Biblical Archaeology, Hebrew and Semitic Studies 451

Biblical Archaeology, Hebrew and Semitic Studies 451, meets on Thursday night between 6:30 and 9:15 in Room 2080 Grainger Hall. Jeffrey A. Blakely is the instructor for the class. Office hours will be Thursday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 at Café Espresso Royale and Thursday evening from 5:15 to 6:15 in the classroom should that be available, or, lacking that, outside and in front of the classroom. Other times can be arranged by calling my home number, 238-2227 (before 9 pm). I can also be reached by EMAIL at jblakely@wisc.edu. I can usually guarantee a response within 24 hours.

Each class consists of a 120-minute lecture, a 15-minute break and a 30-minute discussion covering the lecture, the assigned readings, and, if desired, optional readings. Grading for the course will be based on two papers. The first paper will be a 20-page research paper and will be due 20 October at the start of class. Either, compare and critically contrast methods, goals, assumptions, and conclusions of the following four books:

Robinson, Edward

Smith, George Adam

Albright, William Foxwell

Wright, George Ernest

Or, compare the use of archaeology in the following works, both at the times they were written and from today’s perspective.

Ahlström, Gösta W.
1993 The History of Ancient Palestine from the Palaeolithic Period to Alexander's Conquest, ed. by Diana Edelman. Sheffield: JSOT. (Section on Early Israel only) DS117 A58 1993 – Memorial Library

Alt, Albrecht

Albright, William F.

Gottwald, Norman K.

Lapp, Paul W.

Mendenhall, George E.

The second paper will be a 20-page research paper that is due 15 December at the start of class. The topic for this paper will be agreed to between each student and the instructor. Potential topics will be similar to those assigned to the undergraduate students.

Note, all students in Hebrew 451 are expected to read the required readings for the Hebrew 241 course and to participate actively in any class discussions. Should any student in 451 miss more than one class for anything but extraordinary reasons, or, the 451 students fail to participate in whatever class discussions that might develop giving evidence that they have studied the required readings, then all students in 451 will be required to take the final exam. This is necessary to provide a basis for evaluating exams given at a graduate level. The final exam would be due via email before 7:05 pm Tuesday 20 December or that evening between 5:05 and 7:05 pm in Room 2080 Grainger Hall. The final exam would be comprised of short answer and essay questions. In this latter eventuality, each paper and the final exam will be 33.33% of the final grade.

Auditors will be required neither to take exams nor to prepare papers, but will be expected to complete the readings and participate in class discussion.