

Megiddo 2024
Field Techniques in Archaeology

TAU XXXX: 3 undergraduate credits

OR

TAU YYYY: 3 graduate credits

The Megiddo Expedition's Field Techniques in Archaeology course will train the student in the methods and practices of modern Near Eastern field archaeology, using the site of Tel Megiddo, the Jezreel Valley, and the larger region of Israel as case studies. The course will enable the student to acquire and develop the skills required for proper stratigraphic excavation and technical archaeological recording. In addition to field skills, the research questions and excavation strategies of The Megiddo Expedition will be discussed and used as an example to help students contextualize the work they will do on-site. Emphasis is placed on basic field technique and strategy, stratigraphic analysis, documentation, and chronological tools. Students will gain these skills from lecture presentations, in workshops and hands-on experience as they participate in primary research during the excavation of Tel Megiddo.

Course Materials:

Hester, Thomas R., Harry J. Shafer and Kenneth L. Feder. 2009 *Field Methods in Archaeology*. Seventh Edition. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press. (=FMA below)

You are encouraged to **bring a copy of this text book with you** as it is the primary reading source. There will be a few copies available for your use in the dig office—but they may not leave the office, so plan accordingly.

Other articles on the syllabus not from FMA will be provided to you in electronic format.

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.** Material will be presented and discussed, and students will also be taught and practice specific skills. Topics will include stratigraphy, top plans, section drawing, computer applications, use of optical and electronic theodolites, registration, pottery reading, lithic analysis and archaeozoology. **Field Tutorials** take place on site during the excavation hours. **Workshops** and **Lectures** take place back at camp in the afternoons and evenings.
3. Attendance at designated **pottery readings**. This is the preliminary sorting and analysis of pottery recovered in excavation. Further details to be announced on site.
4. Receive on-site instruction from supervisors and **complete assigned tasks in the field**. Students in the techniques course may be given certain additional responsibilities in the field as part of their study and will have an opportunity to demonstrate skills taught in course workshops.
5. **Keep a field notebook** according to the parameters set out by the area supervisor. Daily entries may include elements such as a daily top plan drawing with locus number and elevations, description of soil, architecture and artifacts/or additional material as warranted by the particular excavation unit.
6. **Write a final summation** of your excavation and analyses in the field notebook, concerning the area in which you have been excavating, at the end of the course. Instructions will be given on site.

Course Assessment for Undergraduate Credit:

On-site application of skills, 25%: Students will be evaluated based upon their daily performance of field work, including positive attitude, willingness to take instruction, and readiness to learn and improve field skills. Field technique students may be tasked with specific additional responsibilities as needed.

Notebook 25%: Students will be responsible for turning in their completed report prior to departing the Expedition. Reports will be assessed on the basis of the inclusion of all required elements, the clarity of presentation of the archaeological data, and the level of understanding of stratigraphic analysis demonstrated. and how their work fits into the larger context of the Expedition's research goals. *Specific instruction will be given by supervisors.* Students will receive feedback and suggestions on their notebooks throughout the course.

Final field report 25%: Students will prepare and submit a final report on the square(s) or area in which they have been excavating at the end of the course. Depending upon the area of the site in which you are working, the report will consist of a narrative summary of their square, schematic top plans, a section drawing, descriptions of the loci, description of pottery and artifacts, elevations, and a stratigraphic analysis.

Workshop and classroom participation, 25%: Attendance at all workshops is mandatory. Students will be evaluated on their active participation in skills workshops and other instructional meetings and will be expected to be on-time, engaged and willing to practice new skills and perform excavation tasks as necessary. 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 an archaeological site report on a site of their choosing in consultation with instructors. The site report should include discussion of the following information, and should especially demonstrate the student's intellectual grasp of current debate regarding the site's interpretation and its relevance to larger historical, geographical, or methodological issues in the field.

