

**BBHG6355 History and Geography of Ancient Israel (Graduate)**  
**3 Semester Hours Summer 2016**  
**Excavation Program Dates: May 21-June 10, 2016**  
**Course Dates: May 21 to July 29, 2016**

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**Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill 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. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding of the Word of God in the context of Ancient and Modern Israel. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible in knowledge and spiritual walk to be ministers for Christ. This course addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately utilizing tools and resources in the history, archaeology, and geography of the Ancient Near East. The 2015-16 emphasis is on Mission Focus – we are dedicated to changing the world through a missional focus in all of our personal and ministry endeavors.

**Catalog Description:**

This course will acquaint students with the history and geography of ancient Israel and early Judaism as it is known from biblical texts, ancient historical sources, early Jewish writings and archaeological finds and will expose students to the way history was written in the ancient world. This will be accomplished through reading and comparison of historical sources and several study tours throughout the land of ancient Israel.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- The student will recognize the physical elements of the land of Israel and the ancient Near East -- the geography, topography, geology, climate, etc. -- via slide, book and map study.
- The student will read excerpts from the Old and New Testaments with an archaeological and geographical perspective.
- The student will examine materials related to cultural and religious practices among the ancient Israelites and other ethnic cultures of the Ancient Near East.
- The student will probe the interrelationship between geography, politics, economics, cultural mores, and religion in the development of the nation of Israel.
- The student will become conversant in the historical, geographical, and cultural materials of the Old and New Testaments.

## Procedures

- Students will have all reading assignments read before the lecture (the student will have to complete most of the readings before the start of the course).
- Students will participate in four weekend study tours. Some tours to nearby sites and regions will also take place during some week-day afternoons.
- The student should read all assigned materials prior to the lectures and be prepared to verbally interact during discussion. Slide and artifact illustrated lectures will supplement the field instruction.
- The student is encouraged to read outside the required readings list.
- Students will attend all lectures.

## Textbooks

1. English Bible

2. *Ancient Israel: From Abraham to the Romans Destruction of Jerusalem*, Hershel Shanks (ed.). (Prentice-Hall Publishers, 1999).

2. *Holman Bible Atlas* by Thomas Brisco (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998)

## Course Evaluation

Undergraduate students will be graded on participation in the fieldwork, and a final exam

|                                    |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Field attendance and participation | 30 % |
| Final Exam                         | 30%  |
| Research Paper                     | 40%  |

## Research Paper

Each student is required to produce a formal research paper (acc. to Turabian). Papers will be due by July 25, 2014. The research paper should be approximately 14-20 pages in length, inclusive of bibliography. Topics may be chosen after consultation with the professor.

## Israel Tour Component

Tentative Schedule:

May 21 Jerusalem Intro Tour

May 27 Qumran, En Gedi, Masada

May 28 Galilee: Nazareth/Sepphoris, Arbela, Capernaum, Kursi

June 3 Jerusalem 2

June 4 Caesarea Martima, Megiddo, Mt. Carmel

June 9 Philistine Coastal Plain & Shephelah

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