Introduction to Biblical Archaeology

Hebrew and Semitic Studies 241/Jewish Studies 241

Introduction to Biblical Archaeology, either Hebrew and Semitic Studies 241 or Jewish Studies 241, meets on Thursday night between 6:30 and 9:15 pm in Room 2080 Grainger Hall. Jeffrey A. Blakely is the instructor for the class. Office hours are Thursday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 pm at Café Espresso Royale (next to Einstein Bagels on State Street) and Thursday evening from 5:15 to 6:15 pm in the classroom should it be available, or, failing 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. The sequence of lecture and discussion may vary. Grading for the course is based on a book review essay (15%), a term paper (40%), a take home mid-term exam (15%), and a take home final exam (30%). The mid-term exam will be distributed on 20 October via email and will be due via email on 27 October at 6:30 pm. The final exam will be distributed during the final class period and will 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. 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.

One textbook is required, which is copied and available at the bookstores:

Silberman, Neil A.

Two supplemental texts are also available at the bookstores. They cover much of the same material, but from different perspectives. A few brief sections from these texts are assigned as required or optional readings and for that purpose copies are also available in the Reserve Room of Helen C. White Undergraduate Library.

King, Philip J., and Lawrence E. Stager

Rainey, Anson F. and R. Stephen Notley

The following list of articles are also required and can be downloaded at the University of Wisconsin Library web-site, at:

http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.library.wisc.edu/journals/00060895.html?cookieSet=1

and

http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.library.wisc.edu/action/showPublication?journalCode=neareastarch
Banning, E. B.

Levy, Thomas Evan

Richard, Suzanne

Dever, William G.

Leonard, Albert, Jr.

Bloch-Smith, Elizabeth, and Beth Alpert Nakhai

Herr, Larry G.

Betlyon, John

Berlin, Andrea M.

Chancey, Mark, and Adam Porter

Parker, S. Thomas

Schick, Robert

Boas, Adrian J.

Walker, Bethany

The following books and articles are either on 3-hour or 3-day reserve in the Reserve Room of Helen C. White Undergraduate Library. Some of these books and articles will be assigned or noted in class lectures.
Aharoni, Yohanan  

Albright, William Foxwell  

Ben-Arieh, Yehoshua  

Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed.  

Bliss, Frederick Jones  

Dahlberg, Bruce T., and Kevin G. O’Connell, S.J., ed.  

Davis, Thomas William  

Drinkard, Joel F.; Gerald L. Mattingly; and J. Maxwell Miller  

Faust, Avi  

Hallote, Rachel  

Kenyon, Kathleen M.  

King, Philip J., and Lawrence E. Stager  

Lapp, Paul W.

Levy, Thomas Evan, ed.

May, Herbert G., ed.

Mazar, Amihai

Moorey, P.R.S

Rainey, Anson F., and R. Steven Notley

Rast, Walter E.

Riley-Smith, Jonathan, ed.

Shepherd, Naomi

Smith, George Adam

Stiebing, William H., Jr.

Vaux, Roland de

Wright, George Ernest
The syllabus and readings for the course are as follows:

Week 1 (8 September) - Introduction to the Course; Research in the 19th Century, and the Geological, Geographical, and Topological Background of Palestine

Required Reading:  
- Moorey, pp. 1-24  
- Rainey and Notley, pp. 30-42

Optional Readings:  
- May, pp. 48-53  
- Davis, pp. 3-46  
- Aharoni, all  
- Smith, all  
- Hallote, pp. 1-83

Week 2 (15 September) - Palestinian Archaeology and History

Required Readings:  
- Moorey, pp. 25-53  
- Rainey and Notley, pp. 9-29

Optional Readings:  
- Davis, pp. 47-144  
- Lapp, pp. 1-107  
- Rast, pp. 1-45  
- Hallote, pp. 85-183

Week 3 (22 September) - Archaeology, the Bible, and Archaeological Method in Palestine

Required Readings:  

Optional Readings:  
- Moorey, pp. 114-178  
- Davis, pp. 145-156  
- Frank and Horton in Dahlberg and O’Connell, pp. 88-96  
- Rose in Dahlberg and O’Connell, pp. 72-87  
- Eakins in Drinkard et al, pp. 441-454

Week 4 (29 September) - Optional class, Rosh Hashanah. For those who wish to meet we will answer question, talk about going on an archaeological expedition, and do a hands-on show and tell of materials from Israel.

Week 5 (6 October) - (Book Review Due) - The Neolithic Period, Chalcolithic Period, and the Early Bronze Age; Archaeology; and the Environment (ca. 8000 - ca. 2000 BCE)

Required Reading:  
- Banning, pp. 188-237  
- Levy, pp. 82-108  
- Richard, pp. 22-43

Optional Reading:  
- Ben-Tor, pp. 10-125  
Rainey and Notley, pp. 43-49

Week 6 (13 October) - The Middle Bronze Age and the Hyksos; Fortification Systems (ca. 2000 - ca. 1540 BCE); and The Late Bronze Age and the Iron I; Settlements and Ethnicity (ca. 1540 - ca. 1000 BCE); Everyone is supposed to meet with me for between 15 and 30 minutes during this week to go over progress on their term paper

Required Reading: Dever, pp. 148-177
Leonard, pp. 4-39
Bloch-Smith and Nakhai, pp. 62-92, 101-127

Optional Readings: Ben-Tor, pp. 126-301
Rainey and Notley, pp. 50-154

Week 7 (20 October) - The Exodus and Conquest, Settlement, or Assimilation; Which Model Works? Mid-Term passed out electronically during class and due 27 October before 6:30 pm

Required Reading: None

Optional Reading: Faust, Avi

Week 8 (27 October) - Philistines, Saul, David, and Solomon (ca. 1000- ca. 930 B.C.E); The Bible as Myth? (Mid-Term due before 6:30 pm.)

