I. Course Objectives

1) To introduce the student to the field of biblical archaeology including its scope and purpose for Old Testament studies.

2) To survey chronologically the major periods of Old Testament history with emphasis on significant archaeological discoveries which illuminate the Scriptures.

3) To present an overview of key archaeological sites, the men who excavated them, and the resulting discoveries which are important for Old Testament studies.

4) To orient the student to basic geographical features and key towns mentioned or assumed in the Bible.
   a. To become aware of basic geographical features of the Ancient Near East and of Palestine in particular;
   b. To learn map locations of these geographical elements with an emphasis on key towns (settlements) mentioned throughout biblical history.

5) Possibly to familiarize the student with certain manners and customs of everyday life in Old Testament times which may help illuminate the Biblical text.

II. Requirements

A. Reading


Reports on required reading assignments must be recorded and turned in weekly on standardized reading slips (see seminary office). Students may be responsible for a quiz at any time.

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1 This syllabus [7-12-2010] has been revised and may still be subject to revision.

2 Contact information: gwpbmat@suno.com  Office phone: 903-586-2501, ext. 224.
over the required reading each day (although not every week). A student may be exempted from a quiz on the day his oral report is to be given in class (see below).

B. Research paper and report

Each student is responsible for a 10 to 16 page (double-spaced) typewritten paper concerning a significant archaeological site (see list below). It should briefly describe the history of the identification of the proper site and its excavation and summarize the main discoveries and their impact upon the Old Testament. Mention should be made of any ambiguity or disagreement concerning the archaeological data.

In sum the following minimum components should be researched:

1) Suggested biblical city: identification(s) (in the case of site known by Tel name)
   -or Tell identification(s) (in the case of site known by city name)

2) Biblical data referenced and summarized

3) Historical data (non-biblical records)

4) Geographical and/or topographical data

5) Archaeological data—summarizing main excavations (including date and excavator), discoveries and possible contribution to understanding or illumination of the biblical text

6) Proper research parameters: Use Turabian format and utilize at least 7 or 8 sources besides Scripture and textbook(s)—namely books, journal article(s), and Internet research (where applicable, but not exclusively).

7) Minimum qualifications for an “A” paper: a) include any available primary sources; b) utilize at least one journal article if possible; c) judicious use of Internet (see footnote 3).

The primary criteria for grading will be the quality of the paper and the thoroughness of the research. The paper should resemble the format in the 5th or 6th edition of Kate L. Turabian’s A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. An oral report of about 30 to 45 minutes must be presented (normally on the same day that topic is scheduled for class discussion). [Be sure to turn in a finished copy of the paper to the professor before the oral report is given.]

A list of possible term paper topics is as follows; (1) Nineveh _________; (2) Babylon __________; (3) Ugarit (Ras Shamra) __________; (4) Elephantine __________; (5) Jericho ___________________; (6) Hazor ___________________; (7) Lachish __________; (8) Megiddo __________; (9) Ai & Bethel __________; (10) Gath & Ekron __________; (11) Qumran __________; (12) Compilation and review of websites on Ancient Near journals; museums and virtual locations for ancient Egypt, Palestine or Mesopotamia--6 to 10 pages (with an additional 6 to 10-page summary of data gleaned through the Internet for one site)______________.

C. Exam(s)

Two exams are planned (see class schedule). The first exam will emphasize identification of geographical elements on maps. The final exam will be semi-comprehensive.

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3 Internet Resources—The student may employ some online resources, but limit the Internet to ¼ or less of the total sources. One should include author, article title, and website (URL) in footnotes and bibliography. Do not be naïve about online resources. If the information seems fantastic or unbelievable, it probably is not true. When in doubt, carefully seek to verify it.


5 The student's grade will be penalized for failure to turn in a finished report on time or for going beyond the time framework without prior permission.
D. Grading guidelines

The tentative grading criteria are as follows:
Mid-term exam 20%; Final exam (semi-comprehensive) 30%; research paper—25% (plus 1% for the oral report); Weekly work: 15 to 20% for reading documented on reading slips (as well as any quizzes or map assignments); daily grade 4 to 9% (divided between class participation and class attendance).

III. Class Schedule (for 2010)

Aug. 31 Brief review of syllabus.
I. Introduction to Biblical Archaeology
   A. Definition of biblical archaeology.
   B. Role of archaeology in Old Testament studies
   C. Chronology of Palestine
   D. Method of archaeology.

   Assignment: Read Hoerth, 9-10; 13-30; Brisco, HBA 2-11, 30-31; Currid, 11, 15-21, 37-82; For extra credit: read King & Stager, xxiii, 1-7, 133-46; 164-72.

