

Archaeology 3000 and 3300: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL AT TEL BETH-SHEMESH, ISRAEL

June 10 – July 13, 2017

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INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of modern explorations of the ancient world and its civilizations, Tel Beth-Shemesh attracted the interest of scholars and students of the ancient Near East. Its long sequence of occupational history has yielded a great deal of information about the past civilizations that flourished and faded in the region. The site is located between two valleys which were well-suited for grain production, growing grapes and olives, and animal grazing. They were also avenues of trade and communication. Tel Beth-Shemesh is located at the geographic meeting point of three different ethnic and cultural groups during the Iron Age, making it an ideal site to investigate ancient geopolitical, social, and cultural dynamics at a border zone. By applying insights gained through anthropological and archaeological research, the current expedition is shedding new light on these and other theoretical issues.

Beginning in 1990, the Tel Beth-Shemesh Excavation Project has been run as a field school, where students from all over the world come together to learn the many aspects of archaeological field research: excavations methods and techniques, surveying with laser-based equipment, data acquisition and recording, artifact cataloguing, and cultural contextualizing. This summer our excavation team will concentrate in the northern area of the site in order to explore cultural diversity, continuity, and changes from Level 4 (10th Century BCE) down to Level 9 (13th Century BCE). We reached the very top of the Late Bronze Age destruction layer at the end of last season (2015) so this year will be especially exciting. Within and under this 13th Century BCE destruction layer we expect to find fired mudbricks, complete ceramic vessels, some of which will likely contain charred plant remains, and many artifacts still preserved in their primary context. We will be excavating in an area of the site where we discovered a very large palace from the el-Amarna Period (14th Century BCE), which may have been the seat of a (female!) monarch who ruled the walled Canaanite city and its environs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this field school is to expose students to the archaeological process, from excavation to analysis, and the importance of rigorous yet adaptable excavation and recording techniques. Through hands-on learning, students gain experience in excavating and field documentation. They will also be introduced to the intellectual challenges presented by archaeological research, including the need to adjust field strategies as discoveries are made and theories change. Furthermore, students receive training in laboratory analysis and have the opportunity to process and catalogue the cultural remains they find. The broader context of their archaeological finds and the site itself will be explained as well. By the end of the field school, students will have a solid understanding of archaeological field methods, recognize the value of detailed excavation records, and an appreciation for the process. They will also know how their efforts and discoveries contribute to the academic goals of the research project.

Students will participate in the following research activities:

Excavations: Students will participate in guided excavations in the northern area of Tel Beth-Shemesh. The excavations will focus on the early Iron Age (1,200-1,100 BCE) and Late Bronze Age (1,250-1,200 BCE) occupation levels. These occupation levels are excavated using the Wheeler-box method. Students will be assigned to a 5 x 5 meter unit and will learn how to excavate the cultural deposits within their unit. They will be taught how and when to use a pick-axe, flat hoe, small pick, trowel, brush, sieve, and other tools. They will become proficient with these tools by the end of the field school.

Recording: Students will learn how to draw daily top-plans, measure and record the provenience of archaeological finds, document the matrix surrounding the cultural remains, and draw stratigraphic profiles. They will also learn how to fill out feature and sediment (locus/layer) forms and artifact catalogues.

Laboratory Analysis: Scheduled laboratory workshops will take place throughout the field school. Students are expected to participate in all laboratory tasks, including pottery washing, sorting, and cataloging, lithic washing and cataloguing, and the dry brushing and cataloguing of the faunal remains. Other activities, such as the classification of groundstone artifacts, will depend on the types of finds unearthed this coming season.

The course begins on Saturday, May 30 and runs until July 3. During the week (Sunday – Thursday) we will be excavating at the site from 5:00 until 13:00. In the afternoons, from 14:00 until 18:00, we will complete the laboratory work. A number of task-related workshops will take place in the field and the laboratory. Additional mini-workshops will be given as particular cultural remains are excavated. The formal lectures will be held just before dinner (18:00).

On the weekends (Friday-Saturday) students participate in field trips to a number of sites throughout Israel. Site lectures will be given at all sites, and the broader context of the Tel Beth-Shemesh excavations discussed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

This is a two-course (6-credit) field school that is completed in Israel. Students must register in both courses. They are graded on the quality of their field and lab work, their field records and notebooks, a final exam and their participation. Students are required to participate fully in all course components. Dedication and team work are vital for student success.

The grade breakdown for each course is as follows:

Archaeology 3000: Archaeological Record of the Near East

Participation on Field Trips:	20%
Note books:	50%
Final Examination:	30%

Archaeology 3300: Archaeological Field Work - Israel

Quality of Field Work:	50%
Quality of Laboratory Work:	20%
General Camp Work:	10%
Final Examination:	20%

Grading Scheme

A+ 95-100	B+ 77-79	C+ 67-69	D+ 57-59
A 85-95	B 73-76	C 63-66	D 50-56
A- 80-84	B- 70-72	C- 60-62	F 0-49

Final Exam

The final exam will be written in the last week of the excavation (date and time to be scheduled). Students are required to answer the 5 questions given on the last page.

