

# **Archaeology and the New Testament (BBNT6301)**

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division  
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## **NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfil the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

## **COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. The core value for this year’s emphasis at the seminary is “Doctrinal Integrity,” with that value being emphasized in this course.

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Study is made of archaeological finds from Syro-Palestine, Israel, and the Mediterranean basin which aid in the interpretation of the New Testament in areas such as history, social contexts, religion, material culture, and literary genre studies. Focus of this study is on the Late Hellenistic through Early Roman periods. Illustrated studies of major excavations which provide exemplars of each of the major periods are included.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should gain a deeper understanding of the state of research of modern archaeology
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation and understanding of archaeology as it relates to Biblical Studies and other cognate studies.
3. Students should acquire the ability to apply their understanding of archaeology to all aspects of Biblical studies, including backgrounds, history, anthropology, textual studies and many other areas.

## **COURSE TEACHING METHODS:**

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, computer resources, textbook reviews, journal article reviews and a research paper. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

## **TEXTBOOKS:**

1. John McRay, *Archaeology & the New Testament* (ISBN 10:0-8010-6267-5)
2. Jack Finegan, *The Archaeology of the New Testament: The Life of Jesus and the Beginning of the Early Church* (ISBN 0-691-00220-7)
3. Bruce Malina, *The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology* (ISBN 0-664-22295-1)

## **III. REQUIREMENTS IN THE COURSE:**

1. **Book Reviews**: Students are expected to complete reading McRay, Finegan and Malina. The book reviews should be 2-3 single-spaced pages and include the following elements:

- 1) Bibliographic Entry
- 2) Statement of the Author's Purpose
- 3) Summary of the Author's Approach (can be in the same paragraph as #2, Purpose)
- 4) Summary of the Contents (selected portions only, such as special insights into passages that drew the student's attention)
- 5) An Evaluation of the book, including consideration of the most suitable readership, the scope of the book (comprehensive? or lacking in major areas), the viewpoints presented (multiple viewpoints when pertinent, or only one), and your overall evaluation of the book.

The summaries should be general in nature, covering the broad topics and several specific texts or topics as examples of the author's approach.

**The Book Reviews are due by December 7<sup>th</sup> and should be submitted via email to the professor at [jparker@nobts.edu](mailto:jparker@nobts.edu).**

2. **Research Paper**: Each student will prepare a research paper on a text or topic germane to the study of New Testament archaeology, with topics requiring pre-approval by the professor. The student will select a topic of their choice in consultation with the professor and will write a formal research paper on the topic in Turabian format. Papers should be approximately 10-15 pages double-spaced, excluding bibliography. The grading of the paper will be based on the following considerations: Form/Style/Grammar = 10%; Bibliography = 15%; Organization of the paper = 10%; Logic Flow = 15%; Content (coverage of viewpoints, details, solid analysis of the archaeological issues, etc.) = 50%.

**The Research Papers are due on November 30th and should be submitted via e-mail to the professor at [jparker@nobts.edu](mailto:jparker@nobts.edu).**

3. **Journal Articles:** The student will read 2 journal articles from the list given below or a journal acceptable to the professor, on a subject of interest to the student and germane to the study of New Testament archaeology. The student will then prepare a three page, doubled spaced report for each journal article. The content of the reports will be the bibliographical information of the article, a summary of the content of the article, an analysis of the contents (the student's observations and interaction with the material) and a brief conclusion. The paper should include the student's name, however, a cover sheet is not required. The paper should be presented in Turabian style as regards any footnotes, citations or bibliographical entries. The due dates are: **Journal Article No. 1 – October 12<sup>th</sup> and Journal Article No. 2 – November 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**COURSE EVALUATION:**

Research Paper                      50%  
 Book Reviews                        30% (3 @ 10% each)  
 Journal Articles                      20% (2 @ 10% each)

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Reference to Texts: F=Finegan; Mc = McRay; M = Malina**

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>F</b>   | <b>Mc</b>    | <b>M</b>               |
|--------------|------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <b>8/24</b>  | pp 1-115   | pp 11-88     | Ch 1 – pp 1-57         |
| <b>9/14</b>  | pp 117-220 | pp 91-149    | Ch 2,3 & 4 – pp 58-133 |
| <b>10/12</b> | pp 220-318 | pp – 153-222 | Ch 5 & 6 – pp 134-197  |
| <b>11/9</b>  | pp 319-388 | pp – 225-375 | Ch 7 – pp 198-222      |

**SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Dictionaries, etc.**

*The Anchor Bible Dictionary* New York: Doubleday, 1993.  
*Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible.* (rev. ed.) Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.  
*Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels.* Joel B. Green, et. al. (eds.) Leicester: Intervarsity Press, 1992.  
*Dictionary of Paul and his Letters.* Gerald F. Hawthorne, et. al. (eds.) Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1993.  
*Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments.* Gralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids (ed.), 1997  
*Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds.* Craig Evans & Stanley Porter (eds.). Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2000.  
 Pritchard, James, ed. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts: Relating to the Old Testament*, 2nd ed., Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1955.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. *The Ancient Near East*, vols 1 and 2: *Anthology of Texts and Pictures*, 1958, 1975.

