

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY SUMMER IN ISRAEL, JULY 5 – AUGUST 5, 2013

4 CREDIT HOURS

Dr. James Riley Strange, Instructor

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OBJECTIVES: This course is designed (1) to introduce the student to the field methods of excavation, survey, and recording in use in general by American expeditions to Israel and the Middle East, (2) to train the student in the field methods of excavation, survey, and recording used by the Excavations at Shikhin, (3) to introduce the student to current theories of archaeology that impinge upon field method, (4) to introduce students to various topics in the archaeology of Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine Palestine.

REQUIRED READING:

1. Strange, James F., Thomas R. W. Longstaff, and Dennis E. Groh, *The Excavations at Sepphoris Manual for Area Supervisors*. Rev. James Riley Strange (The University of South Florida: 2011). (available on Moodle).
2. Strange, James F., ed., *The Sepphoris Reader* (available on Moodle). Pay special attention to the following articles:
 3. Conder, C. R. and Kitchener, H. H., "The Survey of Western Palestine," p. 22.
 8. Dever, W. G., "Two Approaches to Archaeological Method—The Architectural and the Stratigraphic," pp. 48-52.
3. Fiensy, David, ed., *The Shikhin Reader* (available on Moodle).
4. Chapter 3 of Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn, *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice*. 5th ed. NY: Thames & Hudson, 2007. ISBN: 978-0500287132. Read Chapter 3 on field methods BEFORE entering the field (available on Moodle).

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE: (1) Attendance required in the field, at all lectures in the evening, the mini-lectures daily in the field on field methods and the recording system in use in our excavations, and on two Saturday trips to other archaeological sites around the Galilee; participation in assigned chores. (2) Students will spend some time in charge of "keeping book," as assigned by their area supervisor. (3) Students will keep a daily log of observations and notes on the progress of the excavation, the survey and excavation methods used, the recording system, their notes relative to reading, lectures, etc., and their thoughts on how to interpret finds. Log books will be collected, read, and evaluated twice during the summer. (4) There is a field exam in Israel, essay-type, in which students will be given the opportunity to apply their knowledge to a real problem in field archaeology.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND LECTURE:

A. How soils come to be deposited in a ruin. Distinction between tells and ruins in the Middle East. Stratigraphy and stratification. B. Three-dimensional recording: Daily log, top plans, elevations, bucket numbering. The Locus Sheet. Definition of a locus. C. Use of Hand tools. Reverse stratigraphy. D. The building, use, and abandonment of an ancient house as a case study. Foundation trenches, floors, accumulation upon floors, and erosion layers. E. Archaeological survey on foot, the use of optical instruments, GPS instruments, and remote sensing. The waypoint recording sheet. F. The production of a GIS database from survey data. G. Artifact seriation, pottery "reading." H. A historical overview of ancient Israel from the Alexander the Great (333 BCE) to the emperor Commodus (180 CE), and from Commodus to the Arab Conquest (640 CE). I. Cultural communication. The process of Hellenization of ancient Palestine. The Process of Romanization of Palestine. J. Village and city life in the Hellenistic-Roman period. K. Languages in ancient Palestine: inscriptions, ostraca, etc. L. Economics, markets, and the archaeology of the agora. M. Ancient road systems as communication, economic, and military infrastructure. N. Architecture as metaphor: synagogues, churches, and the temple. O. The movement from Roman to Byzantine culture: The New Aesthetic. P. Galilee in the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Early Islamic periods. Q. Some implications for history of excavations of the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods.

COURSE POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Due to the generosity of the attendance policy of the Religion Department, there are no excused or unexcused absences in this class. Students may miss two classes (i.e. a day in the field, lecture, or weekend trip) in the Summer Term without penalty. **Three** absences for any reason or combination of reasons are worth one unit deduction (e.g. from an A to a B, from a B to a C, etc.). **Four** or more absences result in an FA for the course. As a courtesy, inform the instructor if you must miss. Tardiness and leaving class early also affect grades and may be computed as absences, based on frequency and amount of class missed.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY: This course complies with the rules for academic integrity and the penalties for violations stated in the 2011-2013 On-line Student Handbook. Cheating and plagiarism are dealt with by assigning the mark of zero (0) for the offending work, without the possibility of making up the work, and the student may fail the course with the mark of FX and be suspended from the university.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION POLICY: Samford University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their request by contacting Disability Support Services at the web site <http://www4.samford.edu/dss/>, or call #726-4078. A faculty member will grant reasonable accommodations only upon written notification from Disability Support Services.

GRADING SCALE: A 100-93; A- 92-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-83; B- 82-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-73; C- 72-70; D+ 69-67; D 66-63; D- 62-60; F 59 and below.