 45 minutes on his/her assigned topic. A visual presentation, a lecture outline, an appropriate reading assignment for the class, and pertinent handouts (map/chart/site survey/etc.) must augment the lecture. Each presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. The student will be provided with an “essential” bibliographic list for his/her topic, but will be expected to go beyond this list in her/his collection of data and visual material. Students will be evaluated by their peers and by the professor.

**Attendance** is essential to a seminar class, and, therefore, it will be recorded. The first absence will be waived; the second and third absence will each result in a 2% reduction in the student’s final evaluation. The fourth absence will result in a 5% reduction in the student’s final evaluation. Upon the fifth absence, barring personal disaster, the student will have failed this class.
Class Schedule:

Class Period 1 (2/15):

**Introduction to OT 711 and “Biblical” Archaeology**
Hershel Shanks, “Is the Bible Right After All? Part II” *BAR* 22/5 (September/October 1996): 30-37, 74-77
Wm. Dever, *What Did the Biblical Writers Know & When Did They Know It?*, “What Archaeology Is and What It Can Contribute to Biblical Studies,” 53-95

The Bible in Real Time & Space
LaSor, Hubbard & Bush, “Geography,” pp. 619-631
Atlas, pp. 8-13, 36-37, 58-59, 132-135 (138)

Class Period 2 (2/22):

The Peoples of the Old Testament World
A.J. Hoerth, *The Peoples of the Old Testament World*, “read” entire book with the end goal that you can define the locale, era, and major characteristics of each people group discussed in the text. (347)

The Societal Culture of the Old Testament World
De Vaux, pp. 3-61, “Nomadism & Family Institutions”

Class Period 3 (3/1): The Basics of Excavation **map & people quiz 8%**
Currid, pp. 1-118
Mazar, pp. 9-38

Class Period 4 (3/8): Epigraphy


Class Period 5 (3/15): The Neolithic Revolution & the Early Bronze Age
Atlas, pp. 10-13
Mazar, pp. 35-144

*Recommended:*
Redford, pp. 29-55
“Arad,” The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land, pp. 75-87

Class Period 6 (3/22): The Middle Bronze Age
quiz 8%
Genesis 12-17, 24-25:11
Atlas, pp. 14-21
W.F. Albright, “The Patriarchal Background of Israel’s Faith,” Yabweh and the Gods of Canaan, 53-91
Mazar, pp. 151-227
K. Kitchen, “The Patriarchal Age: Myth or History?” BAR (Mar 95): 48-57; 88-95

Class Period 8 (?): MB, cont.
Genesis 37, 39- Exodus 1
Atlas, p. 34
ANET, pp. 5-12, “The Story of Sinuhee”; pp. 173-175, “The Expulsion of the Hyksos”
Kevin D. Miller, “Did the Exodus Never Happen?” Christianity Today 42/10 [Sept 1998]: 44-51
J. Hoffmeier, “Egypt, Plagues in” ABD 2:374-78

GOOD FRIDAY & READING WEEK

Class Period 9 (4/12): The Late Bronze Age
take-home quiz due 11%
Mazar, pp. 232-291
Atlas, pp. 20-35
ABD III:545-558, Wm. Dever, “Archaeology of the Israelite Conquest”

Class Period 10 (4/19): The Iron I Age
Mazar, 295-363 “The Days of the Judges”; 463-491 "General Aspects of the Israelite Material Culture"
Atlas, pp. 42, 44-50; 52-54
Redford, “The Coming of the Sea Peoples,” 241-56
ANET, p. 209, “The Gezer Calendar” 121

Class Period 11 (4/26): The Iron II Age
quiz 8%
Mazar, pp. 368-398 "The United Monarchy”; 492-501 “Israelite Cult”; 502-514 “Art”
Atlas, pp. 62-79
Dever, 159-244 “Daily Life in Israel in the time of the Divided Monarchy”
Malamat, “Caught Between the Great Powers: the Fall of Judah” B.A.R (July/Aug 1999): 34-41, 64 142

Recommended:

Student Presentations
* Reading assignments will be provided for class members one week prior to each scheduled presentation. Each presentation will be preceded by a brief quiz taken from the assigned reading. The results of this quiz will count toward the student’s class participation grade.
Neither adopting the biblical minimalism of such academics as Philip Davies and Thomas Thomson, nor the fundamentalism of Finkelstein’s ‘Zionist’ contemporaries, the documentary strives to find a ‘middle ground’ between the two schools of thought. The series continues by illuminating the possible geographical evidence which may be used to date the Exodus. Outline of Bible-related topics Bible portal v. t. e. Biblical archaeology is an academic school and a subset of Biblical studies and Levantine archaeology. Biblical archaeology studies archaeological sites from the Ancient Near East and especially the Holy Land (also known as Palestine, Land of Israel and Canaan), from biblical times. Biblical archaeology emerged in the late 19th century, by British and American archaeologists, with the aim of confirming the historicity of the Bible. Between the Biblical Archaeology Review. 360,874 likes · 443 talking about this. The excitement of archaeology and the latest in Bible scholarship since 1975. The legend of jolly old St. Nicholas evolved into Santa Claus in Christmas tradition, but who was St. Nicholas? Biblical Archaeology Review is a one-of-a-kind archaeology magazine that acts as a bridge between the academic study of archaeology and a broad general audience eager to understand the world of the Bible better. Covering both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament since its beginning in 1975, BAR is the leading nonsectarian forum for the discussion of Biblical archaeology. Articles by top scholars are written for the layperson, and archaeological news, trivia, and games ensure that even the most serious scholars enjoy reading the latest issue of BAR. Ancient Israel, 4th ed., updated by the world’s foremost biblical scholars and archaeologists. Pre-order now and use code "Prepub" to receive a 20% discount. More. Take a pilgrimage to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the revered site of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, in the Spring 2021 issue of Biblical Archaeology Review. More. Magazine Highlights.