

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, **NORMALLY** meets on Thursday night between 6:00 and 9:20 pm in Room 2080 Grainger. Jeffrey A. Blakely is the instructor for the class.

BECAUSE THE NORMAL TIME FOR THE FIRST SESSION, ON THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, IS A JEWISH HOLIDAY, ROSH HASHANAH, THE FIRST CLASS MEETING IS BEING MOVED TO TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED TIME IN THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED ROOM. The following week we return to the normal schedule. If this one Tuesday session does not work for your schedule, contact me and we will work out an alternate time for us to meet as a make up.

Jeff

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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 6:00 and 9:20 pm in Room 2080 Grainger. 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 6:00 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 140-minute lecture, a 15-minute break, and a 45-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%), an annotated bibliography (20%), a short paper (20%), a take home mid-term exam (20%), and a take home final exam (25%). The mid-term exam will be distributed on 10 October via email and will be due via email on 17 October at 6:00 pm. The final exam will be distributed during the final class period and will be due via email before 9:25 pm Thursday 19 December or that evening between 7:25 and 9:25 pm in Room 2080 Grainger. 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.

1982 *Digging for God and Country*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

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

2002 *Life in Biblical Israel*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press.

Rainey, Anson F. and R. Stephen Notley

2005 *Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: Carta.

The following list of articles are also required and can be downloaded at the University of Wisconsin Library web-site under the journals *Biblical Archaeologist* and *Near Eastern Archaeology*.

Banning, E. B.

1998 The Neolithic Period: Triumphs of Architecture, Agriculture, and Art. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 61 (4): 188-237.

Levy, Thomas Evan

1986 The Chalcolithic Period. *Biblical Archaeologist* 49 (2): 82-108.

Richard, Suzanne

- 1987 The Early Bronze Age. The Rise and Collapse of Urbanism. *Biblical Archaeologist* 50 (1): 22-43.
- Dever, William G.
1987 The Middle Bronze Age: The Zenith of the Urban Canaanite Era. *Biblical Archaeologist* 50 (3): 148-77.
- Leonard, Albert, Jr.
1989 The Late Bronze Age. *Biblical Archaeologist* 52 (1): 4-39.
- Bloch-Smith, Elizabeth, and Beth Alpert Nakhai
1999 A Landscape Comes to Life: The Iron Age I. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 62 (2): 62-92, 101-27.
- Herr, Larry G.
1997 The Iron II Period: Emerging Nations. *Biblical Archaeologist* 60 (3): 114-183.
- Betlyon, John
2005 A People Transformed: Palestine in the Persian Period. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 68 (1-2): 4-58.
- Berlin, Andrea M.
1997 Between Large Forces: Palestine in the Hellenistic Period. *Biblical Archaeologist* 60 (1): 2-51.
- Chancey, Mark, and Adam Porter
2001 The Archaeology of Roman Palestine. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 64 (4): 164-203.
- Parker, S. Thomas
1999 The Byzantine Period: An Empire's New Holy Land. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 62 (3): 134-180.
- Schick, Robert
1998 Palestine in the Early Islamic Period: Luxuriant Legacy. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 61 (1): 74-108.
- Boas, Adrian J.
1998 The Frankish Period: A Unique Medieval Society Emerges. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 61 (3): 138-74.
- Walker, Bethany
1999 Militarization and Nomadism: The Middle and Late Islamic Periods. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 62 (2): 202-32.

The syllabus and reading assignments for the course are as follows:

Week 1 (3 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
Levy (1995), pp. 9-23
Rainey and Notley, pp. 30-42

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

Week 2 (12 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 (19 September) - Archaeology, the Bible, and Archaeological Method in Palestine

Required Readings: Levy (1995), pp. 24-57

Optional Readings: Moorey, pp. 114-178
Davis, pp. 145-156

Week 4 (26 September) - (Book Review Due) - The Neolithic Period, Chalcolithic Period, and the Early Bronze I; Prehistory (ca. 8000 - ca. 3200 BCE)

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

Optional Reading: Ben-Tor, pp. 10-125
Levy (1995), pp. 93-296
Rainey and Notley, pp. 43-49

Week 5 (3 October) - The Early Bronze II-IV; Archaeology and the Environment (ca. 3200 - ca. 2000 BCE); The Middle Bronze Age and the Hyksos; Fortification Systems (ca. 2000 - ca. 1540 BCE)

Required Reading: Richard, pp. 22-43
Dever, pp. 148-177

Optional Readings: Ben-Tor, pp. 126-301
Levy (1995), pp. 220-365
Rainey and Notley, pp. 50-154

Week 6 (10 October) - The Late Bronze Age and the Iron I; Settlements and Ethnicity (ca. 1540 - ca. 1000 BCE); Mid-Term passed out electronically during class and due 17 October before 6:00 pm

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

Optional Readings: Ben-Tor, pp. 126-301
Levy (1995), pp. 220-365
Rainey and Notley, pp. 50-154

Week 7 (17 October) - (Mid-Term due before 6:00 pm.) - The Exodus and Conquest, Settlement, or Assimilation; Which Model Works?

Required Reading: None

Optional Reading: Faust, Avi
Finkelstein, Israel, "Ethnicity and Origin of the Iron I Settlers in the Highlands of Canaan: Can the Real Israel Stand Up?" *Biblical Archaeologist* 59 (4) 1996: 198-212.

Week 8 (24 October) - Philistines, Saul, David, and Solomon (ca. 1000- ca. 930 B.C.E); The Bible as Myth?

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

Optional Reading:
Coote, Robert B., and Keith W. Whitelam, *The Emergence of Early Israel in Historical Perspective* (Sheffield: Almond Academic Press, 1987). DS 121 C6 1987
[Shanks, Hershel], "Face to Face: Biblical Minimalists Meet their Challengers," *Biblical Archaeology Review* 23 (4) 1997: 26-42, 66

Week 9 (31 October) - (Annotated Bibliography Due) - 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
Levy (1995), pp. 368-431
Rainey and Notley, pp. 190-277

Week 10 (7 November) - The Persian Period and the Hellenistic Age; East Meets West (586 - 63 BCE)

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

Optional Readings: Levy (1995), pp. 432-445
Rast, pp. 145-190
Rainey and Notley, pp. 278-341

Week 11 (14 November) - 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
Levy (1995), pp. 446-487
Rainey and Notley, pp. 342-399

Week 12 (21 November) - Guest Lecturer from the Hebrew Dept.; The Dead Sea Scrolls, Sects, Writing, and History

Required Readings: Handout

Week 13 (28 November) - No Class, Thanksgiving

Week 14 (5 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 (12 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 (19 December) - Due before 9:25 pm or through Email; or, in Room 2080 Grainger Hall, but this location is far from certain at this point

All exams, papers, and book reviews will be due on the designated date. There will be no extensions of this deadline without penalty except for extreme situations. 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.

The written assignments and exams for this course are:

1. A 7-8 page book review and source analysis of N. A. Silberman's *Digging for God and Country*
2. A 2250 word mid-term exam where you answer two of three essay questions
3. A 5 page annotated bibliography of your choice but approved by me
4. A 10 page paper on the same basic topic as your annotated bibliography
5. A 2250 word final exam where you answer two of three essay questions