

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

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division  
Dr. Jim Parker – Professor of Biblical Interpretation  
ISRAEL TRAVEL: March 2015**

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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, small group work, computer resources, textbook reviews, travel notes and journal, and student presentations. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

## **TEXTBOOKS:**

1. John McRay, *Archaeology & the New Testament*
2. Jack Finegan, *The Archaeology of the New Testament: The Life of Jesus and the Beginning of the Early Church*
3. Bruce Malina, *The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology*

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

1. Students are expected to complete reading McRay prior to the trip. A written review on the book is due by March 17th. The books by Finegan and Malina should be read by the beginning of the trip to Israel, with written reviews due by May 1st. 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. (15% per review = 45% total)

2. Each student will keep a journal with notes on the sites, lectures, and personal impressions. This journal (or a copy) is to be submitted by May 1st. (10%)

3. Students are expected to participate and take notes in the class sessions and participate in the travel lectures and discussions. (10%)

4. Each student may make presentations of site information, with the presentation schedule to be communicated to the group by the professor during the trip and coordinated with Dr. Warren's class. The time frame for each presentation is about 5 minutes. (10%)

5. 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. Papers should be approximately 10-15 pages double-spaced, including 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 historical background, etc.) = 50%.

**The research papers are due on May 11th and should be submitted via e-mail to the professor at jparker@nobts.edu (25%)**

### **COURSE EVALUATION:**

Class and Trip Participation	10%
Travel Log	10%
Presentation	10%
Research Paper	25%
Book Reviews	45% (3 @ 15% each)

### **CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

Book Review of McRay – Due March 17th

Israel Trip- March 19-28, 2015

- a. Reading of Finegan and Malina
- b. Student Presentations
- c. Special Lectures and Meetings
- d. Travel Journal compiled during the trip

Book Reviews of Finegan and Malina – Due May 1

Research Paper – Due by May 11th

### **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.

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*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.

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### **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.

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### **Historical Geography**

Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.

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DeVries, LaMoine. *Cities of the Biblical World*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.

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### **Bible Handbooks, etc**

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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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### **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*.

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