

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

ANTH/RELS 317-500

SYLLABUS

SPRING 2020 (Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:20-3:35 PM)

Location: Online

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IMPORTANT NOTE

LECTURES: Due to the current exceptional circumstances there may be revisions to the following plan (**please see p. 5 for a current revised schedule**). I will be preparing the lectures as Quicktime .mov files to which you will receive links. To facilitate uploading the files I will break them into segments of about 10 minutes each (= approximately 1GB of data). I have selected this, somewhat less dynamic, form of presentation because it appears to be the most stable platform for a time during which the internet is likely to undergo significant stresses and possible failures.

For test reviews I will post a pdf of the review sheet and discuss the terms, in the manner described above for Test #2 on Thursday, March 26th and for the final on Thursday, April 23rd.

OFFICE HOURS: I will have office hours as usual on Wednesdays, 3:00-5:00 PM. These, however, will be “virtual office hours” via Zoom. You will receive an invitation to join me should you wish to do so. Note that I will enable Zoom’s “Waiting Room” option so that anyone signing up will be assured privacy.

Due to the loss of classes last week and to our good fortune having Dr. Bryant visit with us, I plan to conclude the semester with the end of the Iron Age (586 BC). In order to do this, I have removed a class in which we were to view a film on the Uluburun shipwreck (NOVA’s *Voyage to Antiquity*). This film, however, is available to you on eCampus (go to Content→Videos). I suggest that you watch it following my lecture on Uluburun, scheduled for Tuesday April 7th. I regret that I will not be able to tell you about the Sea of Galilee Boat, but I gave this talk some years ago at the University of Chicago’s Oriental Institute and they posted that lecture on line (go to http://mindonline.uchicago.edu/media/alumni_development/alumni_education/wachsmann_11112009_512k.mov).

On a more personal note, I wish each of you strength in coping with these difficult times. They are trying for everyone. Please practice social distancing both for your own personal safety, and for the safety of others. And remember, this too shall pass.

With best regards,

Shelley Wachsmann

This course is designed to introduce the student to the archaeology and material culture of the Land of the Bible. The course has the following objectives: A) to introduce students to the rich matrix of material culture related to the peoples of biblical times in that region, B) to integrate these physical remains into an overall humanistic understanding of the biblical world, C) to supply the student with the tools to evaluate archaeological discoveries in relation to the biblical narrative, and, D) to introduce the student to the interrelationship of various sources—texts, artifacts, iconography, etc.—for interpreting and understanding the past. There are no prerequisites to taking this course.

We will cover the period from the Epi-Paleolithic period (ca. 10,000-8,500 B.C.) till the first-century A.D. Classes will be devoted primarily to Keynote™ lectures. We will also see video presentations.

The final grade will be based on the total grades from one assignment (5 points), two mid-term examinations, worth 30 points each and a final examination worth 35 points. Students must bring their own Scantron test forms and pencils to class on exam days.

The second mid-term, and the final test, will include only material covered since the previous test. We will have a class devoted to a review prior to each test. The class session prior to each test will be spent in reviewing the material covered in the test. Letter grades assigned will follow the standard TAMU scale: 100-90 = **A**, 89-80 = **B**, 79-70 = **C**, 69-60 = **D**, 59 and below = **F**.

As a textbook for the first part of the course we will be using Amihai Mazar's *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: 10,000-586 B.C.E. (The Anchor Bible Reference Library.)* New York, Yale University Press (2009). The majority of additional readings for this course are found in a journal entitled *Biblical Archaeology Review*. This resource, as well as other materials, are available online at eCampus.

