

**Syllabus Spring Quarter 2015**  
**ANAR 143 Anthropology, Archaeology and the Bible**  
Thomas E. Levy, Distinguished Professor  
Atkinson Hall 1601F; Office Hours by Appointment [tlevy@ucsd.edu](mailto:tlevy@ucsd.edu)  
Wednesday 5:00 pm – 7:50 pm  
Class Location: Peterson 103

**Required Reading:**

Levy, T.E., ed. 2010. *Historical Biblical Archaeology and the Future – The New Pragmatism*. London: Equinox. (HBAF)

Mazar, A. 1993 *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible (10,000 – 586 BCE)*. New York: Doubleday (paperback). (ALB)

**Course Goals:**

The Old Testament or Hebrew Bible, written over a 1,500 years period and codified around 500 BCE, still affects you on a daily basis. As *'The Bible for Dummies'* points out, the Bible still plays a central role in debates about ethical questions ranging from human cloning, abortion rights, the constitutionality of saying the pledge of allegiance in public schools, or posting the Ten Commandments in public places. Where did the Bible come from and what aspects of history can be gleaned from it? For that matter, are there any historical 'facts' in the Bible? Once codified, not one word of the Bible has been changed. Thus, the only source of new information concerning this document that is sacred to billions of people around the world (Jews, Christians and Moslems) is the archaeological record. This course will introduce students to the formation of the Bible and then examine the full range of archaeology in the Holy Land (Israel, the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Lebanon, southern Syria and the Sinai Peninsula) that relates to this sacred text. By the end of the course, you should have an appreciation of the socio-economic development of Biblical society, what parts of the Bible have left an 'archaeological footprint' in the Holy Land, and new methodologies that archaeologists can use to examine the relationship between ancient sacred texts and the archaeological record. Thus, the reasoning and methodological tools you will learn about in this course are applicable to all ancient historical societies around the world.

**Course Requirements:**

Students will be responsible for all readings, lectures, any films and discussions. The pedagogy of the course is based on experiential learning. The *Powerpoint* lecture slides will be posted on TED. Class participation is essential. Mid-Term: As this is a small class, you will be expected to discuss the readings and lecture material in class. Thus, there will be no mid-term, rather in class assessment. Final: The final exam will consist of a group project made of ca. 4 students. Student groups will work together during the quarter to prepare a joint *Powerpoint* lecture/presentation concerning a specific geographic area in the Holy Land where they research the geography, anthropological theories and questions,

historical sources (Bible, Ancient Near Eastern texts) and archaeological discoveries related to the region. The regions will include: Israel, Judah, Philistia, Moab, Edom and perhaps others.

## **Week One – April 1**

### Lecture 1

#### **Is the Bible True? What can Archaeology say about the Bible? And what's Anthropology got to do with it?**

- HBAF – Preface, Chapter 1

### Lecture 2

#### **Environment and Ecology of the Holy Land; Integrating Archaeology and the Bible**

- ALB – Chapter 1
  - HBAF – Chapter 2
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## **Week Two – April 8**

### Lecture 3

#### **Melding Anthropological Models, Archaeology and the Bible for New Insights on the Past; Considering Ethnicity and Archaeology**

- HBAF – Chapter 3, 4

### Lecture 4

#### **Shifting Paradigms of Archaeological Research in the Holy Land – From Napoleon to Science-based Levantine Archaeology**

- HBAF – Chapter 5, 14, 20
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## **Week Three – April 15 (Guest Lecturer Dr. Margie Burton)**

### Lecture 5

#### **Foundations of the Biblical Village Economy: Neolithic and Chalcolithic Periods**

- ALB – Chapter 2, 3

### Lecture 6

#### **The Rise of the First Cities: The Early Bronze Age and the Cities of the Plain (Genesis 14)**

- ALB – Chapter 4
  - HBAF – Chapter 6
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## **Week Four – April 22**

Lecture 7

### **The Collapse of Urbanism and the Amorite Problem – Early Bronze IV**

- ALB – Chapter 5

Lecture 8

### **Guest Lecture - Brady Liss, “Ancient metallurgy and the Bible”**

- ALB – Chapter 11 (Metallurgy, pp. 509-510)
  - HBAF – Chapter 1
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## **Week Five – April 29**

Lecture 9

### **The Second Urban Revolution and the Age of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs – Middle Bronze Age**

- Chapter 6

Lecture 10 – Part 2: Hands on Lab Session, UCSD Levantine and Cyber-Archaeology Laboratory (we move to Social Science Research Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor).

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## **Week Six – May 6**

Lecture 11

### **Egyptian Imperialism in Canaan, Mining Activities, the Exodus and the Collapse of Mediterranean Civilizations – Late Bronze Age**

- ALB – Chapter 7
- HBAF – Chapter 7

Lecture 12

### **The Emergence of Early Israel – Did Joshua Fight the Battle of Jericho? Iron Age I and Conflicting Models**

- ALB – Chapter 8
  - HBAF – Chapter 8
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## **Week Seven – May 13**

Lecture 13

### **Early Israel's Neighbors: The Philistines, Canaanites and Transjordanian Polities**

- ALB – Chapter 8
- HBAF – Chapter 9

Lecture 14

### **The United Monarchy of David and Solomon – The 10<sup>th</sup> C. BCE Debate Rages On – Iron Age IIA (ca. 1000 – 925 BCE)**

- ALB – Chapter 9 + 11 (Aspects of Israelite Town Planning and Architecture, pp. 463 – 491; Trade and Foreign Connections, pp. 510 -514)
- HBAF – Chapter 11, 13,

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## **Week Eight – May 20**

Lecture 15

### **In the Shadow of Solomon – The Divided Monarchy and the Northern Kingdom of Israel (ca. 925 – 720 BCE; Iron II B – II C)**

- ALB – Chapter 10 + 11 (Israelite Cult, pp. 492-501; Art in Israel & Judah, pp. 502-506; Pottery, 507-508)
- HBAF – Chapter 15

Lecture 16

### **The Kingdom of Judah and the Destruction, 920 – 586 BCE**

- ALB – Chapter 12; Chapter 11 (Literacy and Inscriptions, pp. 514 -520; Burial Customs, pp. 520-526)

HBAF – Chapter 18

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## **Week Nine – May 27**

Lecture 17

### **New Perspectives on the Iron Age Archaeology of Edom, Transjordan – Pragmatism in Action (TEL)**

- ALB Chapter 12 (pp. 541 – 544)
- HBAF – Chapter 1, 21, 22

Final - First Student Presentation Session

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## **Week Ten – June 3**

Final – Second Student Presentation Session