

## **BT713 BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF BIBLE LANDS**

<b>Course:</b>	<b>BT713 Biblical Archaeology and Historical Geography of Bible Lands</b>
<b>Credit:</b>	<b>3 credit hours</b>
<b>Semester:</b>	<b>Spring 2024 Cycle 5</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>March 11 – May 3, 2024</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>Tuesdays 6:00 – 9:00 pm Central Time</b>
<b>Place:</b>	<b>Microsoft Teams</b>
<b>Professors:</b>	<b>Dr. Gary Gromacki and Dr. Wayne House</b>
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will examine the major archaeological discoveries that relate to the Bible. Students will evaluate problems in biblical archaeology and propose some possible solutions to these problems. Students will critique the arguments of biblical minimalists made against the historicity of the Bible. Students will examine the significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls and other ancient manuscripts that relate to the Bible. Students will study the historical geography of Bible lands and learn the historical significance of places mentioned in the Bible.

*This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.*

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

#### **The student will:**

- 1.State the major biblical archaeological discoveries and their significance to the historical interpretation of the Bible (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9)
2. Analyze the Dead Sea Scrolls and explain their significance for biblical studies (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Assignments 7, 9)

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3. Critique the arguments given by biblical minimalists against the historicity of Bible events and people (PLOs 3, 4, 5 Assignments 1, 3)

4. Analyze the geography of Bible lands and learn the historical significance of places listed in the Bible (PLOs 2, 3, 4, 5 Assignment 5)

5. Explain how archaeologists dig up a tell and analyze the pottery and other discoveries to determine the approximate age of different levels of the tell (PLOs 3, 4, 5 Assignments 1, 3)

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James Version (NKJV), or King James Version (KJV). Other translations like NLT and NIV may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have any questions about a particular translation or version.

*Archaeological Study Bible*. New International Version. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005. (2076 pages) ISBN 13: 978-0310935353 Cost: 24.98 used on Amazon

Price, Randall and H. Wayne House. *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017. (358 pages) ISBN: 978-0-310-28691-2 Cost: \$29.31 new on Amazon

Rasmussen, Carl. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010. (267 pages) ISBN: 978-0-310-27050-8 Cost: \$26.84 new on Amazon

Vanderkam, James and Peter Flint. *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Harper Collins, 2002. (403 pages) ISBN: 0-06-068464-X Cost: \$55.70 hardcover new on Amazon

### **REQUIRED: ORIGINAL LANGUAGE BIBLE STUDY SOFTWARE (Accordance, Bible Works, Logos)**

Students are required to have digital resources to engage Biblical study in the original languages, including but not limited to *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)*, *Nestle Aland 28 (NA28)* – both including critical apparatus; *Septuaginta (LXX)*, *a Greek Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (BDAG)* by Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich; *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT)* by Koehler and Baumgartner.

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Assignment #1:** Read *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology* (pages 1-200) and answer questions 1-10 in Discussions in Canvas on the book. Interact with two other students on their answers to the questions (200 points)

**Assignment #2:** Write a Research Paper on one archaeological site or artifact (8 double spaced pages and following Turabian format). See topics in schedule. Each student will work on a different site or artifact. (100 points)

**Assignment #3:** Read *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology* (pages 201-358) and answer questions 11-20 in Discussions in Canvas on the book. Interact with two other students on their answers to the questions. (200 points)

**Assignment #4:** Write a Research Paper on another archaeological site or artifact (8 double spaced pages and following Turabian format). See topics in schedule. Each student will work on a different site or artifact. (100 points)

**Assignment #5:** Read *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible* and answer questions 21-30 in Discussions in Canvas on the book. Interact with two other students on their answers to the questions (200 points)

**Assignment #6:** Read *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls* and answer questions 31-40 in Discussions in Canvas on the book. Interact with two other students on their answers to the questions (200 points)

### **Rubric for Grading Research Papers on Archaeological Site or Artifact (100 total points)**

Detailed Description of the archaeological site/artifact (30 points)

Pictures of the archaeological artifact/site (10 points)

