

5/28/20 version

DRAFT SYLABUS

PH 912

Introduction to Biblical History and ArcheologyX

Fall 2020 online

(weekly meeting times still to be set)

Course instructors: Charles H. Cosgrove and G. Brooke Lester

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Description: An introduction to the theory and methods of historical approaches to Biblical texts and lands with attention to current issues relating to the intersection of history and the Bible.

Outcomes:

Being

- To provide self confidence in engaging historians both inside and outside the field of Biblical Studies.
- To become self-aware regarding the socio-cultural contexts that inform one's own historical constructions and more sensitive to the constructions and methods of others.
- To be able to facilitate skills in dialogue and discussion.

Doing

- To apply the methods learned in a course project.

Knowing

- To acquire critical familiarity with a range of topics in current scholarship related to the history of ancient Israel and the early church, in the context of the socio--political environments, institutions, and cultures in which they evolved
- To obtain the methodological grounding to be able to critically assess arguments and proposals that relate to biblical history and the Bible as history.

Required Texts (no need to purchase; readings will be shared):

Carr, David McLain. *The Formation of the Hebrew Bible: A New Reconstruction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Davies, Philip R. and Diana Vikander Edelman. *The Historian and the Bible: Essays in Honour of Lester L. Grabbe*. The Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies. London/New York: T & T Clark International, 2010.

Dickey, Eleanor. *Ancient Greek Scholarship. A Guide to Finding, Reading, and Understanding Scholia, Commentaries, Lexica, and Grammatical Treatises, from Their Beginnings to the Byzantine Period*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Finkelstein, Israel and Nadav Na'aman. *From Nomadism to Monarchy: Archaeological and Historical Aspects of Early Israel*. Washington: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1994.

Finkelstein, Israel and Neil Asher Silberman. *The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of Its Sacred Texts*. New York: Free Press, 2001.

Gogel, Sandra Landis. *A Grammar of Epigraphic Hebrew*. Resources for Biblical Study; No. 23. Atlanta, Ga.: Scholars, 1998.

Harland, Philip A., *Associations, Synagogues and Congregations*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.

Joshel, Sandra R., *Work, Identity and Legal Status at Rome: A Study of the Occupational Inscriptions*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992.

Killebrew, Ann E. *Biblical Peoples and Ethnicity: An Archaeological Study of Egyptians, Canaanites, Philistines, and Early Israel, 1300-1100 B.C.E.* Society of Biblical Literature Archaeology and Biblical Studies. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2005.

Levy, Thomas Evan. *Historical Biblical Archaeology and the Future: The New Pragmatism*. London/Oakville, CT: Equinox Pub. Ltd., 2010.

McLean, B. H. *An Introduction to Greek Epigraphy of the Hellenistic and Roman Periods from Alexander the Great down to the Reign of Constantine, 323 B.C.—A.D. 337*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2002.

Osiek, Carolyn and Richard Balch, *Families in the New Testament World: Households and House Churches*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.

Pestman, Pieter W. and Martin David. *A New Papyrological Primer*, 2nd (5th) ed. Leiden: Brill, 1994.

Smith, Dennis E., *From Symposium to Eucharist: The Banquet in the Early Christian World* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003)

Toner, Jerry, *Popular Culture in Ancient Rome*. Malden: Polity Press, 2009.

Toorn, K. van der. *Scribal Culture and the Making of the Hebrew Bible*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007.

White, L. Michael, *Building God's House in the Roman World: Architectural Adaptation among Pagans, Jews, and Christians*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990.

Whitelam, Keith W. *The Invention of Ancient Israel: The Silencing of Palestinian History*. New York: Routledge, 1996.

Yardeni, Ada. *The Book of Hebrew Script: History, Palaeography, Script Styles, Calligraphy & Design*. London: The British Library, 2002.

