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OT 752 Biblical Archeology

Sandra Richter

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OT 752

Biblical Archaeology

Asbury Theological Seminary
Spring 2002
Fri 1:00-2:45 pm

Instructor:

Dr. Sandy Richter
sandra_richter@asburyseminary.edu
SPO 1320
Office: 858-2032

Office Hours:

Wednesday 11:00-12:30 pm
Thursday 1-2:00 pm

Course Description:

Within this century, Biblical Archaeology has proven itself a discipline essential to the serious study of the Old Testament. In many instances, this particular discipline has served to clarify difficult passages, fill in correlative sociological and historical details, and, generally, shed important light on the intent of the biblical narrative. Moreover, archaeology has helped to correct minimalist viewpoints regarding the historical integrity of the text. Recognizing the imperative nature of this still-young discipline, this class seeks to (1) expose the student to the major archaeological and epigraphic discoveries of the biblical world, and (2) to train the student in a sound biblical archaeological method.

Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, the successful student will have gained the following:

- 1) An enhanced knowledge of the history, sociology, and geography of the Israelite people through the lens of “external” (i.e. non-biblical) evidence.
- 2) An introductory understanding of the goals and methods of archaeology in the land of the Bible and its application to biblical studies.
- 3) The ability to interact with scholarship demonstrating the intersection of archaeology (i.e. the remains of material culture) and the Bible.
- 4) A growing ability to distill from the remains of material culture *meaning* significant to the interpretation of the Old Testament.

Course requirements:

Method of Instruction:

Slide-presentations, lecture, and class discussion of materials read will dominate the first two-thirds of this class. Students will be responsible to *thoroughly* prepare for and participate in these class meetings. The last third of this class will consist primarily of student presentations on various topics critical to the discipline of biblical archaeology.

(Course requirements, cont.)

Required Textbooks:

Currid, John D. *Doing Archaeology in the Land of the Bible: A Basic Guide*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Books, 2000.

Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: 10,000-586 BCE*. The Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1990.

A. J. Hoerth, G. L. Mattingly, E. Yamauchi, eds. *Peoples of the Old Testament World*. Grand Rapids: Baker books, 1994.

The HarpersCollins Concise Atlas of the Bible, ed. James B. Pritchard. HarperSanFrancisco, 1997.

The Ancient Near East, vol. 1, ed. James B. Pritchard. Princeton University Press, 1958.

Recommended Textbooks:

Dever, Wm. G. *What Did the biblical Writers Know & When Did They Know It?* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001.

Redford, Donald B. *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton University Press, 1992.

Stern, Ephraim. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible*, vol. 2. The Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 2001.

de Vaux, Roland. *Ancient Israel Its Life and Institutions in the Biblical Resource Series*. Grand Rapids: Wm B Eerdmans/Livonia: Dove Book Sellers, 1997.

Class Expectations:

25% Class Participation. As this is a seminar class, students must come to class prepared to discuss (intelligently!) the topic of the day. Periodically you will be given specific discussion/brief presentation topics due in the following class meeting.

35% Quizzes. Five quizzes will be given on announced topics ranging from the topographic profile of Palestine to the nature of a tell to the material culture of the Iron I Age to archaeological eras of the Levant.

40% In-class Student Presentations. Each student will be responsible for a class presentation in which s/he will teach the class for 45 minutes on his/her assigned topic. A visual presentation, a lecture outline, an appropriate reading assignment for the class, and pertinent handouts (map/chart/site survey/etc.) must augment the lecture. Each presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. The student will be provided with an "essential" bibliographic list for his/her topic, but will be expected to go beyond this list in her/his collection of data and visual material. Students will be evaluated by their peers and by the professor.

**** Attendance** is essential to a seminar class, and, therefore, it will be recorded. The first absence will be waived; the second and third absence will each result in a 2% reduction in the student's final evaluation. The fourth absence will result in a 5% reduction in the student's final evaluation. Upon the fifth absence, barring personal disaster, the student will have failed this class.

Class Schedule:

Class Period 1 (2/15):

Introduction to OT 711 and “Biblical” Archaeology

Hershel Shanks, “Is this Man A Biblical Archaeologist? Part I” *BAR* 22/4 (July/August 1996): 30-39, 62-63

Hershel Shanks, “Is the Bible Right After All? Part II” *BAR* 22/5 (September/October 1996): 30-37, 74-77

Wm. Dever, *What Did the Biblical Writers Know & When Did They Know It?*, “What Archaeology Is and What It Can Contribute to Biblical Studies,” 53-95

62

The Bible in Real Time & Space

LaSor, Hubbard & Bush, “Geography,” pp. 619-631

Atlas, pp. 8-13, 36-37, 58-59, 132-135 (138)

A. Mazar, *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible*, pp. 1-9

31

Class Period 2 (2/22):

The Peoples of the Old Testament World

A.J. Hoerth, *The Peoples of the Old Testament World*, “read” entire book with the end goal that you can define the locale, era, and major characteristics of each people group discussed in the text. (347)

The Societal Culture of the Old Testament World

De Vaux, pp. 3-61, “Nomadism & Family Institutions”

L. Stager, “The Archaeology of the Family in Ancient Israel” *BAJOR* 260 (85):1-35. 90+

Class Period 3 (3/1): The Basics of Excavation

map & people quiz 8%

Currid, pp. 1-118

Mazar, pp. 9-38

137

Class Period 4 (3/8): Epigraphy

General: Atlas, 60-61; 80-83; Mazar, pp. 514-520; ANET, p. 212; figures 63-82; Dever, “The Bible as History, Literature, & Theology,” pp. 1-22; Dever, “The Current School of Revisionists and Their Nonhistories of Ancient Israel,” pp. 23-52.

