An Introduction to Archaeology and the Bible

Knowledge & Skills Goals of the Course

“The Bible and Archaeological Discoveries” studies the Bible alongside the stories that the architecture, pottery, metalwork, sculpture, graves, painting and other arts from the world of the Bible have to tell in order to better understand and appreciate the diverse contexts where religion develops, how these contexts change over time (fulfills general education requirements for history courses) and how ancient Near Eastern cultures probed questions of human life and values (fulfills general education requirements for humanities courses). Archaeology does not prove the Bible, but archaeology does help reconstruct the social worlds of the peoples whose traditions are the legacy of the Bible and demonstrates important theories and methods used to study religion.

Required Reading

STUDENTS MUST HAVE PERSONAL COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING BOOKS

- Benjamin, Don C.
  2004  The Old Testament Story, an introduction (Fortress)
  2009  Stones & Stories: an introduction to archaeology & the Bible (Fortress)
- The Bible in a readable English translation, for example:
  2006  HarperCollins Study Bible (Harper Collins)
  1999  The Jewish Study Bible (Oxford University)
  2006  The Catholic Study Bible (Oxford University)
- Borowski, Oded
  2003  Daily Life in Biblical Times (Society of Biblical Literature)
- Nemet-Nejat, Karen Rhea
  2002  Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia (Hendrickson)

Books on Reserve at Library and in Course Documents Folder on Blackboard

Kramer, Cradle of Civilization (1978: 118-137)
Clayton, Chronicle of the Pharaohs (1994: 140-145)
Marty 1996: 4-17
Reeves, Complete Valley of the Kings (1996: 140-149)

OEANE “Mesha Stela”
Course Description

INTRODUCTION

- **Introducing Religious Studies** (01>Jan 14)
  Marty 1996: 4-17

- **Introducing Biblical Archaeology** (02>Jan 16)
  Benjamin 2009: “Introduction”

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POPULAR ARCHAEOLOGIES

- **The Archaeology of Pilgrims** (03>Jan 23)
  PPT Benjamin 2009: “The Archaeology of Pilgrims”
  ABS Reeves, *Complete Valley of the Kings* (1996: 140-149)
  DAY Benjamin 2004: 428-441 (Hos 11:1-11)

- **The Archaeology of Emperors** (04> Jan 28)
  PPT Benjamin 2009: “The Archaeology of Emperors”

- **The Archaeology of Travelers** (05> Jan 30)
  PPT Benjamin 2009: “The Archaeology of Travelers”
  DAY Benjamin 2004: 450-459 (Jonah 3:10—4:11)

- **The Archaeology of Antiquities Dealers** (06> Feb 04)
  PPT Benjamin 2009: “The Archaeology of Antiquities Dealers”
  DAY Benjamin 2004: 72-123 (Exod 1:7—13:16)

  **RESEARCH TOPIC DUE IN ASSIGNMENTS FOLDER BY 9:00 AM FEB 05**

- **The Archaeology of Missionaries** (07> Feb 06)
  PPT Benjamin 2009: “The Archaeology of Missionaries”
  ABS OEA  “Mesha Stele”
  DAY Benjamin 2004: 176-245 (2 Kgs 3:1-27)

CULTURAL HISTORY

- **Qumran** (08>Feb 11)
  PPT “Qumran” OEA
  ABS Borowski 2003: 99-108
  DAY Benjamin 2004: 384-403 (Ezek 40:1—48:35)

- **The Wheeler-Kenyon Method** (09>Feb 13)
• **Jericho** (10> Feb 18)
PPT "Jericho" OEANE
ABS Borowski 2003: 1-12

• **Arad** (11> Feb 20)
PPT Arad OEANE
ABS Nemet-Nejat 2002: 47-76
DAY Benjamin 2004: 176-245 (1 Sam 15:1-33)

• **Gezer** (12> Feb 25)
PPT Benjamin 2009: Gezer
ABS Nemet-Nejat 2002: 1-46
DAY Benjamin 2004: 176-245 (1 Kgs 2:1—11:43)

• **Megiddo** (13> Feb 27)
PPT Megiddo OEANE
ABS Nemet-Nejat 2002: 305-308
DAY Benjamin 2004: 176-245 (1 Kgs 16:19—22:40)

• **Lachish** (14> Mar 03)
PPT Benjamin 2009: Lachish
ABS Nemet-Nejat 2002: 217-244
Benjamin 2004: 372-383 (Jer 34:1—35:19)

• **Hazor** (15> Mar 05)
PPT “Hazor” OEANE
ABS Nemet-Nejat 2002: 99-120
DAY Benjamin 2004: 124-163 (Judg 4:1—5:31)

• **Dan** (16> Mar 17)
PPT “Dan” OEANE
ABS Nemet-Nejat 2002: 77-98
DAY Benjamin 2004: 442-449 (Amos 7:10-17)

