

Seminar in Biblical Archaeology

OT 6308 Course Syllabus

Spring 2010

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II. Course Goals and Objectives:

A. Goals:

- 1) The student will demonstrate familiarity with the methods, terminology, and practice of biblical archaeology.
- 2) The student will be able to articulate literary, historical, and theological perspectives related to biblical archaeology.

B. Objectives:

- 1) The student will acquire a working knowledge of the methods and practice of archaeology.
- 2) The student will be able to take these methods and apply them to the excavation at Tamar.
- 3) The student will be able to relate the practice of archaeology to the biblical history and the life of faith.

III. Texts:

- A. Borowski, Oded. *Daily Life in Biblical Times*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2003.
- B. Currid, John. *Doing Archaeology in the Land of the Bible: A Basic Guide*. Baker Academic, 1999.
- C. Some readings from a *Course Reader*, compiled by Dr. Craig Bowman. These will be made available throughout the semester.
- D. Rast, Walter. *Through the Ages in Palestinian Archaeology*. Philadelphia: TPI, 2004.

IV. Course requirements:

- A. 1) Read Rast, *Through the Ages*, especially pp. 102–205, by February 12.
- B. 2) Read Borowski, *Daily Life* and Currid, *Doing Archaeology*, by February 12.
- C. 2) Attend all lectures; meet with other students in the class once a month during the course of the Spring semester to go over student papers and readings.
- D. 3) Write 3 brief papers with Powerpoint presentations on assigned topics, to be presented in class on February 12, March 12, and April 9.

V. Course Schedule:

- A. **Friday, Jan. 22, 9:00-12:00:** meet, hear organizational lecture, and organize papers.
- B. **Before 2/12/09:** Read Rast, Borowski, and Currid's books.
- C. **Friday, Feb. 12, 9:00-12:00:** go over student papers on basic issues in archaeology.
- D. **Friday, March 12, 9:00-12:00:** go over student papers on aspects of the archaeology of Tamar.
- E. **Friday, April 9, 9:00-12:00:** go over student papers on Israel's neighbors and historical backgrounds.

VI. Student Papers:

- A. All students will write three papers on the archaeology of Israel and Tamar. These papers will be in outline form and 3-5 pages long. This can be just a printed copy of a Powerpoint presentation.
1. § Paper #1: General issues on pottery, stratigraphy, and other techniques in archaeology.
 2. § Paper #2: A paper on one aspect of the archaeology of Tamar (i.e., the Judean fortress; the Edomite shrine; the 4-room house; the Roman bath house and Inn; the Nabatean or Islamic ruins; etc.).
 3. § Paper #3: A paper on one of Judah's neighbors during Iron II: Egypt, Moab, Edom, Philistia, etc.