Assignments:

- 1) Write 4 Critical Discussion Papers (1000 words each) based on specified assigned readings (typically two books). The paper is due by 6 p.m. on the day before the class meeting when the topic/books are to be discussed.
- 2) Come prepared to discuss assigned readings for each session and how the world view or historical method might color presuppositions and or interpretations about the biblical world/biblical history
- 3) A major writing assignment in your area of concentration (major testament). Specifics to be determined with course professor in that concentration. NT paper for 2020: carry out research on the following question: Who was in a position to hear the message of Paul and participate in the meetings of the church, and who was not---by virtue of social location, occupation, or other factors? Keep a journal of research, logging research strategies and results with annotations---questions, tentative conclusions, etc. No final paper is required and no final conclusions are required. The focus of this writing assignment is the process of research, and the journal is the record of that process. The research is to be conducted with primary sources, assisted by secondary literature, from the first week of the course forward. Parts of the journal will be submitted periodically to the student's major testament professor for regular discussion and guidance. Both professors will read the whole journal at the end of the course. The assignment is designed to assist the student in learning how to formulate research questions, work out research strategies, and deal with primary sources. There will be discuss with the professor along the way about the discoveries, problems, dead ends, etc. the student encounters. As long as the process is good, as documented in detail by the journal, it does not matter how far the student gets toward answering the question. The process is what will be graded.

Course Outline

Week of September 7 Orientation Meeting with Drs. Cosgrove and Lester

Discussion with Dr. Lester: Biblical Minimalism (discussion)

Reading preparation (no paper):

Keith W. Whitelam, Keith W., *The Invention of Ancient Israel: The Silencing of Palestinian History* (New York: Routledge, 1996).

Philp R. Davies, and Diana Vikander Edelman. *The Historian and the Bible: Essays in Honour of Lester L. Grabbe* (The Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies; London and New York: T & T Clark International, 2010).

(Others as discerned.)

Week of September 14 Meeting with Dr. Lester: Orality and Textuality

Critical Discussion Paper based on:

K. van der Toon, *Scribal Culture and the Making of the Hebrew Bible* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007).

David McLain Carr, *The Formation of the Hebrew Bible: A New Reconstruction* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Week of September 21 Meeting with Dr. Lester: Archaeology (discussion)

Thomas Evan Levy. *Historical Biblical Archaeology and the Future: The New Pragmatism* (London; Oakville, CT: Equinox Pub. Ltd., 2010).

Israel Finkelstein and Neil Asher Silberman, *The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of Its Sacred Texts* (New York: Free Press, 2001).

(Others as discerned.)

Week of September 28 Meeting with Dr. Lester: Israel's Emergence in the Land

Critical Discussion Paper based on:

Ann E. Killebrew, *Biblical Peoples and Ethnicity: An Archaeological Study of Egyptians, Canaanites, Philistines, and Early Israel, 1300-1100 B.C.E* (SBL Archaeology and Biblical Studies; Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2005).

Israel Finkelstein and Nadav Na'aman, *From Nomadism to Monarchy: Archaeological and Historical Aspects of Early Israel* (Washington: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1994).

Week of October 5 Meeting with Dr. Lester: Ancient Hebrew Inscriptions (discussion)

Sandra Landis Gogel, *A Grammar of Epigraphic Hebrew* (Resources for Biblical Study; No. 23; Atlanta, Ga.: Scholars, 1998).

Yardeni, Ada. *The Book of Hebrew Script: History, Palaeography, Script Styles, Calligraphy & Design* (London: The British Library, 2002).

(Others as discerned.)

Week of October 12 Meeting with Dr. Lester: topic to be determined

Week of October 19 Meeting with Dr. Cosgrove: Early Christian Meeting Spaces

Reading preparation (no paper), taking careful notes on one, skimming the other:

L. Michael White, *Building God's House in the Roman World: Architectural Adaptation among Pagans, Jews, and Christians* (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990).

Carolyn Osiek and Richard Balch, *Families in the New Testament World: Households and House Churches* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997).

