

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

ANTH/RELS 317 (500)

SYLLABUS

SPRING 2006 (Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:55 - 5:10 PM)

Harrington Education Center-Classroom 110

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Office hours: Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 PM, or by appointment at the
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This course is designed to introduce the student to the archaeology and material culture of the Land of the Bible. We will cover the period from the Epi-Paleolithic period (ca. 10,000-8,500 B.C.) till the 1st-century A.D. Classes will be devoted primarily to Keynote™ lectures. We will also see video presentations.

The final grade will be based on the total grades from two mid-term examinations, worth 33 points each (given on February 14th and April 4th) and a final examination worth 34 points (given on Tuesday, May 9th from 1:00-3:00 PM). Students must bring their own Scantron test forms and pencils to class on exam days.

The second mid-term, and the final test, will include only material covered since the previous test. The class session prior to each test will be spent in reviewing the material covered in the test. Letter grades assigned will follow the standard TAMU scale: 100-90 = **A**, 89-80 = **B**, 79-70 = **C**, 69-60 = **D**, 59 and below = **F**.

Sometimes students do not do well on a midterm. Should this happen the student will have the option to take a final exam *covering all the material of the entire semester*. This test will count for the final and will replace the lower of the two mid-term test grades (67 point value). Anyone wishing to take this option must register to do so no later than Tuesday, April 25th. *Note that this possibility should be viewed as an opportunity of last resort.*

As a textbook for the first part of the course we will be using Amihai Mazar's, *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: 10,000-586 B.C.E.* (Doubleday; New York). 1990 or 1992. Additional readings will be found at Evans E-reserve. The majority of additional readings for this course are found in a journal entitled *Biblical Archaeology Review*. This resource is now available online at two internet sites to Texas A&M students:

A) An online archive of all articles by word search, title, author and subject at:

<http://www.basarchive.org/bswbSearch.asp>

B) An online archive searchable by volume number and date at:

<http://www.basarchive.org/bswbBrowse.asp>

(NB: Set the "Limit Search by Issue" indicator to "BAR," which is the acronym for *Biblical Archaeology Review*). *To access these internet resources you must either use a university computer or enter through "My Portal."*

CLASS LECTURES ON LINE

Class lectures are available on-line as downloadable pdf files. These are located in a folder on the Course Reserves Page>Documents>Lecture Slides. Students should download these files and print them out (multiple slides per printed page) as a convenient aid in taking notes. *These lecture files do not replace class attendance.*

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room B116, Cain Hall. The telephone number is 845-1637.

PLAGIARISM

The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class, which include, but are not limited to syllabi, review sheets and examinations. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated.

If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the *Texas A&M University Student Rules*, under the section "Scholastic Dishonesty."

CLASS ID NUMBERS

It is no longer legal to use a student's Social security number, nor their UIN numbers, for posting grades. For that reason each student will receive a unique class ID number, to be assigned on the first class meeting.

SCHEDULE SPRING 2005

WEEK 1

- (1) Tuesday, January 17th ➤ Introduction to Biblical Archaeology I
- (2) Thursday, January 19th ➤ (Short Introduction to *Search Now* by Dr. Susan Goodwin)
Introduction to Biblical Archaeology II

WEEK 2

- (3) Tuesday, January 24th ➤ Introduction to Biblical Archaeology III
- (4) Thursday, January 26th ➤ Introduction to Biblical Archaeology IV (Video presentation: Archaeology From the Ground Down)

WEEK 3

- (5) Tuesday, January 31st ➤ Introduction to Biblical Archaeology V
- (6) Thursday, February 2nd ➤ Introduction to Biblical Archaeology VI & The First Agriculturists: The Epi-Paleolithic and Neolithic Periods

WEEK 4

- (7) Tuesday, February 7th ➤ The First Agriculturists: The Epi-Paleolithic and Neolithic Periods (Contd.)
- (8) Thursday, February 9th ➤ Review

WEEK 5

- (9) Tuesday, February 14th ➤ Mid-term examination #1 (33 points)
- (10) Thursday, February 16th ➤ Innovative Communities of the Fourth Millennium: The Chalcolithic Period

WEEK 6

- (11) Tuesday, February 21st ➤ The Paleolithic Health Club: Where Have We Gone Wrong? (Guest Lecturer: Professor Vaughn Bryant)
- (12) Thursday, February 23rd ➤ The Emergence of Cities: The Early Bronze Age

