



BBOT6311 Syro-Palestinian Archeology & the Old Testament
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Spring 2023
FLEX option Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:50 p.m.

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Seminary Mission Statement:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

Archaeological discoveries in Palestine which illuminate biblical history from the Neolithic through Israelite Kingdom periods and to the establishment of the Post-Exilic Community are studied. Following a chronological sequence, the course includes illustrated studies of major excavation in Israel and Palestine over the past 100+ years which best illumines each of the basic historical periods.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course the student will have demonstrated a

1. That the student will have increased his/her understand and appreciation of the contents of the Old Testament.
2. That the student will have developed the skills of:
 - a. Determining the historical and cultural environment of the events recorded in the Old Testament.
 - b. Evaluating archaeological evidence relative to selected passages of the Old Testament.
3. That the student will have increased his understanding of the value and role of archaeology in interpreting the Old Testament culturally and historically.

Procedures

1. Normal classroom procedure will consist of lectures and class discussion over important features of the material under study. The student should read all assigned materials prior to class time and be prepared to verbally interact with that material. Slide and artifact illustrated lectures will supplement the lectures and discussion.

2. The student is encouraged to read outside the required readings list on the below class schedule. A record-log of all outside reading by the student during the term must be kept and submitted to the instructor on March 16.

Textbooks

Amihai Mazar, *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000 - 586 B.C.E.* Anchor Bible Reference Library. Doubleday, 1990. **Mazar**

Amnon Ben-Tor, ed. *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel.* Translated by R. Greenberg. Yale: Yale University Press, 1992. **Ben-Tor**

Alfred Hoerth, *Archaeology and the Old Testament.* Baker Academic, 1998. **Hoerth**

John Currid, *The Case for Biblical Archaeology: Uncovering the Historical Record of God's Old Testament People.* P & R Publishing, 2020. **Currid**

Note: The student should also become familiar with the following texts during the course of the term: (note readings in course schedule)

The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land, 5 vols., Edited by Ephraim Stern, Ayelet Gilboa, and Joseph Aviram. Simon & Schuster, 1993. (**NEAEHL**)

These texts are found in the reference room on reference shelves or on the reserved book shelves.

Course Evaluation

Mid-term Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Research Paper	30%
Reading	10%

Research Paper

Each student is required to produce a formal research paper (acc. to Turabian). **Papers will be due May 5**, and oral reports will be presented by the students during the last five class meetings. The research paper should be approximately 20 pages in length, inclusive of bibliography. Topics may be selected from the list below, or other topics of interest may be chosen after consultation with the professor.

Suggested Topics (others may be opted in consultation with professor):

The Philistine Coastal Plain

History and Archaeology of Transjordan: Ammon, Moab and Edom in the Bronze and Iron Ages

Conquest and/or Settlement: Recent Research

Recent Excavation in Jerusalem

Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer: Solomon's Trade

Israel and the Phoenicians

Israel and the Aramaeans
The Shephelah (The Geopolitics of:)
The Biblical Negev
Canaanite Religion and Its Impact on Israelite Worship
Dan and Bethel: Worship in Israel
Samaria and Its International Relations

Be sure to make use of the following journals/periodical literature:

AR *Archaeology*
BA *Biblical Archaeologist*
BASOR *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*
BAR *Biblical Archaeology Review*
IEJ *Israel Exploration Journal*
BI *Biblical Illustrator*
LEV *Levant*
PEQ *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*

Course Teaching Methodology

This course consists of grasping the archaeology of Israel palestine, along with the chronological, historical and cultural settings of the Old Testament through (1) the required readings (2) viewing class time presentations or their recordings via BlueJeans and found in CANVAS, and (3) PowerPoint presentations which contain a variety of materials to help visualize and comprehend the historical and cultural settings (one can download them all but the student cannot publish materials from them).

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through [**assignment by professor**] after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the "Help" button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Course Policies

1. Attendance Policy:

Traditional and NOLA2U Classes: Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of “F” for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

2. Make-up Work:

- The student is responsible for lecture, work assignment changes, and or quiz/test changes that may occurred during the class period. These are poste via announcements which are mainly posted on BB, so check several times a week.
- Make-up for a missed quiz/exam is not allowed unless the student has made prevision prior to or immediately after the completion date (such as, in the case of hospitalization, death of a family member, etc.) with the professor.
- Late assignments – there is 2pts. per day reduction in grade for each day late, after 5 Days the assignment is not counted.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule and Assignments

