

Biblical Archaeology

Classics and Ancient Near Eastern Studies 451/Jewish Studies 451

Biblical Archaeology, Classics and Ancient Near Eastern Studies 451 or Jewish Studies 451, 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 5:30 to 6:30 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. Grades for the course are based on an annotated bibliography (20%), a take home mid-term exam (25%), a short paper (30%), and a take home final exam (25%). The mid-term exam will be distributed on 15 October via email and will be due via email on 22 October at 6:30 pm. The final exam will be distributed during the final class period and will be due via email before 9:25 pm Tuesday 22 December or that evening between 7:25 and 9:25 pm in the assigned room for the exam. 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 available at the bookstores:

Rainey, Anson F. and R. Stephen Notley
2005 *Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: Carta.

A supplemental text is also available at the bookstores. It covers much of the same material, but from a different perspective and with a different organization. A few brief sections from this text are assigned as a required or optional readings, and for that purpose a copy is 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.

The following articles are also required reading and they can be downloaded at the University of Wisconsin Library web-site from the journals *Biblical Archaeologist* and *Near Eastern Archaeology*. They are listed here in the order in which they are assigned.

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; and the Geological, Geographical, and Topological Background of the Biblical World

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

Optional Readings: Curtis, pp. 13-36
Levy (1995), pp. 24-57

Week 2 (10 September) - Overview of Archaeological Method and Theory; Prehistory and the Neolithic (ca. 1,000,000 to ca. 5000/4500 BCE)

Required Readings: Rainey and Notley, pp. 9-29
Banning, pp. 188-237

Optional Readings: Ben-Tor, pp. 10-39
Mazar, pp. 35-58
Levy (1995), pp. 169-87, 190-225

Week 3 (17 September) - Chalcolithic Period and the Early Bronze Age, the Rise of Urbanism (ca. 5000/4500 - ca. 2350 BCE)

Required Reading: Levy, pp. 82-108
Richard, pp. 22-43
Rainey and Notley, pp. 43-49

Optional Reading: Ben-Tor, pp. 40-125
Mazar, pp. 59-150
Levy (1995), pp. 226-80

Week 4 (24 September) - Intermediate Bronze Age, Collapse and Archaeology of the Environment (ca. 2350 - ca. 2000 BCE); The Middle Bronze Age and the Hyksos; Renewed Urbanism in an International World (ca. 2000 - ca. 1540 BCE)

Required Reading: Dever, pp. 148-177
Rainey and Notley, pp. 50-60

Optional Readings: Ben-Tor, pp. 126-210
Mazar, pp. 151-231
Levy (1995), pp. 282-319

Week 5 (1 October) - The Late Bronze Age and the Iron I; Decline, Settlements, and Ethnicity (ca. 1540 - ca. 1000 BCE)

Required Reading: Leonard, pp. 4-39
Bloch-Smith and Nakhai, pp. 62-92, 101-27
Rainey and Notley, pp. 61-103

Optional Readings: Ben-Tor, pp. 210-301
Mazar, pp. 232-300
Levy (1995), pp. 320-31, 349-65

Week 6 (8 October) - (Annotated Bibliography due at 6:30 pm.) - The Exodus and Conquest, Settlement, or Assimilation; Which Model Works?

Required Reading: Rainey and Notley, pp. 104-30

Optional Reading: King and Stager
Faust

Week 7 (15 October) - Philistines, Saul, David, and Solomon (ca. 1000- ca. 930 BC); The Bible as Myth?;
Mid-Term passed out electronically during class and due 22 October before 6:30 pm

Required Reading: Rainey and Notley, pp. 131-89

Optional Reading: King and Stager
Mazar, pp. 300-402
Levy (1995), pp. 332-48

Week 8 (22 October) - (Mid-Term Due 6:30 pm) - The Iron II: Kingdoms of Israel and Judah; Siege Warfare
(ca. 930 - 701 BCE);

Required Reading: Herr, pp. 114-183
Rainey and Notley, pp. 190-245

Optional Reading: King and Stager
Ben-Tor, pp. 302-73
Mazar, pp. 403-530
Levy (1995), pp. 368-431

Week 9 (29 October) - The End of Judah, Babylonians, and Persians (701 BCE - 539 BCE)

Required Reading: Betlyon, pp. 4-58
Rainey and Notley, pp. 245-96

Optional Readings: King and Stager
Mazar, pp. 531-550
Stern, pp. 3 -300
Levy (1995), pp. 432-445

Week 10 (5 November) - The Hellenistic Age and Herodian Times; East Meets West (586 - 63 BCE)

Required Reading: Berlin, pp. 2-51
Rainey and Notley, pp.297 -348

Optional Readings: Stern, pp. 303-582
Meyers and Chancey, pp. 1-138

Week 11 (12 November) - The Later Roman and Byzantine Periods; International Commerce (63 BCE -
630/640 CE)

Required Reading: Chancey and Porter, pp. 164-203
Parker, pp. 134-180
Rainey and Notley, pp. 349-99

Optional Readings: Levy (1995), pp. 446-87
Meyers and Chancey, pp. 139-293

Week 12 (19 November) - Guest Lecturer; The Dead Sea Scrolls: Sects, and Texts

Required Readings: Handout

Week 13 (26 November) - No Class, Thanksgiving

Week 14 (3 December) - Term paper due at 6:30 pm.) - The Early Islamic and Crusader Periods; East versus West (630/640 - 1291 CE)

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

Optional Reading: Levy (1995), pp. 488-511
Riley-Smith

Week 15 (10 December) - Late Islamic Periods; More East versus West (1291 - 1918 CE); Course Review; Final Exam passed out

Required Reading: Walker, pp. 202-32

Optional Reading: Levy (1995), pp. 512-41
Silberman

Final Exam (22 December) - Due before 9:25 pm or through Email; or, in the room assigned for the final exam (to be announced)

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 .docx, .wpd, or .pdf). The format for papers will be presented separately.

The written assignments and exams for this course are:

1. A five-page annotated bibliography of your choice but approved by me
2. A 2250-word mid-term exam where you answer two of three essay questions
3. A ten-page paper on the same basic topic as your annotated bibliography
4. A 2250-word final exam where you answer two of three essay questions