

# **Syro-Palestinian Archaeology and the Old Testament (BBOT6311)**

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Old Testament and Archaeology Department, Biblical Studies Division  
Dr. Jim Parker – Professor of Biblical Interpretation  
Spring 2016**

Office: Dodd 200

Phone: 205-307-9831

E-Mail: [jparker@nobts.edu](mailto:jparker@nobts.edu)

## **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 “Mission Focus,” 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 Old Testament in areas such as history, social contexts, religion, material culture, and literary genre studies. Focus of this study is on the Patriarchal (Bronze Age) through early Post-Exilic (Iron Age) 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. Alfred J. Hoerth, *Archaeology & The Old Testament* (ISBN 0-8010-1129-9)
2. Amnon Ben-Tor, Editor *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel* (ISBN 0-300-05919-1)

## **RECOMMENDED TEXT:**

1. Amihai Mazar, *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible- 10,000-586 B.C.E.* (ISBN 0-385-42590-2)

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

1. **Book Reviews:** Students are expected to complete reading Hoerth and Ben-Tor. 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 May 9th 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 April 25th 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 Old 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 – March 14th and Journal Article No. 2 – April 11th.**

**COURSE EVALUATION:**

Research Paper                      50%  
 Book Reviews                        20% (2 @ 10% each)  
 Journal Articles                      30% (2 @ 15% each)

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Reference to Texts: H=Hoerth; BT=Ben-Tor**

<b>Date</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BT</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>1/25</b>	Chs. 1-5	Chs. 1-3	
<b>2/15</b>	6-10	4-5	
<b>3/28</b>	11-15	6-7	
<b>4/25</b>	16-20	8-9	

**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.  
DeVries, LaMoine. *Cities of the Biblical World*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.  
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.  
Matthews, Victor and Don C. Benjamin. *Social World of Ancient Israel 1250-587 BCE*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1993.  
*The Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. NY, London: Tyndale Publishers, 1980, 1986.  
Van Der Woude, A.S., gen. ed. *The World of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.  
Walton, John, et. al. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000  
Wiseman, Donald J. ed. *Peoples of Old Testament Times*. Oxford: University Press, 1973.

### **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.  
Hoerth, A. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Baker, 1998.  
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.  
Moorey, Roger. *Excavation in Palestine*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981.  
Negev, Avraham, ed. *Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Lands*. Jerusalem: Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1972.  
Stern, Ephraim (ed.). *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*. Jerusalem: Carta, 1992.

## **History**

### **Ancient Near East**

- Craigie, Peter. *Ugarit and the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.
- Hallo, W.W. and Simpson, W.K. *The Ancient Near East: A History*. NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1971.
- Lloyd, Seton. *The Archaeology of Mesopotamia: From the Stone Age to the Persian Conquest*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1978.
- Olmstead, A.T. *History of the Assyrian Empire*. Chicago: University Press, 1960
- \_\_\_\_\_. *History of the Persian Empire*. Chicago: University Press, 1959.
- Yamacuchi, Edwin. *Persia and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.

## **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)
- Albertz, A *History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament Period, Volume 2; From the Exile to the Maccabees* (Louisville: Westminster/John Know, 1994)
- 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.
- Ben-Sasson (ed.), *A History of the Jewish People* (Cambridge: Harvard, 1976).
- Bickerman, *From Ezra to the Last of the Maccabees: Foundations of Post-Biblical Judaism* (New York: Schocken, 1962).
- Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.
- Bruce, F.F. *Israel and the Nations*. Grand Rapids: W.B.Eerdmans, 1969. Rev 1998.
- Cohen, *From the Maccabees to the Mishnah*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1987.
- Grabbe, *An Introduction to First Century Judaism: Jewish Religion and History in the Second Temple Period*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1996.
- Hayes and Miller, *Israelite and Judean History*. London: SCM Press, 1977.
- Noth, *The History of Israel*. London: SCM, 1958.
- Schurer, *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ (175 B.C.-A.D. 135)* (Revised and Edited by Geza Vermes and Fergus Millar; Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1973)
- Shanks (ed.), *Ancient Israel: A Short History from Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the Temple*. Washington DC: BAS, 1988.
- Smith, *Palestinian Parties and Politics That Shaped the Old Testament* (Second ed.; London: SCM, 1987) Vermes, *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English* (4th ed.; New York: Penguin, 1995)
- 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  
Antiquaries Journal  
Antiquity  
Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy  
Archaeologia Aeliana  
Archaeologia Bulgarica  
Archaeologia Cambrensis  
Archaeologia Cantiana  
Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences  
Archaeological Dialogues  
Archaeological Journal  
Archaeological Prospection  
Archaeological Review from Cambridge  
Archaeologies  
Archaeology Ethnology and Anthropology of Eurasia  
Archaeology in Montana  
Archaeology in Oceania  
Archaeology of Eastern North America  
Archaeometry  
ArchAtlas  
Archeoastronomy: The Journal of Astronomy in Culture  
Archeologia E Calcolatori  
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 huter-gathers

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  
Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology  
Contrebis  
Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites  
Conservation Science in Cultural Heritage  
Dean Archaeology  
Derbyshire Archaeological Journal  
Documenta Praehistorica  
East Riding Archaeologist  
Environmental Archaeology: The Journal of Human Palaeoecology  
ESAF Bulletin  
Essex Journal  
Ethnoarchaeology  
European Archaeologists  
European Journal of Archaeology  
Fasti On Line Documents & Research  
Florida Anthropologist  
Fragments  
Geoarchaeology  
Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies  
Historic Environment: Policy and Practice  
Historical Archaeology  
International Association for Obsidian Studies Bulletin  
International Journal of Architectural Heritage  
International Journal of Conservation Science  
International Journal of Cultural Property  
International Journal of Heritage Studies  
International Journal of Historical Archaeology  
International Journal of Nautical Archaeology  
International Journal of Osteoarchaeology  
International Preservation News  
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  
Journal of Roman Archaeology  
Journal of Social Archaeology  
Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt  
Journal of the British Archaeology Association  
Journal of World Prehistory  
Kiva  
KMT: A Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt  
Levant  
Lithic Technology  
Living Past  
Medieval Archaeology  
Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry  
Near Eastern Archaeology  
NEARA Journal  
Open Journal of Archaeometry  
Oxford Journal of Archaeology  
PaleoAnthropology  
Papers from the Institute of Archaeology  
Papers of the British School at Rome  
Post-Medieval Archaeology  
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  
SAS Bulletin  
SCA Journal  
SCA Proceedings  
South African Archaeological Bulletin  
Strata: The Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society  
Survey Review  
Technical Research Bulletin  
Tel Aviv  
Traces in Time