Week of October 26 Meeting with Dr. Cosgrove: Social Formats of Early Christian Gatherings
Turn in Critical Discussion Paper based on following readings; skim the reading you do not write on:

Dennis E. Smith, *From Symposium to Eucharist: The Banquet in the Early Christian World* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003)

Philip A. Harland, *Associations, Synagogues and Congregations* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003)

Week of November 2 Meeting with Dr. Cosgrove: Introduction to Documentary Witnesses to the Early Church and Its Environment.

Week of November 9 Meeting with Dr. Cosgrove: Epigraphy and Papyrology (no paper)

B. H. McLean, *An Introduction to Greek Epigraphy of the Hellenistic and Roman Periods from Alexander the Great down to the Reign of Constantine, 323 B.C.—A.D. 337* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2002).

Pieter W. Pestman and Martin David, *A New Papyrological Primer*, 5th ed. (Leiden: Brill, 1990).

Week of December 16, 10:00—12:00. Meeting with Dr. Cosgrove: Life of the Average Urban Family in the Greco-Roman World

Turn in Critical Discussion Paper based on one of the following (skim the other):

Jerry Toner, *Popular Culture in Ancient Rome* (Malden: Polity Press, 2009).

Sandra R. Joshel, *Work, Identity and Legal Status at Rome: A Study of the Occupational Inscriptions* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992).

November 23 Thanksgiving Week / No Classes

Week of December 30 Meeting with Dr. Cosgrove: Reconstructing the Churches of the Pauline Letters

James R. Harrison and Lawrence L. Welborn, *First Urban Churches*, vol. 1: *Methodological Foundations* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015)

Select Reading List for Further Study

Modern Historiography

- Appleby, Joyce, Lynn Hunt and Margaret Jacob. *Telling the Truth about History*. (W.W. Norton, 1994).
- Breisach, Ernst. *Historiography: Ancient, Medieval and Modern* 3rd ed.
- Feinstein, Charles and Mark Thomas. *Making History Count: A Primer in Quantitative Methods for Historians* (Cambridge, 2002).
- Gilderhus, Mark T. *History and Historians: A Historiographical Introduction*. (Pearson, 2007).
- Iggers, Georg, Q. Edward Wang and Supriya Mukherjee. *Global History of Historiography* (Longman, 2008).
- Green, Anna and Kathleen Troup. *The Houses of History: A Critical Reader in Twentieth-Century History and Theory*. (NY University Press, 1999).
- Yerxa, Donald A. *Recent Themes in Historical Thinking: Historians in Conversation*. (Univ of SC, 2008).

Historical Method and Imagination in Cross-Cultural Perspective

- Alagoa, Ebiegberi Joe. *The Practice of History in Africa. A History of African Historiography*. Onyoma Research Publications, 2006).
- Andrews, George. *Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000* (Oxford University Press, 2004)
- Falola, Toyin and Saheed Aderinto. *Nigeria, Nationalism and Writing History*. (University of Rochester Press, 2010).
- Franco, Jean. *Plotting Women: Gender and Representation in Mexico* (Columbia University Press, 1989)
- Huber, Evelyne and Frank Safford, eds. *Agrarian Structure and Political Power: Landlord and Peasant in the Making of Latin America* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1995)
- Mallon, Florencia. *Peasant and Nation: The Making of Post-Colonial Mexico and Peru* (University of California Press, 1995).
- Mass, Jeffrey. *Antiquity and Anachronism in Japanese History* (Stanford, 1992).

Historiography in the Field of Biblical Studies

- Benjamin, Don C. *An Introduction to Archaeology and the Bible* (Fortress, 2009). *Ancient Israel and the Origin of its Sacred Texts*. New York: Free Press, 2001.
- Davies, Philip and Diana Edelman, eds. *The Historian and the Bible*. Library of Hebrew Bible/OT Studies # 530, NY & London, T & T Clark, 2010.
- Finkelstein, Israel and Neil Asher Silberman. *The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of Its Sacred Texts*. New York: The Free Press, 2002.
- Liverani, Mario. *Myth and Politics in Ancient Near Eastern Historiography*. Ed. Zainab Bahrani and Marc van de Mieroop. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004.
- Lemche, Niels Peter. *The Israelites in History and Tradition*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998.
- Thompson, Thomas L. *The Mythic Past: Biblical archaeology and the myth of Israel*. New York: Basic Books, 1999.

