Introduction to Biblical Archaeology

Classics and Ancient Near Eastern Studies 241/Jewish Studies 241

Classics and Ancient Near Eastern Studies 241, or Jewish Studies 241, meets on Thursday night between 6:30 and 9:15 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 6:15 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 120-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 map quizzes, (totaling 15%), a short book review (10%), an annotated bibliography (20%), a take home mid-term (20%) and a take home final exam (35%). The final exam will be distributed during the final class period and will be due via email before 9:25 pm Thursday 22 December or that evening between 7:25 and 9:25 pm in Room 144 Van Hise. 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.

Students needing special accommodations to ensure full participation in this course should contact me as early as possible. All information will remain confidential. You also may contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center (https://mcburney.wisc.edu/) regarding questions about campus policies/services.

I wish to fully include persons with special challenges in this course. Please let me know if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or assessments for this course to enable you to fully participate. Every effort will be made to maintain the confidentiality of the information you share with me. You may also contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center, 702 W. Johnson St, (608) 263-2741, if you have questions about campus policies and services.

One “textbook” is required. It is available to order on-line from Amazon, Abe, Barnes and Noble, or similar venues often for a dollar or less plus shipping:

Silberman, Neil A.

Two “textbooks” are optional/recommended and also are available to order on-line Amazon, Abe, Barnes and Noble, or similar venues:

King, Philip J., and Lawrence E. Stager

Rainey, Anson F. and R. Stephen Notley
2005 *Sacred Bridge: Carta’s Atlas of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: Carta. [Note: there is a newer slightly improved second edition. It is nice. It is more expensive.]
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. These are relevant after the fourth week.

Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed.  

Levy, Thomas Evan, ed.  

Mazar, Amihai  

Meyers, Eric M., and Mark A. Chancey  

Stern, Ephraim  

The syllabus and readings for the course are as follows:

Week 1 (8 September) - Introduction to the Course; and the History of Biblical Archaeology, part 1, and the Geography of the Region

Required Reading: Order the textbook *Digging for God and Country*.

Week 2 (15 September) - History of Biblical Archaeology, part 2, and Going on a Dig

Required Readings: Read *Digging for God and Country*. Seek book reviews or comparable books/articles and examine them.

Look at maps showing archaeological sites and the geography of modern Israel and Jordan.

Week 3 (22 September) - History of Biblical Archaeology, part 3, and What Archaeology Can and Cannot Do

Required Readings: Read *Digging for God and Country*. Seek book reviews or comparable books/articles and examine them.

Look at maps showing archaeological sites and the geography of modern Israel and Jordan.

Week 4 (29 September) - The Kingdom of Solomon, the Kingdom of David, and the Kingdom of Saul (first map quiz)


Optional Readings for this section: Rainey and Notley, pp. 157-89

Mazar, pp. 368-402

Ben-Tor, pp. 302-73

Levy, pp. 368-98

Week 5 (6 October) - More on the Kingdoms of David and Solomon, Pharaoh Shishak, and Destruction (book review due at 6:30 pm)


Week 6 (13 October) - Those Who Say, “Not So Fast.” Other Chronologies.


Philip Davies, “The End of Biblical Minimalism.”
http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/dav358019.shtml


Week 7 (20 October) - The Syro-Ephraimite War and the Coming of Assyria (mid-term exam passed out)


Optional Readings for this section: Rainey and Notley, pp. 225-53

Mazar, pp. 403-62

Stern, pp. 3-41

Ben-Tor, pp. 302-73

Levy, pp. 416-31

Week 8 (27 October) - The Death of Sargon II of Assyria and the Development of Hezekiah’s Judah (mid-term exam due at 6:30 pm)


Week 9 (3 November) - Sennacherib’s Wrath and the Destruction of Hezekiah’s Judah


Week 10 (10 November) - Herod the Great


Optional Readings for this section: Rainey and Notley, pp. 334-48, 383-95

Meyers and Chancey, pp. 50-138

Levy, pp. 446-68

Week 11 (17 November) - Guest Lecturer, Gretchen Ellis; The Qumran Community and The Dead Sea Scrolls

Required Readings: Magen and Peleg's Excavation Report. Read pages 24-54 and 62-66, but these are pages 30-60 and 68-72 of the pdf document itself

Van der Toorn's *Scribal Culture and the Making of the Hebrew Bible*

Week 12 (24 November) - No Class, Thanksgiving

Week 13 (1 December) - The First Jewish War and Its Aftermath (second map quiz)


http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4868873,00.html

Week 14 (8 December) - Ancient Israel in the 11th Century BCE (annotated bibliography due)


http://www.haaretz.com/jewish/archaeology/1.756385

Optional Readings for this section: Rainey and Notley, pp. 104-56
Mazar, pp. 295-67

Ben-Tor, pp. 258-301

Levy, pp. 349-67

Week 15 (15 December) - Ancient Israel in the 12th and Late 13th Centuries BCE (pass out final exam)

Required Reading: TBA

Final Exam (22 December) - Due before 9:25 pm 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.