Dan Stele: “David Found at Dan” *BAR* 20/2 (March/April 1994): 74-89; Philip Davies, “House of David’ Built on Sand,” 54-55; Anson Rainey, “House of David’ and the House of the Reconstructionists,” *BAR* 20/6 (November /December 1994) 47.

Siloam Tunnel Inscription: Rogerson & Davies, “Was the Siloam Tunnel Built by Hezekiah?” *BA* 59 (S 1996): 138-149; Hackett *et al* “Defusing Psuedo-Scholarship: The Siloam Inscription Ain’t Hasmonean” *BAR* 23 (March/April 1997): 41-50, 68 105

Recommended: Chavalas & Hostetter, “Epigraphic Light on the OT,” pp. 38-58, *The Face of OT Studies*

Class Period 5 (3/15): The Neolithic Revolution & the Early Bronze Age

Atlas, pp. 10-13

Mazar, pp. 35-144

D. Redford, *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*, “Introduction,” “Villages, Camps, and the Rise of a Colossus,” pp. xxi-xxiii, 3-28 137

Recommended:

Redford, pp. 29-55

“Arad,” *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*, pp. 75-87 38

Class Period 6 (3/22): The Middle Bronze Age

quiz 8%

Genesis 12-17, 24-25:11

Atlas, pp. 14-21

W.F. Albright, “The Patriarchal Background of Israel’s Faith,” *Yahweh and the Gods of Canaan*, 53-91

Mazar, pp. 151-227

K. Kitchen, “The Patriarchal Age: Myth or History?” *BAR* (Mar 95): 48-57; 88-95 137

Class Period 8 (?): MB, cont.

Genesis 37, 39- Exodus 1

Atlas, p. 34

Redford, “Lo, the Vile Asiatic!,” pp. 56-70; “Trampling the Foreign Lands,” “The Hyksos in Egypt,” pp. 71-122

ANET, pp. 5-12, “The Story of Sinuhe”; pp. 173-175, “The Expulsion of the Hyksos”

Kevin D. Miller, “Did the Exodus Never Happen?” *Christianity Today* 42/10 [Sept 1998]: 44-51

J. Hoffmeier, “Egypt, Plagues in” *ABD* 2:374-78 85

GOOD FRIDAY & READING WEEK

Class Period 9 (4/12): The Late Bronze Age

take-home quiz due 11%

Mazar, pp. 232-291

Atlas, pp. 20-35

ABD III:545-558, Wm. Dever, “Archaeology of the Israelite Conquest”

ANET, pp. 16-23, “The Journey of Wen-Amon to Phoenicia”; pp. 12-16, “The Story of Two Brothers”; pp. 92-118 “Baal & Anat”; pp. 118-132 “The Tale of Aqhat”

Recommended: Dever, “Getting at the ‘History behind the History’: What Convergences between Texts and Artifacts Tell Us about Israelite Origins and the Rise of the State,” pp. 97-158, **125.**

125

Class Period 10 (4/19): The Iron I Age

Mazar, 295-363 “The Days of the Judges”; 463-491 “General Aspects of the Israelite Material Culture”

Atlas, pp. 42, 44-50; 52-54

Redford, “The Coming of the Sea Peoples,” 241-56

ANET, p. 209, “The Gezer Calendar” 121

Recommended: L. Stager, “The Impact of the Sea Peoples,” *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*, (ed. Thomas Levy; New York: Facts on File, 1995); “When Canaanites and Philistines Ruled Ashkelon,” *BAR* Mar/Apr 1991: 24-43; Mazar 531-543 “Israel’s Neighbors.”

31+

Class Period 11 (4/26): The Iron II Age

quiz 8%

Mazar, pp. 368-398 “The United Monarchy”; 492-501 “Israelite Cult”; 502-514 “Art”

Atlas, pp. 62-79

ANET, pp. 209-214 "The Moabite Stone," "Ostraca of Samaria," "Siloam Inscription," "Lachish Ostraca"

Dever, 159-244 "Daily Life in Israel in the time of the Divided Monarchy"

Malamat, "Caught Between the Great Powers: the Fall of Judah" *BAR* (July/Aug 1999): 34-41, 64 142

Recommended:

Mazar, pp. 403-460; Atlas, pp. 80-89; Victor Hurowitz, "Inside Solomon's Temple," *BR* 10/2 (April 1994):24-37; Larry Stager, "The Fury of Babylon: Ashkelon and the Archaeology of Destruction" *BAR* 22 (Jan/Feb 1996): 56-69, 76-77; *ABD* IV:103-109, "Kuntilet Ajrud"

Student Presentations

* Reading assignments will be provided for class members one week prior to each scheduled presentation. Each presentation will be preceded by a brief quiz taken from the assigned reading. The results of this quiz will count toward the student's class participation grade.