

Megiddo 2024
Megiddo and the Archaeology of Israel

TAU XXXX: 3 undergraduate credits

OR

TAU YYYY: 3 graduate credits

Instructor of Record: Professor Israel Finkelstein (Tel Aviv University)

Co-Instructor: Dr. Matthew Adams (W.F.Albright Institute of Archaeological Research)

This course will survey selected topics within the archaeology and history of ancient Israel and its neighbors, with case studies and examples taken particularly from the site of Megiddo. Lectures will be delivered by members of the senior staff, and will address a number of the most current research questions and methodologies in use. The course will concentrate on the historical, cultural, and economic processes and events that affected ancient Israel, primarily within the Bronze and Iron Ages, though some issues of larger chronological scope will also be addressed.

Course Materials:

Readings listed on the syllabus **will be made available electronically**. Details will be sent to students prior to the beginning of the season.

Requirements for all registered students:

1. Complete all **assigned readings** before class time and be prepared to use them in discussion as appropriate.
2. Attend and be engaged at **all class meetings**.
3. Successfully complete a **final examination**.

Course Assessment for Undergraduate Credit:

Final Exam=50% of final grade

Appropriate academic **participation=50%** of final grade. Appropriate participation includes:

- Attendance at all class meetings
- Active listening in lecture and thoughtful participation in discussions
- Overall appropriate personal and academic conduct in accordance with the rules of the Expedition

Course Assessment for Graduate Credit:

Students wishing to receive graduate credit for this course must complete all the above requirements **AND write a 10-12 page research paper** on a selected topic that relates to the archaeology, history or culture of ancient Canaan and Israel, with a focus on its relationship to Megiddo. More specific discussion of paper topics will be held during the excavation. The papers will be due approximately one month after the end of the dig.

WEEK 1: ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE SITE OF MEGIDDO

Day	Event	Instructor	Description	Preparation Prior to Meeting
SUN	Class Meeting #1 Tel Tour	Directors	The Directors will lead a study tour of the site, addressing issues from past and current excavations.	None
MON	Class Meeting #2 8:00pm Lecture: Introduction to Archaeology This lecture is required for students in both courses.	Adams	The Processes by which Sites Are Formed...and Dismantled The fundamentals of how site come into being and how archaeology is conducted, including an overview of excavation methods and the basics of stratigraphy	Readings: Renfrew and Bahn <i>Introduction; What is Left?</i> p. 8-11; 36-57 Burke, H., Smith, H., and Zimmerman, L. <i>The Archaeologist's Field Handbook: North American Edition</i> Chapter 5
TUES	Class Meeting #3 8:00pm Lecture:	Cohen	What is the Ancient Near East? How does the tiny sliver of the Southern Levant fit in to the big picture?	Readings: TBA
WED	Class Meeting #4 Discussion Tentatively 5:30pm	Cohen	Students will have opportunity for discussion on topics covered thus far and any course administration questions may be addressed at this time.	General Review
	Class Meeting #5 8:00pm Lecture: Current Excavations at Megiddo	Finkelstein	What are the research goals and methods of the renewed excavations at Megiddo? and what has the work of the last decade or so has produced? This talk will orient students to the excavation work that they will be undertaking during the current season and will touch on some of the modern archaeological tools and techniques utilized by the Megiddo Expedition.	Readings: "Megiddo" in the NEAEHL

WEEK 2: DETAILS OF THE BRONZE AND IRON AGES FROM MEGIDDO AND BEYOND

Day	Event	Instructor	Description	Preparation Prior to Meeting
SUN	Class Meeting #6 8:00pm Lecture: Early Bronze Age Megiddo	Adams	Discussion of the urbanization trends of the Early Bronze Age and how we use the monumental EBA architecture on the tel of Megiddo to understand cult, wealth, technology and power. This discussion will center on one example of current research questions introduced previously.	Readings: Adams, et al. <i>The Rise of a Complex Society</i> p. 32-43 Richard, S. <i>Early Bronze Age in the Southern Levant</i> p. 286-302
MON	Class Meeting #7 Middle and Late Bronze Ages	Yasur-Landau	Introduction to the Middle and Late Bronze Ages in the Southern Levant	Readings: TBA
TUES	Class Meeting #8 Discussion Tentatively 5:30	Cohen	Students will have opportunity for discussion on topics covered thus far in lecture or in readings.	General Review
	Class Meeting #9 8:00pm Lecture: Wine for the Egyptian Gods? - Insights into Late Bronze Age Agriculture in the Northern Negev Desert	Stein	This case study will focus on the site of Qubur al-Walaydah and its Late Bronze Age installations which were probably used to produce wine. This wine was then exported to Egypt, in one example of the ample trading networks of the period.	Readings: Streit, Archaeological Evidence for the Presence of Egyptians...
WED	Class Meeting #10 8:00pm Lecture: The Iron Age in Early Israel	Finkelstein	Prof. Finkelstein will discuss his recent research questions surrounding the main phase of the Iron Age in early Israel. Was there a United Monarchy? Did Solomon exist and, if so, how large was his kingdom? How and when did Israel emerge in the land of Canaan?	Readings: Finkelstein & Mazar <i>The Quest for the Historical Israel</i> p. 73-98 and 107-139 Finkelstein & Silberman <i>The Bible Unearthed</i> p. 72-145

WEEK 3: HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONCLUSIONS

<i>Day</i>	Event	Instructor	Description	Preparation Prior to Meeting
SUN	<p>Class Meeting #11 Discussion</p> <p>Tentatively 5:15</p>	Cohen	Students will have opportunity for discussion on topics covered thus far and will be given information regarding the final exam.	General Review
	<p>Class Meeting #12</p> <p>8:00pm Lecture:</p> <p>New Light on the Destruction of Canaanite Megiddo</p>	Kleiman	<p>The final destruction of Canaanite Megiddo in the early 10th century BCE was one of the most momentous events in the history of the southern Levant. Many questions relating to this event are still unanswered, particularly, what exactly happened in the city before the event and whether clues for a crisis can be identified in the material culture. This lecture will review the finds from the various areas excavated throughout the years at Megiddo, with a special focus on the Iron Age I remains exposed in Area Q which shed new light on the process that led to the destruction of the city.</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Ussishkin, D. 2018. Megiddo-Armageddon. The Story of the Canaanite and Israelite City. Jerusalem [Chapter 14, pp. 281-315]</p>
MON	<p>Class Meeting #13</p> <p>8:00pm Lecture:</p>	Adams	<p>Roman Megiddo=Legio</p> <p>This lecture focuses on the Roman period in Greater Megiddo and the excavations at the camp of the VI Legion Ferrata at the base of the mound.</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>TBA</p>
TUES	<p>Class Meeting #14</p> <p>8:00 Lecture:</p> <p>First Session Conclusions</p> <p>This lecture is required for students in both courses.</p>	Directors	In this lecture, the Directors will discuss observations from the excavations thus far this season, and will share any conclusions that have been established at this point.	General Review

WED	Class Meeting #15 FINAL EXAM Tentatively 6:00pm	Cohen	Students will sit for written exam.	Study lecture notes and readings!
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