COURSE COSTS

The cost for this field school is approximately **\$3,700** plus tuition (**\$1,200**) and airfare (**\$1,500**). This includes room and board, field and laboratory supplies, field trip transportation, and entrance fees. Personal spending money amounts are not included.

COURSE RISKS

Due to the fact that the field school takes place off campus there are a number of risks that may be encountered, including sun exposure, heat stroke, dehydration, spider, scorpion or snake bites, falling or getting hurt using equipment, and travel accidents. These risks will be minimized and monitored by the instructor; however, students are responsible for their own safety. Waivers of liability must be signed by all participants.

ACCOMMODATIONS

During the week, we stay in the modest but comfortable guest-house at kibbutz Nativ HaLamed-heh, which is just a few miles from the site. Each room accommodates 3-4 people, is air-conditioned, and has an adjoining bathroom. Bedding and towels are provided by the guest-house.

All meals will be communal events and will provide plenty of nutritious, basic food in the tradition of local cousin. Lunch and dinner are served in the central meeting room on the kibbutz. A variety of dishes will be prepared, each of which will have a protein, vegetables, and a starch (rice, potatoes, bread, etc.). Israel is known for its fresh vegetables and fruit, so students will have lots of opportunities to try these. Breakfast is served on site (second breakfast) and normally includes cucumbers, tomatoes, and other fresh vegetables, eggs, bread, cereal, fresh milk, and yoghurt. Food treats on the weekends would be falafel and *shawarma* dishes. The meals are kosher. Special dietary needs cannot be guaranteed but vegetable dishes are always served. Tap water at the kibbutz and throughout Israel is safe to drink.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (June 10-June 17):

Saturday	Depart from the Calgary International Airport to Tel Aviv, Israel
Sunday	Arrive at the Tel Aviv International Airport (TLV) and transfer to the kibbutz 4:00 pm: Preliminary introductions, course overview 6:30 pm: Group dinner
Monday	4:00: Rise-and-shine, light breakfast 5:00: Take the bus to the site 5:30: Site orientation and tool overview 8:30: Second Breakfast on site 9:00: Site clean-up and grid layout 13:00: Return to the kibbutz 13:30: Group lunch 14:00: Shower/swim break 18:00: Lecture – Tel Beth-Shemesh Excavations 1 19:00: Group Dinner
Tuesday	5:00: Bus to the site 5:30: Excavation unit orientation 8:30: Second Breakfast on site 9:00: Unit excavation 13:00: Return to the kibbutz 13:30: Group lunch 14:00: Shower/swim break 18:00: Lecture – Tel Beth-Shemesh Excavations 2 19:00: Group Dinner
Wednesday	5:00: Bus to the site 5:30: Unit excavation 8:30: Second Breakfast on site 9:00: Excavation recording workshop 13:00: Return to the kibbutz 13:30: Group lunch 14:00: Pottery washing workshop 15:30: Shower/swim break 19:00: Group Dinner
Thursday	5:00: Bus to the site 5:30: Unit excavation 8:30: Second Breakfast on site 9:00: Unit excavation 12:00: Tel Tour 1 13:00: Return to the kibbutz 13:30: Group lunch 14:00: Pottery washing

15:30: Shower/swim break
19:00: Group Dinner

Weekend Tour 1 – Central Israel

Friday 7:00: Rise-and-shine
7:30: Breakfast
8:00: Depart for a day trip to Tel Aviv and Central Israel with one of the project directors
19:00: Return to the kibbutz
19:30: Group Dinner

Saturday Free day to study and catch up on field journals

Week 2 (June 18-24):

Sunday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Unit excavation
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
17:00: Pottery reading workshop
18:00: Lecture – The Philistines and Tel Beth-Shemesh
19:00: Group Dinner

Monday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Excavation unit orientation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Unit excavation
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
17:00: Pottery reading workshop
18:00: Lecture – Faunal Analysis
19:00: Group Dinner

Tuesday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Unit excavation
12:00: Tel Tour 2
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
17:00: Faunal Analysis workshop
19:00: Group Dinner

Wednesday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Plant remains workshop
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
17:00: Pottery reading workshop
18:00: Lecture – Canaanite Culture of the Late Bronze Period
19:00: Group Dinner

Thursday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Unit excavation
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
17:00: Pottery reading workshop
19:00: Group Dinner

Weekend Tour 2 – Southern Israel

Friday 7:00: Rise-and-shine
7:30: Breakfast
8:00: Depart for weekend field trip to the south
9:00: Visit archaeological sites in southern Israel with one of the project directors
19:00: Check in to hostel
19:30: Group Dinner

