

1-1-2004

OT 753 Summer Archaeology Program

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Recommended Citation

Richter, Sandra, "OT 753 Summer Archaeology Program " (2004). *Syllabi*. Book 2178.
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OT 753 SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM
Asbury Theological Seminary
Sandra Richter

Course Description:

Asbury Seminary students will spend three weeks living and digging Tell Zeitah in Israel under the supervision of seasoned archaeologists. Students will live in an international environment, interacting with archaeological enthusiasts from many nations as well as native Israelis. They will spend five days a week digging in the field, recording finds, washing and reading pottery, and attending lectures by experts on the intersection of recovered material culture and the biblical text. On weekends, students will tour important sites both with the larger group and with Asbury faculty. The educational objective of this experience is practical exposure to the discipline of archaeology and its relationship to biblical studies.

Course objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, building upon previous training, the student will have gained the following skills:

- 1) The ability to interact with the material remains of a site such that s/he can apprehend and articulate the interface between *written* reports and an actual excavation.
- 2) The ability to interact with scholarship demonstrating the intersection of archaeology and Bible.
- 3) The ability to distill from the remains of material culture *meaning* significant to the interpretation of the Old Testament.
- 4) An introductory understanding of the methodology and goals of various field methods.
- 5) An introductory understanding of the methodology and goals of pottery reading.
- 6) An enhanced experiential knowledge of the geography of the Holy Land, its modern culture, and its modern incarnation of the Hebrew language.

Course requirements:

One pre-departure seminar, reading assignments, participation in all aspects of the dig and field trips while in Israel, a dig journal, reaction/summary papers to lectures and field trips, and one post-trip seminar. Prerequisite: OT 752 (Biblical Archaeology) or its equivalent.

Course evaluation:

45% Successful (and pleasant ☺) participation in all aspects of the dig and field trips.
35% 1-2 page reaction/summary papers of lectures and field trips. It is suggested that the student take notes on all of these educational opportunities during the dig, but type up papers upon their return. Papers will be accepted through the end of the Summer II session. These papers must stay within page limit, and be stylistically clean. The three summary papers of field trips should demonstrate interaction with the required text *Regions on the Run*.

20% A 4-5 page summary paper of the history/present state of excavations at Tel Zayit. **This paper is due before departure.** This paper must be based upon the Zayit excavation reports listed, and must show interaction with the student's general knowledge of the geography and archaeological periods of the Levant as introduced in OT752.

Required Textbooks:

James Monson, *Regions on the Run: Introductory Map Studies in the Land of the Bible*.
Biblical Backgrounds, Inc. 1998 (\$19.95)

Israel. Insight Guide Series. American Map Company. 2000 (ISBN #0887291570)
(\$22.95)

The Bible (most translations are acceptable, paraphrases are unacceptable)

Course Schedule:

The dig dates for summer 2004 are set for June 11th-July 6th. Students are required to attend the dig for the first 3 weeks for credit, but all are encouraged to remain for the full season if finances and time allow. A pre-departure seminar will be held _____. We will have one follow-up seminar (i.e. slide party!) upon our return to the States.

Reading Assignments:

James Monson, *Regions on the Run* all. Pages 1-9 should be read before departure, pp. 10-29 should be read as we encounter these areas on our field trips. Pages 32 ff. will be a very helpful resource to you throughout our summer archaeology experience.

"The 1998 Preliminary Survey of Khirbet Zeitah el-Kharab (Tel Zayit) in the Shephelah of Judah," *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, 319 (2000), 7-36.

Avraham Faust, "Pottery Talks: What Ceramics Tell Us About the Social World of Ancient Israel," *BAR* 30/2 (2004): 52-55, 62.

www.zeitah.net

Go to: Project Overview

Read: "Introduction," "History of Research," "Historical and Biblical Connections"