WEEK 7

- (13) Tuesday, February 28th ➤ Early Bronze Age (Contd.)
- (14) Thursday, March 2nd ➤ An Interlude: The Early Bronze IV/Middle Bronze Age I

WEEK 8

- (15) Tuesday, March 7th ➤ Mighty Canaanite City-States: The Middle Bronze Age II
- (16) Tuesday, March 9th ➤ Middle Bronze Age II (Contd.) & In the Shadow of Egyptian Domination: The Late Bronze Age

Spring Break (March 13th -17th)

WEEK 9

- (17) Thursday, March 21st ➤ Late Bronze Age (Contd.)
- (18) Thursday, March 23rd ➤ Seafaring in the Late Bronze Age: The Uluburun Shipwreck

WEEK 10

- (19) Tuesday, March 28th ➤ A Voyage to Antiquity: (Video presentation)
- (20) Thursday, March 30th ➤ Review

WEEK 11

- (21) Tuesday, April 4th ➤ Mid-term examination #2 (33 points)
(22) Thursday, April 6th ➤ The Days of the Judges: Iron Age I

WEEK 12

- (23) Tuesday, April 11th ➤ The Sea Peoples and the Philistines: The Iron Age I
(24) Thursday, April 13th ➤ The United Monarchy: The Reigns of Saul, David and Solomon: Iron Age IIA, ca. 1000-925 B.C.

WEEK 13

- (25) Tuesday, April 18th ➤ The Divided Monarchy: Iron Age IIB-C
(26) Thursday, April 20th ➤ Historical overview: From the Persian to the Early Roman Periods & A Tour of the Second Holy Temple in Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus

WEEK 14

- (27) Tuesday, April 25th ➤ The Backdrop to the Ministry of Jesus: Seafaring on the Sea of Galilee
(28) Thursday, April 27th ➤ Jesus, Crucifixion, and the Bone Boxes

WEEK 15

- (29) Tuesday, May 2nd ➤ Review

Final examination: Tuesday, May 9th, 1:00-3:00 PM (34 points)

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**READINGS FROM COURSE RESERVES AND BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY
REVIEW**

N.B. Selections highlighted are from *Biblical Archaeology Review*.

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Ben-Tor, A., 1992. Introduction. In: *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. Ed. A. Ben-Tor. Trans. R. Greenberg. West Hanover: 1-9.

THE PALEOLITHIC HEALTH CLUB

Bryant, V.M., Jr., 2003. Eating Right: Lessons learned from our Prehistoric Ancestors. (Class handout)

Bryant, V. M., Jr., 1994. The Paleolithic Health Club. In *1995 Yearbook of Science and the Future*. Chicago, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.: 114-133.

THE NEOLITHIC PERIOD & NOAH'S FLOOD

Stone, E., 1999. Black Sea Flood Theory to be Tested. *Science* 283(12 February): 915-916.

THE EARLY BRONZE IV/MIDDLE BRONZE AGE I: AN INTERLUDE

The Enuma Elish (Mesopotamian Creation Epic). In: *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. Third Edition with Supplement. Ed. J.B. Pritchard. Princeton. 1969: 60-72.

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE II: MIGHTY CANAANITE CITY-STATES

Kitchen, K.A., 1995. The Patriarchal Age: Myth or History? *Biblical Archaeology Review* 21/2: 48-57, 88, 90, 92, 94-95.

THE ULUBURUN SHIPWRECK

Bass, G. F., 1987. Oldest Known Shipwreck Reveals Bronze Age Splendors. *National Geographic Magazine* 172: 693-733.

Pulak, C.M., 1998. The Uluburun Shipwreck: An Overview. *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 27: 188-224.

THE DAYS OF THE JUDGES: THE ISRAELITE CONQUEST AND SETTLEMENT

Yurco, F.J., 1990. 3,200-Year-Old Picture of Israelites found in Egypt. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 16/5: 20-38.

Anonymous, 1991. Can you Name the Panel with the Israelites? *Biblical Archaeology Review* 17/6: 54-55.

Rainey, A., 1991. Rainey's Challenge. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 17/6: 56-60.

Yurco, F.J., 1991. Yurco's Response. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 17/6: 61.