Paleography and Textual Criticism

- Yardeni, Ada. *The Book of Hebrew Script: History, Palaeography, Script Styles*. New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 2002.
- Metzgar, Bruce. *Manuscripts of the Greek Bible: An Introduction to Palaeography*. Oxford, Oxford: 1981.
- Metzger, Bruce M. and Bart D. Ehrman, *The Text of the New Testament*, 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005
- Bischoff, Bernard. *Latin Palaeography: Antiquity and the Middle Ages*. Cambridge, 1990.

Archeology and Ancient Israel

- Levy, Thomas. *Historical Biblical Archaeology and the Future—The New Pragmatism*. (Equinox, 2010)
- Lapp, P. “The Conquest of Palestine in the Light of Archaeology.” *CTM* 38 (1967) 283-300. .
- Wood, B. “Did the Israelites Conquer Jericho? A New Look at the Archaeological Evidence.” *BAR* 16/2 (Mar/Apr 1990) 44-59. .
- Mazar, B. “The Early Israelite Settlement in the Hill Country.” Pp. 35-48 in *The Early Biblical Period*, S. Ahituv and B.A. Levine, eds. (Jerusalem: IES, 1986). .
- Finkelstein, I. and N. Na’aman, eds. *From Nomadism to Monarchy* (1994). .
- Frick, I. “Agriculture and Social Organization in Early Israel.” Pp. 99-189 in *The Formation of the State in Ancient Israel* (JSOT, 1985).
- Hopkins, David. *Highlands of Canaan: agricultural life in the early Iron Age*. Decatur, GA: Almond Press, 1985. .
- Ahlstrom, Gosta. *Ancient Palestine: A Historical Introduction*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002. .
- Grabbe, Lester L. *Ancient Israel: What do we know and How do we know it?* London: T&T Clark, 2007. .
- King, Philip J and Lawrence E. Stager. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.
- Brenner, Athalya. *The Israelite Woman*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994. .
- Bird, Phyllis A. *Missing Persons and Mistaken Identities: Women and Gender in Ancient Israel*. Minneapolis: Fortress press, 1997.
- Meyers, Carol. *Discovering Eve: Ancient Israelite Women in Context*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.

Second Temple/Second Commonwealth Period

- John M. G. Barclay, *Jews in the Mediterranean Diaspora: From Alexander to Trajan (323 BCE – 117 CE)* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1996).
- John J. Collins, *Between Athens and Jerusalem: Jewish Identity in the Hellenistic Diaspora*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000).
- Lee I. Levine, *The Ancient Synagogue: The First Thousand Years* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005).
- Mladen Popović, *The Jewish Revolt against Rome: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2011.

Archeology: Jesus and the Early Church

- Strange, James F. “[Tombs, the New Testament, and the Archaeology of Religion](#)” *Review & Expositor* 106 (2009): 399-419.
- Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *St. Paul's Ephesus: Texts and Archaeology*. Collegeville, Minn: Liturgical Press, 2008.
- Freyne, Seán. “Galilee as Laboratory: Experiments for New Testament Historians and Theologians.” *New Testament Studies* 53 (2007): 147-164.

- Byrne, Ryan and Bernadette McNary-Zak, eds. *Resurrecting the Brother of Jesus: The James Ossuary Controversy*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009.
- Toner, Jerry, *Popular Culture in Ancient Rome*. Malden: Polity Press, 2009.
- White, L. Michael, *Building God's House in the Roman World: Architectural Adaptation among Pagans, Jews, and Christians*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990.
- Nasrallah, Laura Salah. *Archaeology and the Letters of Paul*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- Pettegrew, David K., William R. Caraher, Thomas W. Davis, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Archeology*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

