

Biblical Archaeology

Hebrew and Semitic Studies 451/Jewish Studies 451

Biblical Archaeology, either Hebrew and Semitic Studies 451 or Jewish Studies 451, meets on Thursday night between 6:30 and 9:00 pm in Room 2251 Humanities. 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 110-minute lecture, a 10-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 two in-class quizzes, (20%), a term paper (40%), and a take home final exam (40%). The final exam will be distributed during the final class period and will be due via email before 9:25 pm Thursday 20 December or that evening between 7:25 and 9:25 pm in a room as yet unassigned. Those auditing the course will be required neither to take exams nor to prepare papers, but will be expected to complete the readings and participate in class discussion.

Two textbooks are required and available at the bookstores:

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 textbooks are not assigned, but the relevant pages are listed as optional readings in case a different view of the material is desired.

Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed.
1992 *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. New Haven: Yale University Press. DS111 A2 M3513.

Levy, Thomas Evan, ed.
1995 *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*. New York: Facts On File. DS112 A73 1994.

Mazar, Amihai
1990 *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: 10,000 - 586 B.C.E.* Garden City: Doubleday. BS621 M39 1992.

Stern, Ephraim
2001 *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: The Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Periods (732-332 B.C.E.)*. Garden City: Doubleday. BS621 S785 2001

The syllabus and readings for the course are as follows:

Week 1 (6 September) - Introduction to the Course; and the Geological, Geographical, and Topological Background of Palestine

Required Reading: *Sacred Bridge*, pp. 9-21, 30-42, and 189; *Life*, pp. 176-200; Robinson (scan); Smith (scan); COS_Anast (scan)

Optional Readings: Levy, pp. 24-57

Week 2 (13 September) - The Archaeology of Iron-Age and Persian-Period Lachish

Required Readings: *Sacred Bridge*, pp. 243-44, and 266-67; *Life*, pp. 247-51; Tufnell_Text (scan), Tufnell_Plates (scan); Ussishkin_Strat (scan); Ussishkin_Artifacts (scan)

Optional Readings: Ussishkin, David, 1982, *The Conquest of Lachish by Sennacherib*, pp. 11-131

Week 3 (20 September) - The Archaeology of Iron-Age Megiddo

Required Readings: *Sacred Bridge*, pp. 171, and 185-89; and *Life*, pp. 187-89, 209, and 212-13; Lamon_Megiddo (scan); Loud (scan); Yadin (scan); Schneidewind, (scan); Megiddo_Stables (scan); Megiddo_Strat (scan)

Optional Readings: Cline, Eric, 2000, *The Battles of Armageddon*, pp. 75-100; Mitchener, James, *The Source*, Chapter , “Psalm of the Hoopoe Bird”

Week 4 (27 September) - The Hill Country versus The Plains (ca. 1250 - ca. 1140 BCE)

Required Reading: *Sacred Bridge*, pp. 96-112, 129-30; *Life*, pp. 85-176; Stager, *BASOR* 260, pp. 1-35; Van Der Steen (scan)

Optional Reading: Ben-Tor, pp. 258-62; Mazar, pp. 279-300; Levy, pp. 349-65; Albright, *BASOR* 58, pp. 10-18; Alt (scan); Mendenhall, *BA*, 25, pp. 66-87

Week 5 (4 October) - Iron I, Settlements, and Ethnicity (ca. 1140 - ca. 1000 BCE)

Required Reading: *Sacred Bridge*, pp. 131-56; *Life*, pp. 21-84; Hesse_Wapnish (scan)

Optional Reading: Bloch-Smith and Nakhai, *NEA* 62 (2), pp. 62-92, 101-127; Ben-Tor, pp. 262-301; Mazar, pp. 300-67; Levy, pp. 332-48

Week 6 (11 October) - The Tenth Century: David, Solomon, Jeroboam, and Rehoboam (ca. 1000 - 925 BCE)

Required Reading: *Sacred Bridge*, pp. 157-89; *Life*, pp. 300-317; Halpern (scan); Fink&Silber (scan)

Optional Readings: Mazar, pp. 368-402; Blakely, *BASOR* 328, pp. 49-54; Faust, *IEJ* 57, pp. 65-82.

Week 7 (18 October) - The Rise of Israel, Archaeology in Dispute (925 - ca. 800 BCE)

Required Reading: *Sacred Bridge*, pp. 190-213; Cantrell (scan); HRB (scan)

Optional Reading: Herr, *BA* 60 (3), pp. 114-183; Ben-Tor, pp. 302-73; Levy, pp. 368-98

Week 8 (25 October) - The Demise of Israel and the Survival of Judah (ca. 800 - 701 BCE)

Required Reading: *Sacred Bridge*, pp. 214-45; *Life*, pp. 223-58; Mayer_Sennacherib (scan); Lipschits, *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 12 article 4, open access

Optional Reading: Mazar, pp. 403-62

Week 9 (1 November) - On to Eventual Exile (701 - 586 BCE) and the Portrayal of Life in Text (Turn in First Draft of Term Paper)

Required Reading: *Sacred Bridge*, pp. 245-77; *Life*, pp. 259-300 and 319-82; Faust, *JESHO* 54, pp. 62-86; Barkay, *NEA* 66 (4), pp. 162-71

Optional Reading: Mazar, pp. 463-530; Stern, pp. 3-300; Levy, pp. 416-31

Week 10 (8 November) - The Persian Period, the Hellenistic Age, and the Coming of Rome (586 - 40 BCE)

Required Reading: *Sacred Bridge*, pp. 278-333; Betlyon, *NEA* 68 (1-2), pp. 4-58, Berlin, *BA* 60 (1), pp. 2-51

Optional Readings: Stern, pp. 303-582; Levy, pp. 432-45

Week 11 (15 November) - Guest Lecturer, Beth Currier; The Dead Sea Scrolls

Required Readings: TBA

Week 12 (22 November) - No Class, Thanksgiving

Week 13 (29 November) - The Archaeology of Herod and the First and Second Jewish Revolts (40 BCE - 135 CE) (Turn in Final Draft of Term Paper)

Required Reading: *Sacred Bridge*, pp. 334-69 and 383-99; Chancey and Porter, *NEA* 64 (4), pp. 164-203; Netzer (scan); Bar Kochba

Optional Readings: Levy, pp. 446-68

Week 14 (6 December) - The Archaeology of Jerusalem, Part I

Required Reading: TBA

Optional Reading: TBA

Week 15 (13 December) - The Archaeology of Jerusalem, Part II (Take Home Final Passed Out)

Required Reading: TBA

Optional Reading: TBA

Final Exam (20 December) - Due before 9:25 pm or through Email; or, in a room as yet unknown

For all papers and tests there will be no extensions deadlines without penalty except in extreme circumstances. 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.