January 17 Course Introduction - Select research topics

Archaeology and Biblical Studies: Recent discussion **Ben-Tor** 1-9

Read articles by W. G. Dever,, D. Lance,, M. Miller

Book Review: W. Dever, *Has Archaeology Buried the Bible?*

19 Arch. and Biblical Studies cont. **MAZAR** xxx-34

Review: Geography of Palestine

24 Neolithic/Chalcolithic Period **MAZAR** 35-90, **Ben-Tor** 10-39

26 Neolithic – Chalcolithic Period (cont) **Ben-Tor** 40-80

31 Early Bronze Age Overview Read **MAZAR** 91-150

See websites in En Esur – largest EB site in Israel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4NsG_Pa0Uo

<https://youngzine.org/news/history/en-esur-bronze-age-discovery>

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2019-10-08/ty-article-magazine/.premium/gigantic-prehistoric-city-found-in-israel-during-roadworks/0000017f-e9d1-d639-af7f-e9d732b30000>

- February 2 Early Bronze Age Read **Ben-Tor** 81-125
 Read "The Early Bronze Age: The Rise and Collapse of Urbanism" by Suzanne Richard. *BA* 50 (1987): 22-44
- 7 Intermediate Bronze Age **MAZAR** 151-174, **Ben-Tor** 126-158
- Middle Bronze Age - Patriarchal Period **MAZAR** 174-231
- 9 MBA cont. Read "The Middle Bronze Age: The Zenith of the Urban Canaanite Era," by William G. Dever. *BA* (Sept 1987): 149-175
- 14 Middle Bronze Canaanite City States (cf. Hyksos of Egypt)
 Late Bronze Age **MAZAR** 232-294
- 16 Late Bronze Age cont.
- 21 **** **MARDI GRAS** ****
- 23 LB -- Iron Age I Transition in the ANE - Mediterranean Basin
- 28 Iron Age I **MAZAR** 295-367
- March 2 Iron Age I cont. Read "Conquest or Settlement? The Early Iron Age in Palestine" by Volkmar Fritz
- 7 Iron Age I
Archaeology of the Israelite Settlement, Finkelstein
- 9 **** **MIDTERM EXAM** ****
- 13-18 **SPRING BREAK**
- 21 Iron Age IIA **MAZAR** 368-402
- 23 Iron II B-C **MAZAR** 403-462
- 28 Iron II B-C cont. Israel Finkelstein, *The Forgotten Kingdom*
- 30 Israelite Material Culture **MAZAR** 463-530
- APRIL 4 Israel's Neighbors **MAZAR** 531-550
- 6 Iron III – Babylonian Kingdom
- 11 Persian - Post-Exilic Period
- 13 Iron III - Persian - Post-Exilic Period
- 18 Student Reports
- 20 Student Reports
- 25 Student Reports
- 27 Student Reports

MAY 2 Student Reports
5 **RESEARCH PAPERS DUE**

12 ****** GRADUATION ******

SUPPLEMENTAL ARTICLES

BA 49/1(1986): 42-50 "Political Conditions in the Eastern Mediterranean During the Late Bronze Age" by Robert Merrillees

BA 49/2(1986): 68-81 "Exploring Exodus: The Oppression" by Nahum M. Sarna

BA 49/2(1986): 82-108: "The Chalcolithic Period" by Thomas Lery

BA 49/4(1986): 224-27: "The Profile of an Israelite City" by Cornelius de Geus

BA 47/1(1984): "The Bible and Archaeology" by Eric Meyers

BAR 13/4(1987): 38-49 "What can Archaeology Tell Us About Solomon's Temple?" by V. Fritz

BAR 13/2(1987): 16-45 "Arad-An Ancient Israelite Fortress with a Temple to Yahweh" by Z. Herzog, M. Aharoni, A. Rainey

BAR 12/1(1986): 22-41 "Shiloh Yields Some, But Not All, of Its Secrets" by Israel Finkelstein

BAR 11/3(1985): 26-43 "Patriarchal Burial Site Explored For First Time in 700 Years" by Nancy Miller

BAR 11/3(1985): 56-71 "The Fortresses King Solomon Built to Protect His Southern Border" by Rudolph Cohen"

BAR 8/2 (1982): 14-33 (3 articles) "Israel Comes to Canaan": "Is the Biblical Account of the Israelite Conquest of Canaan Historically Reliable?" by Y. Yadin; "How Inferior Israelite Forces Conquered Fortified Canaanite Cities" by A. Malamat

BAR 8/4(1982): 20-44(4 Articles on Philistines) "What We Know About The Philistines" by T. Dothan; "Philistines in the Patriarchal Age" by R. Steiglitz; "Philistine After David" and "Did The Philistines Write?"

BAR 8/6(1982): 40-54 "How Iron Technology Changed the Ancient World- and Gave The Philistines a Military Edge" by James Muhly

BAR 11/4(1985): 58-69 "Should the Exodus and the Israelite Settlement in Canaan Be Redated?" by W. Stiebing

BAR 11/5(1985): 26-39 "Fragments from the Book of Balaam Found at Deir Alla" by Andre Lemaire

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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_____. *Yahweh and the Gods of Canaan: A Historical Analysis of Two Contrasting Faiths*. The Jordan Lectures 1965, University of London, 1965. London: School of Oriental and African Studies, 1968. Reprint Edition, Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1980.