Saturday 7:00: Rise-and-shine
7:30: Breakfast
8:00: Visit archaeological sites in southern Israel with one of the project directors
19:00: Return to the kibbutz
19:30: Group Dinner

Week 3 (June 25-July 1):

Sunday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Unit excavation
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
17:00: Pottery reading workshop

18:00: Lecture – Are We Digging ‘NIN-UR.MAH.MES’s City?
19:00: Group Dinner

Monday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Excavation unit orientation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Unit excavation
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
17:00: Pottery reading workshop
18:00: Lecture – The Use of GIS for Recording and Analysis at Tel Beth-Shemesh
19:00: Group Dinner

Tuesday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Unit excavation
12:00: Tel Tour 3
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
17:00: Lithic analysis workshop
19:00: Group Dinner

Wednesday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Plant remains workshop
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
17:00: Pottery reading workshop
18:00: Lecture – Dust and Ashes: Geoarchaeology at Tel Beth-Shemesh
19:00: Group Dinner

Thursday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Unit excavation
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
19:00: Group Dinner

Weekend Tour 3 – Northern Israel

Friday 7:00: Rise-and-shine
7:30: Breakfast
8:00: Depart for weekend field trip to the north
9:00: Visit archaeological sites in Northern Israel with one of the project directors
19:00: Check in to hostel
19:30: Group Dinner

Saturday 7:00: Rise-and-shine
7:30: Breakfast
8:00: Visit archaeological sites in northern Israel with one of the project directors
19:00: Return to the kibbutz
19:30: Group Dinner

Week 4 (July 2-July 9):

Sunday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Unit excavation
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
17:00: Pottery reading workshop
18:00: Lecture – A Priest House at Beth-Shemesh?
19:00: Group Dinner

Monday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Excavation unit orientation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Unit excavation
12:00: Tel Tour 4
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
17:00: Pottery reading workshop
18:00: Lecture – What We Have Learned This Season at Tel Beth-Shemesh
19:00: Group Dinner

Tuesday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Unit excavation
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break

17:00: Pottery reading workshop
18:00: Final Exam
19:00: Group dinner

Wednesday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
9:00: Plant remains workshop
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:30: Shower/swim break
17:00: Artifact packing and transfer to storage
19:00: Group dinner and farewell party

Thursday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Excavation unit and area clean-up for final photos
8:00: Final photos
9:00: Equipment cleaning and packing
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Depart for Jerusalem

Weekend Tour 4 – Jerusalem (July 6-8)

Friday 7:00: Rise-and-shine
7:30: Breakfast
9:00: Visit a number of museums in Jerusalem
19:30: Group Dinner at the hostel in Jerusalem

Saturday 7:00: Rise-and-shine
7:30: Breakfast
8:00: Visit the Old City of Jerusalem
19:30: Group Dinner at the hostel in Jerusalem

Post Field school trip – Jordan (July 9-13)

Sunday 4:00: Rise-and-shine
6:00: Bus to Eliat
1:00: Cross into Taba, Jordan
14:00: Arrive in and visit the Wadi Rum region
19:30: Group Dinner at the hostel in Petra

Monday 7:00: Rise-and-shine
7:30: Breakfast
8:00: Site visit at Petra
19:00: Group dinner at hostel in Petra

- Tuesday 7:00: Rise-and-shine
 7:30: Breakfast
 8:00: Travel to Madaba and visit the area
 19:30: Group Dinner at the hostel in Amman
- Wednesday 7:00: Rise-and-shine
 7:30: Breakfast
 8:00: Visit sites in Amman
 19:30: Group Dinner at the hostel in Amman
- Thursday Morning: Return flight home
 Evening: Arrive in Calgary

READINGS

The readings listed below will be posted on the field school Moodle website.

- Ashkenazi, Hai, Look, Cory, Lederman, Zvi, and Bunimovitz, Shlomo
 2008 Destruction Analysis Using GIS at Tel Beth-Shemesh, Israel. Paper presented at the American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, Boston.
- Bubel, Shawn
 2012 Contributions of Lithic Analysis to the Understanding of the Late Bronze and Iron Ages at Tel Beth-Shemesh. Paper presented at the American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, Chicago.
- Bunimovitz, Shlomo and Faust, Avraham
 2010 Re-constructing Biblical Archaeology: Toward an Integration of Archaeology and the Bible, In *Historical Biblical Archaeology and the Future: The New Pragmatism*, edited by Thomas E. Levy, pp. 45-56. Equinox Publishing Limited: Sheffield
- Bunimovitz, Shlomo and Lederman, Zvi
 2012 Iron Age Iron: From Invention to Innovation, In *Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology: Fifty Years On*, edited by Jennifer M. Webb and David Frankel, Vol. CXXXVII, pp. 103-112. Astroms Forlag: Uppsala.
- 2011 Canaanite Resistance: The Philistines and Beth-Shemesh – A Case Study from Iron Age I. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 334: 37-51.
- 2009 The Archaeology of Border Communities – Renewed Excavations at Tel Beth-Shemesh, Part 1: The Iron Age, *Near Eastern Archaeology* 72: 114-142.
- 2006 The Early Israelite Monarchy in the Sorek Valley: Tel Beth-Shemesh and Tel Batash (Timnah) in the 10th and 9th Centuries BCE. In *I Will Speak the Riddles of Ancient Times: Archaeological and Historical Studies in Honor of Amihai Mazar on the Occasion of His Sixtieth Birthday*, edited by Aren M. Maeir and Pierre de Miroschedji, Vol. 2, pp. 402-427. Eisenbrauns: Winona Lake.
- 1997 Beth-Shemesh: Culture Conflict on Judah's Frontier, *Biblical Archaeology Review* 23 (1): 42-49, 75-77.

