1-1-2001

OT 711 Archaeological Discoveries in Palestine

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OT 711
Archaeological Discoveries in Palestine

Asbury Theological Seminary
Spring 2001
Wed/Fri 1:00-2:15 pm

Instructor:
Professor Sandra Richter
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SPO 933
Office: 858-2032

Office Hours:
Tuesday 10:00-11:00 am
Wednesday 2:30-4:00 pm
Thursday 4:00-5:00 pm

Course Description:
Within this century, Biblical Archaeology has proven itself a discipline essential to the serious
study of the Old Testament. In many instances, this particular discipline has served to clarify
difficult passages, fill in correlative sociological and historical details which have shed important
light on the intent of the biblical narrative, and to correct minimalist viewpoints regarding the
historical integrity of the text. Recognizing the imperative nature of this still-young discipline,
this class seeks to (1) expose the student to the major archaeological and epigraphic discoveries
of the biblical world, and (2) to train the student in a sound biblical archaeological method.

Course Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, the successful student will have gained the following:

1) An enhanced knowledge of the history, sociology, and geography of the Israelite people
through the lens of “external” (i.e. non-biblical) evidence.
2) An introductory understanding of the goals and methods of archaeology in the land of the
Bible and its application to biblical studies.
3) The ability to interact with scholarship demonstrating the intersection of archaeology (i.e.
the remains of material culture) and the Bible.
4) A growing ability to distill from the remains of material culture meaning significant to
the interpretation of the Old Testament.

Course requirements:
Method of Instruction:
Slide-presentations, lecture, and class discussion of materials read will dominate the first two-
thirds of this class. Students will be responsible to thoroughly prepare for and participate in these
class meetings. The last third of this class will consist primarily of student presentations on
various topics critical to the discipline of biblical archaeology.
(Course requirements, cont.)

**Required Textbooks:**

**Recommended Textbooks:**

**Class Expectations:**
25% Class Participation. As this is a seminar class, students must come to class prepared to discuss (intelligently!) the topic of the day.

35% Quizzes. Five quizzes will be given on announced topics ranging from the topographic profile of Palestine to the nature of a tell to the material culture of the Iron I Age.

40% In-class Student Presentations. Each student will be responsible for a class presentation in which s/he will teach the class for 45 minutes on his/her assigned topic. A visual presentation, a lecture outline, an appropriate reading assignment for the class, and pertinent handouts (map/chart/site survey/etc.) must augment the lecture. Each presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. The student will be provided with an “essential” bibliographic list for his/her topic, but will be expected to go beyond this list in her/his collection of data and visual material. Students will be evaluated by their peers and by the professor.

**Attendance** is essential to a seminar class, and, therefore, it will be recorded. The first absence will be waived; the second and third absence will each result in a 2% reduction in the student’s final evaluation. The fourth absence will result in a 5% reduction in the student’s final evaluation. Upon the fifth absence, barring personal disaster, the student will have failed this class.
Class Schedule:

2/7  Introduction to OT 711 and “Biblical” Archaeology
    Hershel Shanks, “Is the Bible Right After All? Part II” BAR 22/5 (September/October 1996): 30-37, 74-77

2/9   The Bible in Real Time & Space
    Atlas, 8-9, 36-37, 58-59, 132-133, 134-135 (138)
    Mazar, pp. 1-9

2/14  The Basics of Excavation
    Currid, pp. 1-48

2/16  More on Excavation
    Currid, pp. 57-109

2/21  Why Archaeology? Case Studies
    quiz - 8%
    Currid, pp. 111-119
    Mazar, pp. 9-38

2/23  Epigraphy
    Atlas, 60-61; 80-83
    Mazar, pp. 514-520
    ANET, p. 212; figures 63-82
    Rogerson & Davies, “Was the Siloam Tunnel Built by Hezekiah?” BA 59 (S 1996): 138-149.

2/28  The Neolithic Revolution
    Mazar, pp. 35-89
    Atlas, pp. 10-11

3/2   The Early Bronze Age
    Mazar, pp. 91-144
    Atlas, pp. 11-12

3/7   The Middle Bronze Age
    quiz - 8%
    Mazar, pp. 151-190
    Atlas, pp. 14-19

3/9   MB, cont.
    Mazar, pp. 191-227
    ANET, pp. 5-12, “The Story of Sinuhe”; pp. 173-175, “The Expulsion of the Hyksos”
    ABD III:545-558, Wm. Dever, “Archaeology of the Israelite Conquest”
3/14 The Late Bronze Age -  
Mazar, pp. 232-291  
Atlas, pp. 20-35  
74

3/16 LB, cont.  
51

3/21 The Iron I Age  
Mazar, 295-327; “Town Planning & Architecture” 463-491  
Atlas, pp. 44-50; 52, 54  
68

3/23 Iron I, cont.  
Atlas, p. 53, 42  
ANET, p. 209, “The Gezer Calendar”  
59

3/28 The Iron II Age  
Mazar, pp. 368-398; “Art” 502-514  
Atlas, pp. 62-76  
ABD IV:103-109, “Kuntillet Ajrud”  
65

3/30 Iron II, cont.  
Atlas, pp. 51, 70-73, 78-88  
82

4/4 Clean Up  
quiz – 11%

4/6 Field Trip to the Cincinatti Museum of Art  
* As reading assignments will be designed around the current collection, they are TBA.

Reading Week, April 9-13

4/18 – 5/16 Student Presentations  
* Reading assignments will be provided for class members one week prior to each scheduled presentation.