Map of where the artifact was discovered or map of the archaeological site (10 points)

Story about the discovery including archaeologist who discovered the artifact/site, where it was discovered and how it was discovered (20 points)

Current location of the artifact- if it is in a museum (10 points)

Biblical significance of the artifact/archaeological site (20 points)

## **GRADING SCALE**

<b>960-1000 points</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>940-959 points</b>	<b>A-</b>
<b>920-939 points</b>	<b>B+</b>
<b>880-919 points</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>860-879 points</b>	<b>B-</b>
<b>0-859 points</b>	<b>F</b>

## **HELP FOR STUDENTS**

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator ([aso@calvary.edu](mailto:aso@calvary.edu)) of any disabling condition that may require accommodations.

The Clark Academic Center ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto:learning@calvary.edu)) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF ALL STUDENTS**

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's ideas or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. If a student plagiarizes the student will receive a zero (F) for the assignment and he or she will be reported to the dean of students and the chief academic officer.

Use Turabian style for all research papers. All research papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **Week One - Introduction to Biblical Archaeology**

Introduction to Archaeology  
Definition of Archaeology  
The Value of Archaeology to the Bible  
The Limits of Archaeology  
The Debate in Archaeology: Maximalists vs. Minimalists  
The Archaeological Periods  
Introduction to Historical Geography of Bible Lands

### **Week Two – OT Archaeology and Historical Geography**

Atrahasis  
Enuma Elish  
Shabaka Stone  
Sumerian Kings List  
Pyramids of Giza in Egypt  
Ebla and Ebla Tablets  
Ur III  
Mari and Mari Tablets  
Tel Dan  
Nuzi and Nuzi Tablets  
Ugarit and Ugaritic Tablets  
Beersheba  
Boghazkoy – Home of the Hittites  
The Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron

### **Week Three: OT Archaeology and Historical Geography**

Beni-Hasan Tomb Painting  
The Walls of Jericho  
Ai (Kirbet el maqatir)  
Hazor  
Amarna Letters  
Merenptah stela  
Solomon's Gates at Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer  
Sheshonq Inscription  
High Place of Ahab at Dan  
Mesha Inscription (Moabite Stone)  
Gezer Calendar  
Tel Dan Stele  
Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III  
The Jehoash Inscription  
Relief of Sargon II

Tel Lachish and Lachish reliefs  
Taylor Prism (Sennacherib cylinder)  
Hezekiah's tunnel and Siloam inscription  
Wall Reliefs of Ashurbanipal's palace in Nineveh  
Clay bullae (seal) of Baruch  
Babylonian Chronicle  
Silver Scrolls amulet  
Lachish Ostraca  
Nabonidius Chronicle  
Cyrus Cylinder  
Persepolis

**Week Four – Qumran and Dead Sea Scrolls**

Qumran  
Dead Sea Scrolls

**Week Five – NT Archaeology and Historical Geography of Israel from the Time of Jesus**

The Second Temple in Jerusalem  
Herod's Palace at Jericho  
Herod's Palace at Masada  
Caesarea Maritima  
The Herodium

**Week Six – NT Archaeology and Historical Geography of Israel from the Time of Jesus**

Sepphoris  
Capernaum (Synagogue and House of Peter)  
The Galilee Boat  
Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem  
Chorazin  
Caesarea Philippi  
Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem  
Tomb of Lazarus in Bethany  
Ossuary of Caiaphas  
Pontius Pilate inscription in Caesarea  
Church of the Holy Sepulchre  
The Garden Tomb  
Heel Bones of Crucifixion Victim  
The Nazareth Decree  
The Shroud of Turin  
James Ossuary

**Week Seven – NT Archaeology and Historical Geography of the Cities of Paul in Acts**

Antioch in Pisidia  
Lystra  
Philippi  
Thessalonica  
Berea  
Athens  
Corinth  
Miletus  
Rome

**Week Eight – NT Archaeology and Historical Geography of Patmos and the Cities of Revelation 2-3**

Patmos  
Ephesus  
Smyrna  
Pergamum  
Thyatira  
Sardis  
Philadelphia  
Laodicea

**SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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