Sept. 7 E. Some men God has used

   F. Overview of some archaeological sites
   Possible video and/or slide show
   Assignment: read Brisco, HBA 12-13, 20-29; + study maps #7, 17, 18, 33 (on pp.13, 38, 42, 75); Currid, 23-35; 83-87, 89-109 & review 67-70; look at color photos of archaeological sites (near p. 48). Also study Oxford Bible Atlas, pp. 92-95 (including maps of archaeological sites). Locate/identify the geographical names on list #1 ANE Map utilizing especially HBA maps #17, 18, 33.

14 III. Creation, Flood and Pre-Patriarchal Era
   A. Creation accounts
   B. Pre-flood era
   C. "Ark"aeology and the Flood
   D. Table of nations and confusion of languages
   E. Overview of pre-Abrahamic periods of Palestine, Mesopotamia & possibly Egypt.
   Assignment: Read Hoerth, 31-55; 124-138; 183-200; 197 (#15.1); Brisco, 32-44.
Sept.  21  IV. Patriarchal Age  
   A. Question of historicity of patriarchs  
      B. Customs & practices of patriarchs illuminated  
   Assignment: Read Hoerth, 56-123; Brisco, 45-51 and locate/identify the geographical names on list #2a:: OT Palestine Map. utilizing especially HBA map #19 (p.44)  
      For extra credit: read McCarter, "The Patriarchal Age," in Ancient Israel, pp. 1-29 (note esp. 1-11, 18-23).

28  V. Laws and Covenant  
   A. Ten commandments & ancient near eastern law codes  
   B. Hittite suzerainty treaties & Israel's covenant  

Oct.  5  VI. Israel in Egypt, the Exodus and Conquest (historical/cultural background)  
   A. In Egypt  
   B. Date of Exodus (brief review from OT class)  
   C. Amarna Age & the Hebrews (brief look at historical/cultural background in Egypt & Palestine during Early Date of Exodus, Conquest & early settlement in Canaan)  
      Assignment: Read Hoerth, 138-168, 177-181, 216-219; Brisco, pp. 52-74.  
      For extra credit: read (1) Nahum M. Sarna, "Israel in Egypt," chap. 2 (pp. 31-44, 51-52) in Shanks, Ancient Israel; (2) Hoerth, 124-37.

Oct. 12  *Student reports: Jericho or Hazor and/or Ai/Bethel. Review for mid-term exam.  
   VI. Conquest and Judges Period  
   A. Jericho (perhaps only a brief look)  
   B. Other cities (such as Ai and Hazor)  
      Assignment: Read Hoerth, 201-216; Brisco, 75-88 and finish locating/identifying the geographical names on list #2b:: OT Palestine Map including features utilizing especially HBA maps #38-39, 57.  

Oct. 19  *Tentative mid-term exam emphasizing map studies+  
      * [Also student report on Ugarit (Ras Shamra) due??.]  
   C. Canaanite religion (& its influence on Israel)  
   D. Another look at Amarna age and the Hebrews  
   E. Judges period & Israel's hostile neighbors  
      Assignment: Read Hoerth, 217-244 and Brisco, 89-96.

Oct. 26 *Student report due on Megiddo

VII. United Monarchy (Saul, David & Solomon)

A. Saul

B. David

Assignment: Read Hoerth, 245-276; Brisco, 97-106; 110b-113; Also read Archaeology and the Bible, vol 1, 244-47. For extra credit: 1) read King & Stager, 63-71; 213-15, 228, review 240-41; 285-300; 380-81. 2) "Digging in the City of David," BAR 5 (July/Aug., 1979):35-49 and/or Terrence J. Kleven, “The Water System of Jerusalem and Its Implications for the Historicity of Joab’s Conquest.” Near Eastern Archaeological Society Bulletin 47 (2002); 35-47.

Nov. 2 Solomon in all his grandeur.

Assignment: Read Hoerth, 277-295; Brisco, 106-110, 113b-114; also read King & Stager, 330-38. For extra credit: Also read Lance, The O.T. and the Archaeologist, 67-93 and King & Stager, 54-55; 113-22; 178-95;

Nov. 9 VIII. Divided Monarchy until Fall of Northern Kingdom (932 to 722 B.C.)

A. Jeroboam, Rehoboam & Invasion of Shishak

B. Omri and His capital at Samaria

C. Ahab and the battle of Qarqar

D. Jehu and the Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III

E. Some more Assyrian kings who troubled Israel

Assignment: Read Hoerth, 296-339; Brisco, 115-141.

For extra credit: read Archaeology and the Bible, vol 1, 284-305.

Nov. 16 *Student reports due on Lachish and/or Nineveh.

IX. Judah after Fall of Northern Kingdom (722/21 B.C.)

A. Hezekiah & Sennacherib’s invasion of Jerusalem

B. Esarhaddon & his Relationship to Manasseh

C. Fall of Assyria & Rise of Babylon

D. Capture and fall of Jerusalem

Assignment: Read Hoerth, 340-369; Brisco, 142-157. Also read Archaeology and the Bible, vol 1, 124-135; 148-165. For extra credit: Archaeology and the Bible, vol 1, 136-147, 166-177, 203-225.
Nov. 23  *Student reports due on Babylon & Elephantine.