Required Reading: Handout
Rainey and Notley, pp. 157-189

Optional Reading: Biran, Avraham and Joseph Naveh, “An Aramaic Stele Fragment from Tel Dan,” Israel Exploration Journal 43 (2) 1993: 81-98
[Shanks, Hershel], “Face to Face: Biblical Minimalists Meet their Challengers,” Biblical Archaeology Review 23 (4) 1997: 26-42, 66
Week 9 (3 November) - The Iron II: Kingdoms of Israel and Judah; Siege Warfare (ca. 930 - 586 BCE)

Required Reading: Herr, pp. 114-183

Optional Reading: Ben-Tor, pp. 302-373
Rainey and Notley, pp. 190-277

Week 10 (10 November) - The Persian Period and the Hellenistic Age; East Meets West (586 - 63 BCE)

Required Reading: Betlyon, pp. 4-58
Berlin, pp. 2-51

May, pp. 60-81
Rast, pp. 145-190
Rainey and Notley, pp. 278-341

Week 11 (17 November) - Guest Lecturer from the Hebrew Dept.; The Dead Sea Scrolls, Sects, Writing, and History

Required Readings: Handout

Week 12 (24 November) - No Class, Thanksgiving

Week 13 (1 December) - The Roman and Byzantine Periods; International Commerce (63 BCE - 630/640 CE)

Required Reading: Chancey and Porter, pp. 164-203
Parker, pp. 134-180

Optional Readings: Kenyon, pp. 151-183
Rainey and Notley, pp. 342-399

Week 14 (8 December) - The Early Islamic and Crusader Periods; East versus West (630/640 - 1291 CE) (Term paper due).

Required Reading: Schick, pp. 74-108
Boas, pp. 138-174

Optional Reading: Levy (1995), pp. 488-541
Riley-Smith, pp. 112-140, 217-259

Week 15 (15 December) - Late Islamic Periods; More East versus West (1291 - 1918 CE); Course Review; Final Exam passed out
Required Reading: Walker, pp. 202-232
Optional Reading: Levy (1995), pp. 488-541

Final Exam (20 December) - Due before 7:05 pm or through Email; or, in Room 2080 Grainger Hall, but this location is far from certain at this point

All papers and book reviews will be due on the designated date. There will be no extensions of this deadline without penalty. Papers may be submitted in hard copy or as an attached file through my EMAIL account (either Word or WordPerfect, or as a .pdf). The format for papers will be presented separately.

Book review essays should briefly summarize the content of Silberman’s *Digging for God and Country*, and then provide your assessment of the book’s strengths and weaknesses (e.g., is it confusing to read, was it thorough in covering the given topic, is it now out of date, is there value in reading it given other things you have read, and did the author accomplish his stated goals). Other issues might include: do Silberman’s conclusions extend beyond the time frame he studied; and does a knowledge of 19th century archaeological research help explain work today? You might compare aspects of the book with class readings or class lectures. You might read published reviews of the book to gain new insight. The text and any bibliography should be seven to eight double-spaced pages long. Books which might assist in your review essay, include the following titles, many of which are on reserve in the Helen C. White Undergraduate Library:

Ben-Arieh, Yehoshua

Bliss, Frederick Jones

Davis, Thomas William

Hallote, Rachel

Robinson, Edward

Shepherd, Naomi
Term papers are expected to be research essays with references and a bibliography. I can help direct you to necessary sources from which to start. The text and notes of these papers should be between 15 and 20 double-spaced pages long, not counting bibliography or illustrations. Pick a certain phase at a site, or a certain type of structure found at many sites, or an artifact type or phenomenon seen at many sites and examine this topic. How is it interpreted? Why? Is there a controversy over this topic? What is the basis of this controversy? Available topics include, but are not limited to (again check with me before going beyond this list):

- Stratum A at Tell Beit Mirsim
- Level III at Lachish (Tell ed-Duweir)
- The Fosse Temple at Lachish
- Level II at Beer-Sheva
- Megiddo; Strata II, III, IV, or V
- The EB-MB Tombs at Jericho
- The EB Tombs at Bab edh-Dhra’
- Ai (et-Tell)
- Herodian Caesarea Maritima
- Byzantine Caesarea Maritima
- Jerusalem Temple (Solomonic or Herodian)
- Church of Holy Sepulcher
- City of David (Jerusalem)
- Persian Period (Stratum V) Tell el-Hesi
- Middle Bronze Age Shechem
- Beth Shearim
- Beth Shean (Iron Age or Byzantine)
- Masada
- Arad (Early Bronze Age or Iron Age)
- Hazor (Late Bronze Age or Iron II)
- Byzantine Period Jerash
- Water Systems; Iron Age, or Roman/Byzantine periods
- Siege Warfare; Iron Age, Roman, or Crusader periods
- Agriculture in the Iron Age
- Stables or Storehouses of the Iron Age
- The “Solomonic Gate”
- Chronology of the Iron II
- Stamp Seals of the Iron II
- The Lachish Ostraca
Crusader Castles
Mesad Hashavyahu
Madaba Map
Petra
Proto-Canaanite Script
The “Joshua” Altar on Mt. Ebal
The Shishak/Sheshonq Campaign
Roman Roads
Medieval Pilgrimage
Roman/Byzantine Trade Amphorae