1-1-2008

OT 753 Summer Archaeology Program

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OT 753 SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM
Tel Rehov June 27-July 21 2008
Asbury Theological Seminary
Sandra Richter

Course Description:
Asbury Seminary students will spend three weeks living and digging 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, going on short term field trips, and attending lectures by experts on the intersection of recovered material culture and the biblical text. On weekends, students will tour important sites. 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, a short formal paper summarizing the history of excavations at Tel Rehov (due before departure), participation in all aspects of the dig and field trips while in Israel, 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. Your square supervisors will be asked to provide an evaluation of your work ethic, your teachability, and your skill level.
30% 1-2 page reaction/summary papers of lectures (one page) and weekend field trips (two pages). 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. These papers should be thought of in terms of “journaling,” but should demonstrate interaction with your broader knowledge of these sites and topics through OT 520 and 752.
25% A 4-5 page formal summary paper of the history/present state of excavations of the areas at Tel Rehov in which we will be excavating. This paper is due before departure. This paper must be based upon the Rehov 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. Citation is required.

Required Textbooks:
The Bible (most translations are acceptable, paraphrases are unacceptable)

Course Schedule:
The dig dates for summer 2008 are set for June 27th-July 21th. A pre-departure seminar will be held on the afternoon of May 9th. All written work is due by the end of Summer Session II. We will have one follow-up seminar (i.e. slide party!) upon our return to the States.

Reading Assignments:
“A Brief Introduction to Field Excavation” Tel Rehov website http://www.rehov.org/volunteer/index.htm
“Tel Rehov Excavation Results” Tel Rehov website http://www.rehov.org/Rehov/Results.htm
“The United Monarchy,” pages 368-402
“The Rhythms of Life,” pages 8-20
Amihai Mazar & John Camp, “The Search for History in the Bible: Will Tel Rehov Save the United Monarchy?” BAR 26:02 (March/Apr 2000)
Amihai Mazar, “Does Amihai Mazar Agree with Finkelstein’s “Low Chronology”?” BAR 26:02 (March/Apr 2003)

Additional Readings Recommended for Site Report of Tel Rehov (links to each available at Tel Rehov website):
The plan this summer is to work in Area C, located in the northwestern part of the lower city. Within Area C, we will focus on the apiary area (in the southeastern part of the area). Just above the eastern part of the beehive area, which is ascribed to our Stratum
V (late 10th century BC), is an interesting building that we call Building L, belonging to Stratum IV (destroyed by the Arameans at the end of the 9th century). So, we plan to excavate through Building L down to the beehives. Hopefully we will have enough time to expose the latter fully and not just reach their tops! Since the beehive area was heavily destroyed as well, we would really like to reach the floors where the 'goodies' are!

Amihai Mazar, *Excavations at Tel Beit-Shean 1989 - 1996 Vol. I: From the Late Bronze Age IIB to the Medieval Period*


"Greek Pottery from Tel Rehov and Iron Age Chronology" *Israel Exploration Journal* 53 (2003), 29-48

“Three 10th-9th Century B.C.E. Inscriptions from Tel Rehov" *Saxa loquentur: Studien zur Archäologie Paläastinas/Israelis – Festchrift für Volkmar Fritz* (2003), 171-184

“Radiocarbon Dates from Iron Age Strata at Tel Beth-Shean and Tel Rehov” *Radiocarbon* 43:3 (2001), 1333-1342

“14C Dates from Tel Rehov: Iron-Age Chronology, Pharaohs, and Hebrew Kings” *Science* 300, No. 5617 (11 April 2003), 315-318

Response to Comment on "14C Dates from Tel Rehov: Iron-Age Chronology, Pharaohs, and Hebrew Kings", *Science* 302 (24 October 2003), 568c