CLASS LECTURES ONLINE

Class lectures are also available on-line as downloadable pdf files on eCampus. Students should download these files and print them out (multiple slides per printed page) as a convenient aid in taking notes. *These lecture files do not replace class attendance.*

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>. Disabilities may include, but are not limited, to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

Respect for cultural and human biological diversity are core concepts of Anthropology. Anthropological research provides perspectives and data that can be used to examine many current social issues that may be appropriate to discuss in this class. Students and faculty should expect to both defend and critique diverse points of view in a respectful manner. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by your fellow students and instructor, and refrain from derogatory comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. There is no justification for discrimination or hateful speech or behavior in any form. The Anthropology Department supports the Texas A&M University commitment to Diversity, and welcomes individuals regardless of age, background, citizenship, disability, education, ethnicity, family status, gender, gender identity, geographical location, language, military experience, political

view, race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and work experience (See <http://diversity.tamu.edu/>).

TITLE IX ON LIMITS TO CONFIDENTIALITY

Texas A&M University and the College of Liberal Arts are committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws provide guidance for achieving such an environment. Although class materials are generally considered confidential pursuant to student record policies and laws, University employees — including instructors — cannot maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues that jeopardize the health and safety of our community. As the instructor, I must report (per Texas A&M System Regulation 08.01.01) the following information to other University offices if you share it with me, even if you do not want the disclosed information to be shared:

- Allegations of sexual assault, sexual discrimination, or sexual harassment when they involve TAMU students, faculty, or staff, or third parties visiting campus.

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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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SCHEDULE SPRING 2020

WEEK 1

- 1) Tuesday, January 14th → Introduction to Biblical Archaeology I
- 2) Thursday, January 16th → Introduction to Biblical Archaeology II

WEEK 2

- 3) Tuesday, January 21st → Introduction to Biblical Archaeology III
- 4) Thursday, January 23rd → Introduction to Biblical Archaeology IV (Video presentation: Archaeology from the Ground Down) (Assignment given)

WEEK 3

- 5) Tuesday, January 28th → Introduction to Biblical Archaeology V
- 6) Thursday, January 30th → Introduction to Biblical Archaeology VI & The Epi-Paleolithic and Neolithic Periods: The First Agriculturists (Assignment returned, 5 points)

WEEK 4

- 7) Tuesday, February 4th → The First Agriculturists: The Epi-Paleolithic and Neolithic Periods (Contd.)
- 8) Thursday, February 6th → Review

WEEK 5

- 9) Tuesday, February 11th → Mid-term examination #1
- 10) Thursday, February 13th → The Chalcolithic Period: Innovative Communities of the Fourth Millennium

WEEK 6

- 11) Tuesday, February 18th → Guest Lecturer: Dr. Vaughn Bryant, The Agricultural Revolution and Modern Nutrition
- 12) Thursday, February 20th → The Emergence of Cities: The Early Bronze Age

WEEK 7

- 13) Tuesday, February 25th → Early Bronze Age (Contd.)
- 14) Thursday, February 27th → An Interlude: The Early Bronze IV/Middle Bronze Age I

WEEK 8

- 15) Tuesday, March 3rd → Mighty Canaanite City States: The Middle Bronze Age II
- 16) Thursday, March 5th → Middle Bronze Age II

WEEK 9

Spring Break. No classes. (March 9th -13th, 2020)

WEEK 10

Classes cancelled due to Corona Virus

REVISED SCHEDULE, FOR WEEKS 11-15, SPRING 2020

(REVISED MARCH 20, 2020)

WEEK 11

- 19) Tuesday, March 24th ➤ Middle Bronze Age II (Contd.) & The Late Bronze Age: In the Shadow of Egyptian Domination
- 20) Thursday, March 26th ➤ Review for Test #2

WEEK 12

- 21) Tuesday, March 31st ➤ Mid-term examination #2
- 22) Thursday, April 2nd ➤ Late Bronze Age (Contd.)