Mazarright, W. F. and James Kelso. *The Excavation of Bethel (1934-1960)*. AASOR (BASOR), XXXIX. Cambridge: American Schools of Oriental Research, 1968.

Aharoni, Yohanon. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. Revised and Enlarged Edition. Edited by Anson Rainey. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.

_____. *The Archaeology of the Land of Israel*. Trans. by Anson Rainey. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1982.

Amiran, Ruth. *Ancient Pottery of the Holy Land: From Its Beginnings in the Neolithic Period to the End of the I*

Avi-Yonah, Michael. *The Holy Land: From the Persian to the Arab Conquest (536 B.C - A.D. 640)*. Rev. Ed. Gra

Ben-Tor, Amnon, Editor. *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. Trans. by R. Greenberg. New Haven: Yale Univers

Bierling, Neal. *Giving Goliath His Due: New Archaeological Light on the Philistines*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.

Bimson, John. *Redating the Exodus and Conquest*. Sheffield: Almond Press, 1981.

Biran, Avraham, Editor. *Temples and High Places in Biblical Times*. Proceedings of the Colloquim in Honor of the Centennial of Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, Jerusalem, 14-116 March 1977. Jerusalem: The Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology of Hebrew Union College, 1981.

Biran, Avraham, et al, Editors. *Biblical Archaeology Today: Proceedings of the International Congress on Biblical*

Boling, Robert. *The Early Biblical Community in Transjordan*. The Social World of Biblical Antiquity Series, 6. Sheffield: Almond Press, 1988.

Borowski, Oded. *Agriculture in Iron Age Israel*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1987.

Coogan, Michael David, Editor and Trans. *Stories from Ancient Canaan*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1978.

Coote, Robert B. and Keith W. Whitelam. *The Emergence of Early Israel in Historical Perspective*. Social World o

Craigie, Peter C. *Ugarit and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.

Cross, Frank Moore. *Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic: Essays in the History of the Religion of Israel*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1973.

Davies, Graham I. *Megiddo*. Cities of the Biblical World. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Dothan, Trude. *The Philistines and Their Material Culture*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1982.

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- Drinkard, Joel F.; Gerald L. Mattingly; J. Maxwell Miller. *Benchmarks in Time and Culture: Essays in Honor of Joseph A. Callaway*. Atlanta: American Schools of Oriental Research/Society of Biblical Literature, 1988.
- Finkelstein, Israel. *The Archaeology of the Israelite Settlement*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1988.
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- Kenyon, Kathleen. *Archaeology in the Holy Land*. 4th ed. London: Ernest Benn, 1979.
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Young, Gordon D., Editor. *Ugarit in Retrospect: 50 Years of Ugarit and Ugaritic*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1981.

Course Schedule and Assignments ALTERNATE OLDER OUTLINE

- March 29 Course Introduction - Select research topics
30 Archaeology and Biblical Studies: Recent discussion
Read articles by w.G. Dever,, D. Lance,, M. Miller
Optional Missions Forums*
- April 31 Arch. and Biblical Studies cont.
1 Review: Geography of Palestine
- 5 Neolithic/Chalcolithic Period ALI: 1-47, RA: 3-23
6 Early Bronze Age Palestine Read ALI: 48-80
7 EB cont. Read "The Early Bronze Age: The Rise and Collapse of
Urbanism" by Suzanne Richard. BA 50 (1987): 22-44
8 Middle Bronze Age-Patriarchal Period
Read ALI: 80-112, RA: 26-29
12 MBA cont.
Read "The Middle Bronze Age: The Zenith of the Urban Canaanite
Era" by William Dever. BA 50/3 (1987): 148-77
13 Late Bronze Age-Egyptian Sojourn to Conquest
ALI 112-152 RA: 29-34
14-15 LBA cont.
- 19 MID TERM - EXAM
20 Iron I-Judges tp United Monarchy
Read ALI: 153-191 (cf. AOP: 110-145) RA: 35-41, 43-46
21 Iron I cont. Read "Conquest or Settlement? The Early
Iron Age in Palistine" by Volkmar Fritz
22 Iron II A United Monarchy
Read RA: 46-58, 129-140, 149-160
- 26 Iron II cont. ALI: 192-239
27 Assigned Articles
28 Iron II b Divided Monarchy
29 ALI: 239-279 + Assigned articles
- May 3-4 Iron II C Fall of Jerusalem/Judah
RA: 179-186 + Assigned Articles
5-6 Iron III-Persian Period
- Assigned Articles
10-13 Student Presentations
17 Review
20 ****FINAL EXAM**** Noon