

BIBL 510 – Archaeological Discoveries & The Bible

Phil Long

July 2 – 6, 2018; 8:30 – 11:30 am

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Long before the Indiana Jones trilogy hit the silver screen, archaeology (and especially the archaeology of Bible lands) had caught the popular imagination. From its inception in the nineteenth century to its purported decline in the mid-twentieth, the “biblical archaeology” movement was viewed by many as offering reassurances—in the face of the withering challenges of nineteenth-century-style literary criticism—that the Bible was true. But archaeology is by its very nature ill-suited to prove (or indeed to disprove) the Bible, and therefore many today consider the biblical archaeology movement dead. Interest in the impact of archaeological discovery for the study of the Bible is, however, far from dead. New discoveries are made every year, some of profound significance. The purpose of this course is to explore the exciting intersection of archaeology and biblical studies. Attention will be given to questions of method, to key figures and key finds, and to the specific potentials and pitfalls of seeking convergences between the biblical testimony and the “facts on (or under) the ground.”

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should have:

1. Gained exposure to the broad range of archaeological discoveries directly or indirectly pertinent to the Bible;
2. Learned something of the history of the “biblical archaeology” movement;
3. Developed a basic awareness of how archaeological excavations and regional surveys are currently being conducted in Israel/Palestine;
4. Attained a heightened sense of the potentials and pitfalls of bringing archaeology and the Bible together; and
5. Begun to develop personal convictions on how archaeology and biblical studies should interact.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 Introduction to the Course and to “Biblical Archaeology”

Day 2 Archaeology of the Major Powers: Mesopotamia and Egypt

Day 3 Archaeology of Palestine and the Old Testament

Day 4 Archaeology of Palestine and the New Testament

Day 5 The Future of Biblical Archaeology

REQUIRED TEXTS

Hoerth, Alfred, and John McRay. Bible Archaeology: An Exploration of the History and Culture of Early Civilizations. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005. (Preferred)

OR

Hoffmeier, James K. The Archaeology of the Bible. Oxford: Lion, 2008.

All prices subject to change without notice. Please note that the Regent College Bookstore offers a 20% discount on regularly priced books (some exceptions may apply).

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: moodle.regent-college.edu/login