- Geographical and historical description of the site
- Chronological chart of historical events
- History of the site, with a focus on the Bronze Age to the Roman Period
- History of excavations of the site including major disagreements among the archaeologists
- Artifacts or finds including: any architectural remains, features, installations, pottery collections, texts.
- Any biblical or ancient Near Eastern references
- Description and illustration of site plan, such as top plans
- Bibliography

WEEK 1: FIELD TECHNIQUES				
Day	Event	Instructor	Description	Preparation Prior to Meeting
SUN	Class Meeting #1 Field Tutorial	Area and Assistant Supervisors	Field Safety and Introduction to Basic Daily Activity	Readings: FMA: 21-25, 69-92, 104-109
	Class Meeting #2 Tel Tour	Directors	The Directors will lead a study tour of the site, addressing issues from past and current excavations.	
MON	Class Meeting #3 Field Tutorial	Area and Assistant Supervisors	Field Registration, Part Notebooks begin!	Readings: FMA: 113-37
	Class Meeting #4 6:00pm Workshop	Cohen and Area Assistants	Field Registration, Part II and Review of Course Requirements	
	Class Meeting #5 8:00pm Lecture	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 #6 Field Tutorial	Area and Assistant Supervisors	Introduction to Stratigraphy	Readings: FMA: 235-51
	Class Meeting #7 6:00pm Workshop	Kleiman	Pottery processing and diagnostics workshop	
WED	Class Meeting #8 Field Tutorial	Area and Assistant Supervisors	Mapping, Top Plans and Basic Elevations	Readings: FMA: 113-127; 198-215

<p>Class Meeting #9 8:00pm Lecture This lecture is required for students in both courses.</p>	<p>Finkelstein</p>	<p>The renewed excavations at Megiddo, including modern tools and techniques used by the Megiddo Expedition</p>	<p>Readings: “Megiddo” in the NEAEHL</p>
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<p>WEEK 2: FIELD TECHNIQUES</p>				
<p>Day</p>	<p>Event</p>	<p>Instructor</p>	<p>Description</p>	<p>Preparation</p>
<p>SUN</p>	<p>Class Meeting #10 Field Tutorial</p>	<p>Area and Assistant Supervisors</p>	<p>Micro-archaeology and the Collection of Samples in the Field</p>	<p>Notebook check</p>
	<p>Class Meeting #11 6:00pm Workshop</p>	<p>Dunseth</p>	<p>Geoarchaeology</p>	<p>Readings: FMA: 327-343</p>
<p>MON</p>	<p>Class Meeting #12 Field Tutorial</p>	<p>Area and Assistant Supervisors</p>	<p>Additional Excavation Skills/ Review</p>	
	<p>Class Meeting #13 6:00pm Workshop</p>	<p>Fulton</p>	<p>Collection and processing of zooarchaeological finds</p>	<p>Readings: FMA: 298-318</p>
<p>TUES</p>	<p>Class Meeting #14 6:00pm Workshop</p>	<p>Levy</p>	<p>Finding Artifacts with Writing: Iron Age inscribed Hebrew seals</p>	<p>Readings: TBA</p>

WED	Class Meeting #15 6:00pm Workshop	Yasur-Landau	Underwater Archaeology	Readings: Arkin, Yasur Landau and Gilboa IJNA 2019; Galili et al. 2018 Maritime Archaeology Israel JEMAHS_6.1-2
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WEEK 3: FIELD TECHNIQUES				
Day	Event	Instructor	Description	Preparation
SUN	Class Meeting #16 Field Tutorial	Area and Assistant Supervisors	Review and Notebook Pointers	Notebook check
	Class Meeting #17 6:00pm Workshop	Kalisher	Osteology	Readings: TBA
MON	Class Meeting #18 Field Tutorial	Area and Assistant Supervisors	Review and Notebook Pointers	Continue to prepare final notebook and report
	Class Meeting #19 6:00 Workshop	Adams and co.	Computer assisted analysis	Readings: FMA: 215-234
TUES	Class Meeting #20 Field Tutorial	Area and Assistant Supervisors	Stratigraphic Interpretation/Season Conclusions	Readings: FMA: 319-327, 335-343

	<p>Class Meeting #21 8:00 Lecture: 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	General Review
WED	<p>Class Meeting #22 TBA</p>	Assistant Supervisors	Final Report Office Hours	Notebooks and Final Report DUE
	(6:00pm)		(EXAM for Lecture Course)	