X. Exilic and Post-exilic times
   A. Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon
   B. Archaeology and Books of Daniel and Ezekiel
   C. Fall of Babylon & Post-exilic days

Nov. 23  **Assignment:** Read Hoerth, 368-403; Brisco, 158-173.

Nov. 30  *Student report due on Qumran. Review for exam. [Fill out evaluation forms (if applicable)]

XI. Archaeology and the Text of the Old Testament. Introduction to Dead Sea Scrolls
   A. Qumran
   B. Masada
   C. Wadi Murabba at

**Assignment:** Read Brisco 204-205a; 213-215. Possible map assignment (see map #104, p. 214). 
**For extra credit:** read Shanks, Ancient Israel, 202-04, 218-35.

Dec. 7  **FINAL EXAM**

**IV. Map Assignments**

**LIST 1—** Ancient Near East Map: Cities, Regions/Countries  \| Geographical Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thebes</th>
<th>Egypt</th>
<th>Tyre</th>
<th>Tigris River</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memphis</td>
<td>Babylonia</td>
<td>Nuzi</td>
<td>Euphrates River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebla</td>
<td>Assyria</td>
<td>Babylon</td>
<td>Orontes River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mari</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Sumer</td>
<td>Zagros Mts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haran</td>
<td>Canaan</td>
<td>Hittites</td>
<td>Taurus Mts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ugarit</td>
<td>Phoenicia</td>
<td>Akkad</td>
<td>Nile River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damascus</td>
<td>Sinai</td>
<td>Persia</td>
<td>Great Sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ur</td>
<td>Carchemish</td>
<td>Hattusas</td>
<td>Ararat Mts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidon</td>
<td>Elam</td>
<td>Avaris</td>
<td>Mt. Seir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabia</td>
<td>Nineveh</td>
<td>Aram-Naharaim</td>
<td>Arabah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urartu (Ararat)</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Mt. Sinai</td>
<td>Shur Wilderness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST 2a -- Old Testament Palestine:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dan (=Laish)</td>
<td>Edom</td>
<td>Ashkelon</td>
<td>Hazor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiloh</td>
<td>Debir</td>
<td>Achzib</td>
<td>Jericho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acco</td>
<td>Zoar</td>
<td>Aphek (E of Joppa)</td>
<td>Hebron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dor</td>
<td>Taanach</td>
<td>Gibeon</td>
<td>Timnah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>Gezer</td>
<td>Yoqneam (Jokneam)</td>
<td>Mizpah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shechem</td>
<td>Michmash</td>
<td>Beth Shemesh</td>
<td>Beth Shean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joppa</td>
<td>Megiddo</td>
<td>Qedesh (Kedesh)</td>
<td>Lachish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashdod</td>
<td>Gath</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIST 2b—Old Testament Palestine: including Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ekron</td>
<td>Bashan</td>
<td>Gilead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azekah</td>
<td>Arabah</td>
<td>Mt. Ebal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jezreel</td>
<td>Samaria</td>
<td>Succoth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezion-geber</td>
<td>Bozrah</td>
<td>Ai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead Sea</td>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
<td>Mount Hermon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Carmel</td>
<td>Beth</td>
<td>Yarmuth (Jarmuth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbath-Ammon</td>
<td>En Gedi</td>
<td>Aphek (E of Galilee)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibeah</td>
<td>Yarmuk River</td>
<td>Jordan River</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amon River</td>
<td>Jabbok River</td>
<td>Wadi Zered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tekoa</td>
<td>Kiriat-jearim</td>
<td>Kishon River</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaza</td>
<td>Ammon</td>
<td>Tirzah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beersheba</td>
<td>Arad</td>
<td>Mt. Gerizim</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moab</td>
<td>Dibon</td>
<td>Heshbon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aroer</td>
<td>Mareshah</td>
<td>Negev (Negeb)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V. Selected Bibliographic Data

**Archaeological Bibliographies**
[Remember to consult Hoerth at the end of each chapter (and reference list pp. 423-436) for helpful bibliography]


**Old Testament Abstracts**
Look primarily under "Archaeology, Epigraphy, Philology" for excellent summations of journal articles.

**Selected Bibliography**


Compilation of articles reprinted from the journal *The Biblical Archaeologist*.


   Good pictures and diagrams as well as helpful bibliography.


   Excellent summary analysis of important cities with bibliographies.


   A valuable list of Old Testament verses from Genesis to Malachi which are keyed to many books (and a few periodicals) published between 1950 and 1980.


   Contains excellent bibliographies with each article.

   Helpful on methodology and on specific sites.


   Awesome maps and graphics for both OT and NT background.


**Primary Sources**


Callaway, Joseph A. *The Early Bronze Age Citadel and Lower City at Ai (Et-Tell)*. American Schools of Oriental Research, 1980.