INVADERS FROM ACROSS THE SEA: THE ARRIVAL OF THE SEA PEOPLES AND THE PHILISTINES

The Journey of Wen-amon to Phoenicia. In: *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. Third Edition with Supplement. Ed. J.B. Pritchard. Princeton. 1969: 25-29.

Stager, L.E., 1991. When Canaanites and Philistines Ruled Ashkelon. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 17/2: 24-37, 40-43.

Wachsmann, S., 1997. Were the Sea Peoples Mycenaean? The Evidence of Ship Iconography. In: *Res Maritimae: Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean from Prehistory to Late Antiquity*. (Proceedings of the Second International Symposium "Cities on the Sea," Nicosia, Cyprus, October 18-22, 1994, Nicosia, Cyprus). Eds. S. Swiny, R. Hohlfelder and H. Wylde Swiny. Atlanta: 339-356.

THE REIGNS OF SAUL, DAVID AND SOLOMON: THE UNITED MONARCHY

Anonymous, 1994. "David" Found at Dan. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 20/2: 26-39.

Anonymous, 1999. Has David Been Found in Egypt? *Biblical Archaeology Review* 25/1: 34-35.

Monson, J., 2000. The New ^cAin Dara Temple: Closest Solomonic Parallel. *Biblical Archaeological Review* 26(3): 20-35, 67.

A TOUR OF THE SECOND TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

Ritmeyer, K. and L. Ritmeyer, 1990. Reconstructing Herod's Temple Mount in Jerusalem. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 15/6: 23-42.

JESUS, CRUCIFIXION AND THE BONE BOXES

Tsaferis, V., 1985. Crucifixion— The Archaeological Evidence. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 11/1: 44-53.

Zias, J., 1991. Death and Disease in Ancient Israel. *Biblical Archaeologist* (September)54/3: 147-159 (pages 154-155 on crucifixion).

Lemaire, A., 2002. Burial Box of James the Brother of Jesus: Earliest Archaeological Evidence of Jesus Found in Jerusalem. *Biblical Archaeological Review* 28(6): cover, 24-33, 70.

Greenhut, Z., 1992. Burial Cave of the Caiaphas Family. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 18/2: 28-36.

Reich, R., 1992. Caiaphas Name Inscribed on Bone Boxes. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 18/2: 38-44.

Feldman, S. and N. E. Roth, 2002. The Short List: The New Testament Figures Known to History. *Biblical Archaeological Review* 28(6): 34-37.

SEAFARING ON THE SEA OF GALILEE IN THE TIME OF JESUS: THE SEA OF GALILEE BOAT

Wachsmann, S., 1988. The Galilee Boat: 2,000-Year-Old Hull Recovered Intact. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 14/5: 29-33.

Wachsmann, S. 1995. *The Sea of Galilee Boat: An Extraordinary 2000 Year Old Discovery*. New York: 123-167 ("Yep, It's an Old Boat"), 355-369 (Once Upon a Boat).

THE FIRST JEWISH REBELLION AGAINST ROMAN RULE

Avigad, N., 1990. The Burnt House Captures a Moment in Time. *Biblical Archaeological Review* 9/6: 66-72.

Syon, D., 1992. Gamla— Portrait of a Rebellion. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 18/1: 20-37.

Netzer, E., 1991. The Last Days and Hours of Masada. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 17/6: 20-32.

Josephus: The Jewish War. G.A. Williamson (trans.). New York. 1981: 223-239 (Chapter 13 Vespasian's Conquering Advance), 355-373 (Chapter 21 The

Temple Burnt and the City Taken), 387-408 (Chapter 23 Cleaning-up Operations).

Sample Questions

Students sometimes have difficulty conceptualizing the types of questions that can be asked on multiple-choice tests. To help you in doing this, here are a few examples of questions from past tests given in this course:

What is the name of the predominant culture of the Chalcolithic period?

A) The Wadi Raba Culture; B) the Ghassulian culture; C) the Çatal Huyuk culture; D) the Shar Hagolan culture; E) the Natufian culture.

During which period were heads of the deceased removed at death and plastered to give them life-like features?

A) Early Bronze Age II; B) Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (PPNB); C) Pre-Pottery Neolithic A (PPNA); D) Pottery Neolithic B (PNB); E) Pottery Neolithic A (PNA).

What is the chronological framework for the Early Bronze Age I (EB I)?

A) 3,050-2,700; B) 3,300-3,050; C) 2,700-2,300; D) 6,000-5,000; E) 4,300-3,300.

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