WEEK 13

- 23) Tuesday, April 7th ➤ Seafaring in the Late Bronze Age: The Uluburun Shipwreck
- 24) Thursday, April 9th ➤ The Days of the Judges: The Iron Age I

WEEK 14

- 25) Tuesday, April 14th ➤ The Sea Peoples and the Philistines: The Iron Age I
- 26) Thursday, April 16th ➤ The United Monarchy: The Reigns of Saul, David and Solomon: Iron Age IIA, ca. 1000-925 B.C

WEEK 15

- 27) Tuesday, April 21st ➤ The Divided Monarchy: Iron Age IIB-C
- 28) Thursday, April 23rd ➤ Review

Final examination: Monday, May 5th, 2020, 1:00-3:00 PM

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READINGS FROM COURSE RESERVES & BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY REVIEW**INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

Ben-Tor, A., 1992. Introduction. In: *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. Ed. A. Ben-Tor. Trans. R. Greenberg. West Hanover: 1-9.

THE NEOLITHIC PERIOD & NOAH'S FLOOD

- De Witte, M., 2018. An Ancient Thirst for Beer May Have Inspired Agriculture, Stanford Archaeologists Say. *Stanford News* (September 17, 2018): (<https://news.stanford.edu/2018/09/12/crafting-beer-lead-cereal-cultivation/>).
- Stone, E., 1999. Black Sea Flood Theory to be Tested. *Science* 283(12 February): 915-916.
- Times of Israel Staff, 2018. 9,000-Year-Old Mask from Hebron Hills Sheds Light on the Dawn of Agriculture. *The Times of Israel* (November 28, 2018) (https://www.timesofisrael.com/9000-year-old-mask-from-hebron-hills-sheds-light-on-the-dawn-of-agriculture/?utm_source=The+Daily+Edition&utm_campaign=daily-edition-2018-11-28&utm_medium=email).

THE EARLY BRONZE IV/MIDDLE BRONZE AGE I: AN INTERLUDE

The Enuma Elish (Mesopotamian Creation Epic). In: *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. Third Edition with Supplement. Ed. J.B. Pritchard. Princeton. 1969: 60-72.

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE II: MIGHTY CANAANITE CITY-STATES

Kitchen, K.A., 1995. The Patriarchal Age: Myth or History? *Biblical Archaeology Review* 21/2: 48-57, 88, 90, 92, 94-95.

THE ULUBURUN SHIPWRECK

- Bass, G. F., 1987. Oldest Known Shipwreck Reveals Bronze Age Splendors. *National Geographic Magazine* 172: 693-733.
- Pulak, C.M., 1998. The Uluburun Shipwreck: An Overview. *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 27: 188-224.

THE DAYS OF THE JUDGES: THE ISRAELITE CONQUEST AND SETTLEMENT

- Yurco, F.J., 1990. 3,200-Year-Old Picture of Israelites found in Egypt. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 16/5: 20-38.
- Anonymous, 1991. Can you Name the Panel with the Israelites? *Biblical Archaeology Review* 17/6: 54-55.
- Rainey, A., 1991. Rainey's Challenge. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 17/6: 56-60.
- Yurco, F.J., 1991. Yurco's Response. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 17/6: 61.

INVADERS FROM ACROSS THE SEA: THE ARRIVAL OF THE SEA PEOPLES AND THE PHILISTINES

- The Journey of Wen-amon to Phoenicia. In: *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. Third Edition with Supplement. Ed. J.B. Pritchard. Princeton. 1969: 25-29.
- Stager, L.E., 1991. When Canaanites and Philistines Ruled Ashkelon. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 17/2: 24-37, 40-43.
- Wachsmann, S., 1997. Were the Sea Peoples Mycenaean? The Evidence of Ship Iconography. In: *Res Maritimae: Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean from Prehistory to Late Antiquity*. (Proceedings of the Second International Symposium "Cities on

the Sea,” Nicosia, Cyprus, October 18-22, 1994, Nicosia, Cyprus). Eds. S. Swiny, R. Hohlfelder and H. Wylde Swiny. Atlanta: 339-356.