**ANNALES ARCHAEOLOGY**

• **Agriculture** (17> Mar 19)
PPT Benjamin 2009: Agriculture
ABS Borowski 2003: 13-42
DAY Benjamin 2004: 262-285 (Ps 23:1-6)

• **Pottery** (18> Mar 24)
PPT Benjamin 2009: Pottery
ABS Borowski 2003: 87-98
DAY Benjamin 2004: 20-71 (Gen 4:4—4:2)

• **Architecture** (19> Mar 26)
PPT Benjamin 2009: Architecture
ABS Nemet-Nejat 2002: 121-162
DAY Benjamin 2004: 286-303 (Prov 31:10-31)

• **Graves** (20> Mar 31)
ABS Borowski 2003: 63-86
PROCESSUAL ARCHAEOLOGY

- **Tel Miqne-Ekron** (21>Apr 02)
  PPT Benjamin 2009: Tel Miqne-Ekron
  ABS Nemet-Nejat 2002: 175-216

- **Caesarea Maritima** (22> Apr 07)
  PPT “Caesarea Maritima” OEA NE
  ABS Nemet-Nejat 2002: 245-304
  DAY Benjamin 2004: 450-459 (Jonah 1:1—3:9)

- **Biblical Archaeology** (23>Apr 09)
  Benjamin 2009: “Biblical Archaeology”
  OEA NE “Biblical Archaeology”

- **Petra** (24> Apr 14)
  PPT “Petra” OEA NE
  ABS Nemet-Nejat 2002: 77-98
  DAY Benjamin 2004: 20-71 (Gen 19:1-38)

- **Masada** (25> Apr 16)
  PPT “Masada” OEA NE
  ABS Borowski 2003: 43-62
  DAY Benjamin 2004: 246-261 (Job 3:1-28)

POST-PROCESSUAL ARCHAEOLOGY
(Benjamin 2009: “Post-Processual Archaeology 26> Apr 21)

- **Archaeology of Gender** (27> Apr 23)
  PPT Benjamin 2009: Archaeology of Gender
  ABS Nemet-Nejat 2002: 163-174
  DAY Benjamin 2004: 72-123 (Exod 1:7-2:10)

CONCLUSION

- **Future of Biblical Archaeology** (28>Apr 28)
  Benjamin 2009: Future of Biblical Archaeology
  Borowski 2003: 109-126

Requirements and Grading

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There are no exams. No previous courses in religious studies are required. Grades are based on class participation and three writing projects. You will gather, interpret and evaluate material from the social sciences and religious studies (S1-3).

Class participation (30%) requires collaboration and critical thinking. You are evaluated on how well you understand and how well you can apply what you learn from the assigned readings and from class on the basis of the questions that you ask, the questions that you answer, and the notes that you take during discussions. Bring your books and notes with you to class. Although you must be present to participate, this is not a grade for attendance.

Writing Projects include a ten-slide PowerPoint presentation of one assigned reading from Benjamin 2009 or OEANE (20%); a 3-5 page day-in-the-life story using Benjamin 2004 (20%); and an annotated reading list of five articles/chapters from books/references in Benjamin 2009: “Introduction” (30%).

Directions and samples for each project are posted on Blackboard in the Assignments folder. Grades are based on how well you follow these directions, and incorporate the comments given on your work by the instructor and the teaching assistant in your revisions.

Computer literacy is required. Computer literacy is required. Be sure to check your campus e-mail (http://asu.edu/epoupdate) and the class homepage on Blackboard (http://myasucourses.asu.edu) before each class. There is on-line instruction for Blackboard, and technical support for computer problems at (480) 965-6500 and http://uto.asu.edu.

PPT, abstracts and Day-in-the-Life story must be composed on a PC (not a Mac) in Microsoft Word 2003 (not Microsoft Word 2007, Vista, RTF, Notepad, Wordpad or WordPerfect). Assignments must be submitted to the Assignments Folder on Blackboard by 9:00 AM on the due date. No hard copies or e-mail attachments are accepted for credit.

Attendance and Make-ups,

You are expected to have study partners to collaborate with you on your research and class-work. If you are absent for any reason, contact your study partner to review notes before the next class.

There are no extensions or make-ups. You are expected to complete missing (MI), incomplete (IN) or late (LA) assignments with the help of your study partner. The completed assignments, however, will only be re-graded at the next due date. Grades for these assignments will be marked as originally MI, IN or LA, and taken into consideration, on a case-by-case basis, in the final grade.

Withdrawals, and Incompletes
http://www.asu.edu/aad/catalogs/general/ug-enrollment.html#grading-system
Academic Honesty
The Department of Religious Studies abides by ASU’s Office of Student Life: “Student Academic Integrity Policy.” See:

http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/studentlife/judicial

http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/studentlife/judicial/academic_integrity.htm