### **Atlases**

- The Macmillan Bible Atlas* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.), Y. Aharoni, et. al., New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1993
- New Bible Atlas*, J.J. Bimson, et.al., Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 1985.
- Cleave, Richard. *Pictorial Archive: ANE History; Student Map Manual*. Jerusalem, 1975.
- Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible*, C. Rasmussen, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
- Holman Bible Atlas*, Brisco, Thomas. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998
- The Sacred Bridge*, Rainey, Anson F. & R. Steven Notley. Jerusalem: Carta, 2006

### **Historical Geography**

- Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.
- Baly, Dennis. *The Geography of the Bible*. NY: Harper, 1957.
- Bimson, John J. (ed.), *Baker Encyclopedia of Bible Places*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
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- Harrison, R.K., ed. *Major Cities of the Biblical World*. Nashville: Nelson, 1985.
- Smith, George Adam. *The Historical Geography of the Holy Land*. Jerusalem: Ariel Publishing House, 1931.

### **Bible Handbooks, etc**

- Hoerth, A., G. Mattingly, and E. Yamauchi (eds.). *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
- Gower, Ralph. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1987.
- Matthews, Victor. *Manners and Customs in the Bible*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.
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- Van Der Woude, A.S., gen. ed. *The World of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.
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### **Archaeology**

- Albright, William F. *The Archaeology of Palestine*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1949, rev. 1960, reprinted by Peter Smith Publishers, 1971.
- Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed. *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. NY: Yale, 1991.
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- Levy, T. (ed.). *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*.
- McRay, John. *Archaeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000 - 586 B.C.E.* Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1990.
- Meyer, E. (ed.). *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Archaeology in the Near East*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.
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## **Egypt**

Kathryn Bard (ed.) *The Encyclopedia of the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt*. New York: Routledge Press, 1999.

Redford, Donald. *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1992.

Redford, Donald B. *Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*. London: Oxford, 2000.

Wilson, John A. *The Culture of Ancient Egypt*. Chicago: University Press, 1951.

## **Ancient Palestine**

Albertz, A *History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament. Volume I: From the beginnings to the End of the Monarchy* (trans. John Bowden; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1994)

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Ahlstrom, *The History of Ancient Palestine From the Palaeolithic Period to Alexander's Conquest* (Sheffield: JSOT, 1992).

Avi-Yonah, Michael. *The Holy Land: From the Persian to the Arab Conquest (536 BC-AD 640)*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1966.

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Stern, E. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, Volume II*, Double Day, New York, 2001  
Wellhausen, *Prolegomena to the History of Ancient Israel* (Translated from German). Meridan Paperback edition, 1957; 1883.

## Archaeological Journals

<http://www.openaccessarchaeology.org/journal-search.html#.Vb0V8HnJC1t>

Accordia Research Papers  
ACOR's newsletter  
Acta Archaeologica  
Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis  
Aegean Archaeology  
African Archaeological Review  
African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter  
Almatourism-Journal of Tourism, Culture and Territorial Development  
American Antiquity  
American Journal of Archaeology  
Analecta Praehistorica Leidensia  
Anatolian Studies  
Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia  
Ancient Mesoamerica  
Ancient TL  
Andean Past  
Annual of the British School at Athens  
Anthropological Science  
Anthropozoologica  
Antiqua  
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Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy  
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Archaeology in Oceania  
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Archaeometry  
ArchAtlas  
Archeoastronomy: The Journal of Astronomy in Culture  
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Archeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association

Artefact  
ASNJ Bulletin  
Assemblage- The Sheffield graduate journal of archaeology  
Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa  
Before Farming- The archaeology and anthropology of hunter-gatherers  
Berkshire Archaeological Journal  
Britannia  
British Archaeology  
British Museum Studies in Ancient Egypt and Sudan  
Bronze Age Review  
Bulletin of the History of Archaeology  
Bulletin of the Australian Centre for Egyptology  
Buried History  
Byzantina Symmeikta  
Cambridge Archaeological Journal  
Canadian Journal of Archaeology  
Church Archaeology  
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Contrebis  
Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites  
Conservation Science in Cultural Heritage  
Dean Archaeology  
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Geoarchaeology  
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Historic Environment: Policy and Practice  
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International Association for Obsidian Studies Bulletin  
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International Journal of Historical Archaeology  
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International Journal of Osteoarchaeology  
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Internet Archaeology  
Israel Exploration Journal  
Journal Akkadica  
Journal for Late Antique Religion and Culture  
Journal of African Archaeology  
Journal of Anthropological Archaeology  
Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory  
Journal of Archaeological Research  
Journal of Archaeological Science

Journal of Archaeology of Egypt / Egyptology  
Journal of Conflict Archaeology  
Journal of Cuneiform Studies  
Journal of Egyptian Archaeology  
Journal of Field Archaeology  
Journal of Intercultural and Interdisciplinary Archaeology  
Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology  
Journal of Maritime Archaeology  
Journal of Material Culture  
Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology  
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Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt  
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Journal of World Prehistory  
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Levant  
Lithic Technology  
Living Past  
Medieval Archaeology  
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Near Eastern Archaeology  
NEARA Journal  
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PaleoAnthropology  
Papers from the Institute of Archaeology  
Papers of the British School at Rome  
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Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society  
Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society  
Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and natural History  
Public Archaeology  
Quarterly Bulletin  
Radiocarbon  
Rock Art Research  
Rosetta Journal  
SAA Archaeological Record  
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South African Archaeological Bulletin  
Strata: The Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society  
Survey Review  
Technical Research Bulletin  
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Traces in Time