

Topics in Biblical Archaeology

Hebrew and Semitic Studies 452/Jewish Studies 452

Topics in Biblical Archaeology, either Hebrew and Semitic Studies 452 or Jewish Studies 452, meets on Wednesday nights between 6:30 and 8:10 pm in Room 424 Memorial Library. 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 Wednesday evening after class in the classroom, should it be available, or, failing that, at Café Espresso Royale. 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.

The topic this semester will be pottery analysis. This semester you will learn how to do analysis of Middle Eastern ceramics by participating in a practicum analyzing a corpus of 8th century BCE ceramics. At a certain level the corpus chosen for the practicum does not matter, but these materials are readily available to me and at least some of the students in the class are working in this general period either in the field or the classroom. Each student will be given a distinctive set of materials and will be responsible for the analysis and interpretation. Toward the end of the course the individual projects will be joined and the class will prepare overall conclusions regarding date, function, usage, trade, manufacturing, and cultural affiliation of the individual types of ceramics and of the corpus as a whole.

Each class consists of a 50-minute lecture/discussion and a 50-minute hands-on directed research session. No textbooks are required, but there will be extensive use of library books, journals, and electronic resources both in and out of class. The collective term paper (but with signed sections) will be due during the final exam period, via email, before 9:25 pm Wednesday 18 December.

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

Week 1 (4 September) - Introduction, Expectations, Theory, Methods, and Vocabulary

Week 2 (11 September) - Southwestern Judah in the Iron II; Passing out sherds and drawings

Required Readings: Blakely, Jeffrey A., and James W. Hardin. Southwestern Judah in the Late 8th Century B.C.E. *BASOR* 326 (2002): 11-64. Finkelstein, Israel, and Nadav Na'aman. The Judahite Shephelah in the Late 8th and Early 7th Centuries BCE. *Tel Aviv* 31 (2004): 60-79. Hardin, James W.; Christopher Rollston; and Jeffrey A. Blakely. Biblical Geography in Southwestern Judah. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 75 (2012): 20-35.

Week 3 (18 September) - Excavations at Tell el-Hesi and Khirbet Summeily

Required Reading: Blakely, Jeffrey A.; James W. Hardin; and Daniel Master. Expenditure of Human Capital on the Southern/Western Borders of Judah in the 9th Century as Evidence of Judahite Statehood. In *Material Culture Matters: Essays on the Archaeology of the Southern Levant in Honor of Seymour Gitin*, ed. by John R. Spencer. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2013.

Week 4 (25 September) - Excavations at Lachish, Part I

Required Reading: From this point on readings will vary by the specific project of the student

Week 5 (2 October) - Excavations at Lachish, Part II

Week 6 (9 October) - Excavations at Tell Beit Mirsim

Week 7 (16 October) - Excavations at Ashkelon

Week 8 (23 October) - Excavations at Khuweilifeh/Lahav and Etun

Week 9 (30 October) - Excavations at Beersheba and Arad

Week 10 (6 November) - Excavations at Gezer, Mique/Ekron, and Safi

Week 11 (13 November) - Excavations at Negev Sites: Ira, Aroer, and Masos

Week 12 (20 November) - Small Group Work

Week 13 (27 November) - Small Group Work; Note, we are a small class and we can reschedule this so that you all can leave for Thanksgiving if you wish

Week 14 (4 December) - Class Discussion on Conclusions

Week 15 (11 December) - Class Discussion on Conclusions