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

A supplemental texts 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

The following articles are also required reading and thy 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.

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 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

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

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

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

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

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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

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

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

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
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