Manor, Dale

2016 A Priest's House at Beth-Shemesh? And Incised qdš Bowl and the 701 BCE Destruction. In *Tel Beth-Shemesh: A Border Community in Judah. Renewed Excavations 1990-2000: The Iron Age*, edited by Shlomo Bunimovitz and Zvi Lederman. Institute of Archaeology, Monograph Series. Tel Aviv University Press.

2013 Beth-Shemesh. In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of The Bible and Archaeology*, edited by Daniel M. Master, Volume 1, pp. 129-139. Oxford University Press.

Ziffer, I., Bunimovitz, S., and Lederman, Z.

2009 Divine or Humane? An Intriguing Plaque Figurine from Tel Beth-Shemesh, *Ägypten und Levante* 19: 333-341.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Bunimovitz, Shlomo and Lederman, Zvi

2011 Close Yet Apart: Diverse Cultural Dynamics at Iron Age Beth-Shemesh and Lachish. In *The Fire Signals of Lachish: Studies in the Archaeology and History of Israel in the Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Persian Period in Honor of David Ussishkin*, edited by Israel Finkelstein and Nadav Na'aman, pp. 33- 53. Eisenbrauns.

2010 A Unique Philistine Fish Motif from Tel Beth-Shemesh, *Israel Exploration Journal* 60: 58-71.

Gillings, Mark and Wheatley, David

2005 Chapter 11: Geographic Information Systems. In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods*, Vol I, pp. 373-422, edited by Herbert D.G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale. AltaMira Press.

Hill, Christopher, L.

2005 Chapter 25: Geoarchaeology. In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods*, Vol. II, pp. 1002-1033, edited by Herbert D.G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale. AltaMira Press.

Knappett, Carl

2005 Chapter 18: Pottery. In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods*, Vol. II, pp. 673-714, edited by Herbert D.G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale. AltaMira Press.

Levy, Thomas, E., Najjar, Mohammad, and Higham, Thomas

2010 Ancient Texts and Archaeology Revisited – Radiocarbon and Biblical Dating in the Southern Levant, *Antiquity* 84: 834-847.

Lyman, Lee

2005 Chapter 21: Zooarchaeology: In *Handbook of Archaeological Methods*, Vol. II, pp. 835-870, edited by Herbert D.G. Maschner and Christopher Chippindale. AltaMira Press.

Mazar, Amihai

1992 *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible*. Yale University Press. (Relevant Chapters: 7 - 12).

McCarter, Kyle, P., Bunimovitz, Shlomo, and Lederman, Zvi

2001 An Archaic Ba^cl Inscription from Tel Beth-Shemesh, *Tel Aviv*, Vol. 38: 179-193.

FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

Archaeology 3000

1. The site of Beth Shemesh has been occupied for centuries. Beginning with the earliest occupation, discuss the site in relation to the archaeological record. Focus on the main periods of occupation and the material remains uncovered.
2. In connection with your answer to question one, discuss the area you have been excavating. Explain why this area was selected to be excavated, what time period it is connected with, and the material remains found. How does it contribute to the overall understanding of the site? Be sure to include specific finds and outcomes of the excavation. Include sketches where applicable.
3. Discuss one of the sites visited during the field trips in detail. Include a location map and a sketch of the site. Explain the significance of the site, what was found and why it is important. Why did you choose this site to discuss?

Ten marks each **30%**

Archaeology 3300

4. The excavation methods applied at Beth Shemesh are based on the analysis of the stratigraphy and the spatial organisation of the site. Discuss the excavation methodology used at this site in detail. Use your work in the field to provide specific examples of how this method is carried out.
5. It is extremely important to record the excavation as best as possible. Discuss the ways this site is documented. Be sure to include everything from the field notebook to the pottery tags. Why is it so necessary to have a good recording system?

Ten marks each **20%**