THE REIGNS OF SAUL, DAVID AND SOLOMON: THE UNITED MONARCHY

- Anonymous, 1994. “David” Found at Dan. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 20/2: 26-39.
- Anonymous, 1999. Has David Been Found in Egypt? *Biblical Archaeology Review* 25/1: 34-35.
- Draper, R., 2010. Kings of Controversy: Was the Kingdom of David and Solomon a Glorious Empire—or Just a Little Cow Town? It Depends on Which Archaeologist You Ask. *National Geographic Magazine* 218(6 [December]): 66-91.
- Levin, Y., 2012. Did Pharaoh Sheshonq Attack Jerusalem? *Biblical Archaeology Review* 38(4): 42-52.
- Levy, T. E. and M. N. Najjar, 2006. Some Thoughts on Khirbet en-Nahas, Edom, Biblical History and Anthropology – A Response to Israel Finkelstein. *Tel Aviv* 33: 3-17.
- Mazar, A., 2010. Archaeology and the Biblical Narrative: The Case of the United Monarchy. In *One God - One Cult - One Nation. Archaeological and Biblical Perspectives*. R. G. Kratz and Spieckermann, eds. Berlin and New York, Walter de Gruyter: 29-58.
- Mazar, E., 2009. *The Palace of King David: Excavations at the Summit of the City of David, Preliminary Report of Seasons 2005-2007*. Jerusalem, Shoham Academic Research and Publication.
- Monson, J., 2000. The New ^eAin Dara Temple: Closest Solomonic Parallel. *Biblical Archaeological Review* 26(3): 20-35, 67.
- Shanks, H., 2010. Prize Find: Oldest Hebrew Inscription Discovered in Israelite Fort on Philistine Border. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 36(2): 51-54.

A TOUR OF THE SECOND TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

- Brandfon, F., 2017. Did the Temple Menorah Come Back to Jerusalem? *Biblical Archaeology Review* 43(5): 40-49, 70.
- Ritmeyer, K. and L. Ritmeyer, 1990. Reconstructing Herod’s Temple Mount in Jerusalem. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 15/6: 23-42.

SEAFARING ON THE SEA OF GALILEE IN THE TIME OF JESUS: THE SEA OF GALILEE BOAT

- Wachsmann, S., 1988. The Galilee Boat: 2,000-Year-Old Hull Recovered Intact. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 14/5: 29-33.
- Wachsmann, S., 1995. Bookshorts: Raiders of the Lost Boat. Condensation of S. Wachsmann, 1995. *The Sea of Galilee Boat: An Extraordinary 2000 Year Old Discovery*. New York, Plenum Press. *Christian Reader* (Nov/Dec): 80-93.

THE FIRST JEWISH REBELLION AGAINST ROMAN RULE

- Avigad, N., 1990. The Burnt House Captures a Moment in Time. *Biblical Archaeological Review* 9/6: 66-72.
- Syon, D., 1992. Gamla—Portrait of a Rebellion. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 18/1: 20-37.
- Netzer, E., 1991. The Last Days and Hours of Masada. *Biblical Archaeology Review* 17/6: 20-32.
- Josephus: The Jewish War*. G.A. Williamson (trans.). New York. 1981: 223-239. (Chapter 13 Vespasian’s Conquering Advance), 355-373 (Chapter 21 The Temple Burnt and the City Taken), 387-408 (Chapter 23 Cleaning-up Operations).

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Sample Questions

Students sometimes have difficulty conceptualizing the types of questions that can be asked on multiple-choice tests. To help you in doing this, here are a few examples of questions from past tests given in this course:

- What is the name of the predominant culture of the Chalcolithic period?

A) The Wadi Raba Culture; B) the Ghassulian culture; C) the Çatal Huyuk culture; D) the Shar Hagolan culture; E) the Natufian culture.

- During which period were heads of the deceased removed at death and plastered to give them life-like features?

A) Early Bronze Age II; B) Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (PPNB); C) Pre-Pottery Neolithic A (PPNA); D) Pottery Neolithic B (PNB); E) Pottery Neolithic A (PNA).

What is the chronological framework for the Early Bronze Age I (EB I)?

A) 3,050-2,700; B) 3,300-3,050; C) 2,700-2,300; D) 6,000-5,000; E) 4,300-3,300.

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