OT 752 Biblical Archaeology

Sandra Richter
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Biblical Archaeology

Asbury Theological Seminary
Fall 2005
W-F 2:30-3:45 pm

Instructor:
Dr. Sandy Richter
sandra_richter@asburyseminary.edu
SPO 1320
Office: BC 317, 858-2032

Office Hours:
TBA

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, and, generally, shed important light on the intent of the biblical narrative. Moreover, archaeology has helped 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 students to the archaeological periods of ancient Syria-Palestine; (2) expose students to the major archaeological and epigraphic discoveries of the biblical world; and (3) train students in a sound method of integrating biblical and archaeological data.

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 peoples of the biblical world.
2) An introductory understanding of the goals and methods of archaeology in the land of the Bible.
3) The ability to interact with scholarship demonstrating the intersection of archaeology 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.
Required Textbooks:

Recommended Textbooks:

Journal abbreviations and where to find them:
B.A.R  *Biblical Archaeology Review* may be found in the library’s Biblical Archaeology Society (BAS) Archive
BR(ev)  *Bible Review* in the BAS archive
B.A.S.O.R  *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* in the bound periodicals
B.A  *Biblical Archaeologist* in ATLA
C.T  *Christianity Today* in EBSCO
J.B.L  *Journal of Biblical Literature* in EBSCO

*articles written after 2003 will typically only be available in the bound archives

Class Expectations:
20% **Class Participation.** As this is a seminar class, students must come to class prepared to discuss (intelligently!) the topic of the day. Periodically specific discussion/brief presentation topics will be assigned for the following class meeting.
40% **Quizzes.** Four quizzes will be given on a range of topics central to class content.
40% **In-class Student Presentations.** Each student will be responsible for a class presentation in which they 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 equivalent of one week's absence will be waived; following absences will significantly affect the student’s final evaluation.
Class Schedule
(student presentations may cause some alteration to this schedule):

February 13: What Biblical Archaeology is and What Can It Contribute to Biblical Studies?
Hershel Shanks, “Is this Man A Biblical Archaeologist? Part I” BAR 22/4
(July/August1996): 30-39, 62-63
Hershel Shanks, “Is the Bible Right After All? Part II” BAR 22/5 (February/October 1996):
30-37, 74-77
Recommended:

The Bible in Real Time & Space
Atlas, pp. 36-37, 132-135, 138
A. Mazar, *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible*, pp. 1-10

February 20: The Peoples of the Old Testament World
“read” entire book with the end goal that you can define the locale, era, and major characteristics of each people group discussed in the text and give 5-7 minute report on your people group.

**“Canaanite” report must come from Killebrew’s *Biblical Peoples and Ethnicity*, 93-138

The Structure of Society in the Old Testament World
Roland de Vaux, *Ancient Israel its Life & Institutions*, pp. 3-61, “Nomadism & Family Institutions”
Atlas, 58-59
“Israel’s Neighbors.”

February 27: The Basics of Excavation
Currid, pp. 1-118
Mazar, pp. 10-38

March 5: Epigraphy *map & people quiz 10%*
General: Atlas, 60-61; 80-83; Mazar, pp. 514-520; *ANET*, figures 63-82
Siloam Tunnel Inscription: Rogerson & Davies, “Was the Siloam Tunnel Built by Hezekiah?”

March 12: The Neolithic Revolution & the Chalcolithic Age
Atlas, pp. 10-13
Mazar, 35-90

**The Early Bronze Age**
Mazar, pp. 91-144
**Recommended:** D. Redford, *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*, "Upper & Lower Egypt," 29-55.

**March 19: The Middle Bronze Age & the Exodus**
*take home quiz on the EB due 10%

- Genesis 12- Exodus 1
- Atlas, pp. 14-21, 34
- Mazar, pp. “An Interlude” and “The Mighty Canaanite City States,” 151-227
- J. Hoffmeier, “Egypt, Plagues in” *ABD* 2:374-78
- Kevin D. Miller, “Did the Exodus Never Happen?” *Christianity Today* 42/10 [Sept 98]: 44-51
- **Recommended:** Redford, *Egypt, Canaan, etc.* “Lo, the Vile Asiatic!,” “Trampling the Foregin Lands,” “The Hyksos in Egypt,” pp. 56-122

*Exodus Presentation: Student Presentation*

**March 26: The Late Bronze Age & the Conquest and Settlement**
*take-home quiz on the MB due 10%

- Mazar, pp. 232-291
- Atlas, pp. 20-35
- Joshua-Judges
- Wm. Dever, “Archaeology of the Israelite Conquest” *ABD* III:545-558

*The Jericho Debate: Student Presentation*

**Reading Week March 31-April 4**

**April 9: The Iron I Age & Mt. Ebal**
- Mazar, 295-363 “The Days of the Judges”; 463-491 "General Aspects Israelite Material Culture”
- Atlas, pp. 42-54
- *ANET*, p. 209, “The Gezer Calendar”
- Deuteronomy 11, 27; Joshua 8
S. Richter, “The Place of the Name in Deuteronomy,” Vetus Testamentum 57 (2007)


*The Archaeology of Israelite Settlement: Student Presentation
*Settlement of Edom, Ammon, and Moab: Student Presentation

April 16: The Iron II Age & Hezekiah’s Crisis

take home quiz on LB/Iron I due 10%

2 Samuel 5-1 Kings 11:41
Atlas, pp. 62-83

Hezekiah:
2 Kings 18-19 (Hezekiah); Isaiah 36-39; 2 Chron 32
Dever, What & When, 159-244 “Daily Life in Israel in the time of the Divided Monarchy”
(long but thorough and engaging)
Oded Borowski, “In the Path of Sennacherib,” BAR 31:03, May/Jun 2005

*The Temple in Levantine Religion: Student Presentation

Student Presentations: April 23-April 14 (if we need the finals slot, we’ll use it)

Student Presentations will be provided for class members one week prior to each scheduled presentation. Each presentation will be preceded by a brief quiz taken from the assigned reading. The results of this quiz will count toward the student’s class participation grade.

*10 slots