INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

ANTH/RELS 317 (200) (Honors)

SYLLABUS

SPRING 2013 (Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:20-3:35 PM)

Psychology Building, Room 337

Shelley Wachsmann, Ph.D.
Meadows Professor of Biblical Archaeology
Nautical Archaeology Program, Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University

Office hours: Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 PM, or by appointment at the
Nautical Archaeology Program, Anthropology Department, Room 121
Telephone (979) 847-9257; E-mail: swachmann@tamu.edu

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 acquaint students with 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, D) To familiarize 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 1st-
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 earned by the student from one
assignment (5 points), three tests (two mid-term examinations and a final examination, each worth
25 points) and a term paper (20 points) due the last day of class (Thursday, April 25). The
assignment will be given on our third meeting (Tuesday, January 22nd) and will be due on our
fifth meeting (Tuesday, February 29th). Late submissions will not be accepted.

As term paper topic selection can be a difficult process, and lead to procrastination, I encourage
you to look over the material that we will cover and select a topic for your term paper early in the
semester. Please see me to discuss your topic ideas. You will be expected to submit a 250-word
(1-page double spaced) abstract together with a preliminary bibliography no later than our tenth
meeting (February 14th). Remember, deadlines are our friends.

The second mid-term, and the final test, will include only material covered since the previous test.
The class session prior to each test will be spent in reviewing and discussing 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. Sometimes students do not do well on a midterm.
Should this happen the student will have the option to take a final exam covering all the material
of the entire semester. This test will count for the final and will replace the lower of the two mid-
term test grades (50 point value). Anyone wishing to take this option must register to do so no
later than our last meeting (Thursday, April 25th). Note that this possibility should be viewed as an opportunity of last resort.

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). Additional readings will be found at Evans E-reserve. The majority of additional readings for this course are found in a journal entitled *Biblical Archaeology Review*. This resource is available online at Libcat. To access these internet resources you must either use a university computer, or, if you are off campus, you may be required to sign into your university account.

**CLASS LECTURES ON LINE**

Class lectures are available on-line as downloadable pdf files on the Electronic Course Reserves. 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.*

**CLASS ID NUMBERS**

For reasons of identity security neither Social Security numbers nor UIN numbers will be used when posting grades. For this purpose each student will receive a unique class ID number.

**THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Disability Services in Room B118, Cain Hall. Tel. 845-1637. Website: (http://disability.tamu.edu/).

**STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY**

Respect for cultural and human biological diversity is a core concept of Anthropology. In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to class discussion. 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. The Anthropology Department supports the Texas A&M University commitment to Diversity, and welcomes individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, disabilities, education, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experience, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences (See http://diversity.tamu.edu/).

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

*An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.* For more information regarding academic integrity, please visit the Honor Council Rules and Procedures on the web: http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu).
SCHEDULE SPRING 2013

WEEK 1
(1) Tuesday, January 15th ➤ Introduction to Biblical Archaeology I
(2) Thursday, January 17th ➤ Introduction to Biblical Archaeology II

WEEK 2
(3) Tuesday, January 22nd ➤ Introduction to Biblical Archaeology III (Assignment given)
(4) Thursday, January 24th ➤ Introduction to Biblical Archaeology IV (Video presentation: Archaeology From the Ground Down)

WEEK 3
(5) Tuesday, January 29th ➤ Introduction to Biblical Archaeology V (Assignment returned, 5 points)
(6) Thursday, January 31st ➤ Introduction to Biblical Archaeology VI & The First Agriculturists: The Epi-Paleolithic and Neolithic Periods

WEEK 4
(7) Tuesday, February 5th ➤ The First Agriculturists: The Epi-Paleolithic and Neolithic Periods (Contd.)
(8) Thursday, February 7th ➤ Review

WEEK 5
(9) Tuesday, February 12th ➤ Mid-term examination #1 (30 points)
(10) Thursday, February 14th ➤ On Writing Reports and Term Papers (250-word term paper abstracts due)
NB Students are invited to Professor Vaughn Bryant’s lecture to ANTH/RELS 317 (500), The Paleolithic Health Club: Where Have We Gone Wrong? (3:55 PM, Harrington Educational Center)

WEEK 6
(11) Tuesday, February 19th ➤ Innovative Communities of the Fourth Millennium: The Chalcolithic Period
(12) Thursday, February 21st ➤ The Emergence of Cities: The Early Bronze Age

WEEK 7
(13) Tuesday, February 26th ➤ Early Bronze Age (Contd.)
(14) Thursday, February 28th ➤ An Interlude: The Early Bronze IV/Middle Bronze Age I

WEEK 8
(15) Tuesday, March 5th ➤ Mighty Canaanite City-States: The Middle Bronze Age II
(16) Thursday, March 7th ➤ Middle Bronze Age II (Contd.) & In the Shadow of Egyptian Domination: The Late Bronze Age
WEEK 9

SPRING BREAK. NO CLASSES.

WEEK 10
(17) Thursday, March 19th ➤ Late Bronze Age (Contd.)
(18) Thursday, March 21st ➤ Review

WEEK 11
(19) Tuesday, March 26th ➤ Mid-term examination #2 (30 points)
(20) Thursday, March 28th ➤ Seafaring in the Late Bronze Age: The Uluburun Shipwreck

WEEK 12
(21) Tuesday, April 2nd ➤ A Voyage to Antiquity: (Video presentation)
(22) Thursday, April 4th ➤ The Days of the Judges: Iron Age I

WEEK 13
(23) Tuesday, April 9th ➤ The Sea Peoples and the Philistines: The Iron Age I
(24) Thursday, April 11th ➤ The United Monarchy: The Reigns of Saul, David and Solomon: Iron Age IIA, ca. 1000-925 B.C.

WEEK 14
(25) Tuesday, April 16th ➤ The Divided Monarchy: Iron Age IIB-C
(26) Thursday, April 18th ➤ Historical Overview: From the Persian to the Early Roman Periods & A Tour of the Second Holy Temple in Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus

WEEK 15
(27) Tuesday, April 23rd ➤ The Backdrop to the Ministry of Jesus: Seafaring on the Sea of Galilee
(28) Thursday, April 25th ➤ Review

Final examination: Wednesday, May 8th, 1:00-3:00 PM (35 points)
READINGS

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY
Mazar, A., Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, pp. 1-34 (Ch. 1).

NEOLITHIC PERIOD

THE CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD

EARLY BRONZE AGE

EARLY BRONZE IV/MIDDLE BRONZE AGE I

MIDDLE BRONZE AGE II
LATE BRONZE AGE

THE ULUBURUN SHIPWRECK

IRON AGE I: THE ISRAELITE CONQUEST AND SETTLEMENT
IRON AGE I: THE PHILISTINES & THE SEA PEOPLES


IRON II: THE UNITED & DIVIDED MONARCHYS


FROM THE PERSIAN TO THE EARLY ROMAN PERIODS


A TOUR OF THE SECOND TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM


THE SEA OF GALILEE BOAT


And for your general interest...

A) THE ANCIENT WORLD ON TELEVISION

AWOTV on the www:
http://www.atrium-media.com/rogueclassicism/categories/awotv/
To subscribe, send a blank message to:
mailto:awotv-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To unsubscribe, send a blank message to:
mailto:awotv-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

B) EXPLORATOR: ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS ON THE WEB

Read the latest Explorator on the web at:
http://www.atrium-media.com/rogueclassicism/categories/explorator
Past issues of Explorator are available on the web at:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Explorator/messages
To subscribe to Explorator, send a blank email message to:
mailto:Explorator-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To unsubscribe, send a blank email message to:
mailto:Explorator-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com