Seminar in Biblical Archaeology (Undergrad)
OT 4350e Course Syllabus
Spring 2016

R. Mark Shipp
512-476-2772
Office Hours: Mon. 11:00–12:00 AM; Tues., Wed., Thurs., 1:00–3:00 PM.
shipp@austingrad.edu

Course Goals and Objectives:

BA Course Goals:
The student will show mastery of the biblical story and familiarity with various genres of biblical literature (law, wisdom, prophecy, poetry, etc.) and basic methods and principles of biblical exegesis.

Course 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 excavation in Israel.
3) The student will be able to relate the practice of archaeology to the biblical history and the life of faith.

Texts:
Other recommended readings will be suggested throughout the course of the semester.

Course requirements:
1) Come to all class periods.
2) Do all relevant readings.
3) Write 2 brief papers with PowerPoint presentations on assigned topics, to be presented in class. One will be on the life of a famous archaeologist; the other will be on an archaeological method or an archaeological site or city.
4) Take a brief exam on archaeological terminology. This exam will be at the end of the course.

Course Schedule:
January 25: Introduction to course, syllabus, definitions, and terminology.
Read Bahn pp. 1–7.

February 1: History of archaeology in Israel.
Read Cline, pp. 1–68.
Read Currid pp. 1–36.
Read Bahn pp. 8–16
February 8: Archaeological methods: The tell and stratigraphy.

February 15: Archaeological methods: The survey.
   Read Currid pp. 49–56.

   Read Currid pp. 57–78.

February 29: Archaeological methods: Pottery.
   Read Currid pp. 79–88.

March 7: Archaeological methods: Architecture and small finds.
   Read Currid pp. 89–110.

March 14: Spring Break; Archaeological tour of Israel.

   Read Bahn pp. 17–30.

   Read Cline pp. 71–79.

April 4: Archaeological Sites: Megiddo, Hazor, Dan and the period of the Judges.

April 11: Archaeological Sites: Jerusalem and the monarchy.
   Read Cline pp. 80–97.

April 18: Archaeological sites: Lachish, Gezer, and the monarchy.

April 25: Beer-Sheba, Arad, Tamar and the archaeology of the Negev Desert.
   Readings: Handouts.

May 2: Israel's periphery: The archaeology of Philistia, Edom, Moab, Ammon, and Aram.
   Readings: Handouts.

May 9: Final exam.

Student Papers:

All undergrad students will write two papers on the archaeology of Israel. These papers will be in outline form and 3-5 pages long. This can also be a printed copy of a PowerPoint presentation. Do a paper on number one, and select one of either #2 or #3.

§ Paper #1: Select one pioneer in the history of archaeology in Israel and write a paper/PowerPoint on that person.

§ Paper #2: General issues on excavation techniques, pottery, stratigraphy, and other techniques in archaeology.

§ Paper #3: Select one city/archaeological site in Israel and write a paper/PowerPoint on the archaeology, the importance of the site, and problems, questions, or solutions that archaeology has brought to light.