History of Israel

- Nelson, R. *The Double Redaction of the Deuteronomistic History* (JSOTsupp 18).
- Japhet, S. *The Ideology of the Book of Chronicles and its Place in Israel's Thought* (1992).
- Person, Raymond. *The Deuteronomistic History and Book of Chronicles: Scribal works in an oral world*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2010.
- Tadmor, H. "The Chronology of the First Temple Period: A Presentation and Evaluation of the Sources." In J.A. Soggin, *A History of Ancient Israel* (Westminster, 1984), Appendix 2, pp. 368-383.
- Alt, A. "Settlement of the Israelites in Palestine." Pp. 173-222 in *Essays on OT History and Religion*.
- Noth, M. *History of Israel*, 68-97.
- Mendenhall, G. "The Hebrew Conquest of Palestine," reprinted in BAR 3: 100-126.
- Gottwald, Norman K. *The Tribes of Yahweh: A Sociology of the Religion of Liberated Israel, 1250-1050 B.C.E.* Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1979.
- _____. "Religious Conversion and the Societal Origins of Ancient Israel." Pp. 49-65 in *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 15 (1988).
- Milgrom, J. "Religious Conversion and the Revolt Model for the Formation of Israel." *JBL* 101/2 (1982) 169-176.
- Killebrew, Ann E. *Biblical Peoples and Ethnicity: an archeological study of Egyptians, Canaanites, Philistines, and Early Israel (ca. 1300-1100 B.C.E.)*. Leiden: Brill, 2005.
- Gelinas, M. "United Monarchy – Divided Monarchy: Fact or Fiction?" Pp. 227-237 in *The Pitcher is Broken: Memorial Essays for Gösta W. Ahlström* (JDOTsupp 228, 1996).
- Na'aman, N. "The Contribution of Royal Inscriptions for a Reevaluation of the Books of Kings as a Historical Source." *JSOT* 82 (1999) 3-17.
- Finkelstein, I. "State Formation in Israel and Judah: A Contrast in Context, A Contrast in Trajectory." *Near Eastern Archaeology* 62 (1999) 35-52.
- Mazar, A. "Iron Age Chronology: A Reply to Finkelstein." *Levant* 29 (1997) 157-67.
- Davies, P.R. *In Search of 'Ancient Israel.'* (Sheffield, 1992)
- Halpern, B. "Erasing History: The Minimalist Assault on Ancient Israel." *Bible Review* 11, no. 6 (1995): 26-35.

- Thompson, Thomas L. *Historicity of the Patriarchal Narratives: Quest for the Historical Abraham*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2002.

Dead Sea Scrolls

- Shiffman, Lawrence H. *Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the History of Judaism*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2010.
- Cryer, Frederick H., and Thomas L. Thompson, eds. *Qumran Between the Old and New Testaments*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998.
- Ilan, Tal. "Julia Crispine, Daughter of Berenicianus, A Herodian Princess in the Babatha Archive: A Case Study in Historical Identification." *JQR* 82 (1992): 361-81
- Newsom, Carol A. "'Sectually Explicit' Literature from Qumran." *The Hebrew Bible and Its Interpreters*, 167-87. Edited by William Henry Propp et al. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 1990

The Historical Jesus

- Robert L. Webb, "The Historical Enterprise and Historical Jesus Research." In Darrell L. Bock and Robert L. Webb, eds *Key Events in the Life of the Historical Jesus*, 9—93. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2009.
- James Beilby and Paul Eddy, eds. *The Historical Jesus, Five Views*. InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Chilton, Bruce and Craig Evans. *Studying the Historical Jesus: Evaluation of the State of Current Research*. Leiden and New York: Brill, 1994.
- Redman, Judith. "How Accurate are Eyewitnesses? Bauckham and the Eyewitnesses in the Light of Psychological Research" *Journal of Biblical Literature* 129 (2010): 177-197.

Greco-Roman Culture and the New Testament/Early Church

- Klinghardt, Matthias. *Gemeinschaftsmahl und Mahlgemeinschaft: Soziologie und Liturgie frühchristlicher Mahlfeiern*. TANZ 13; Tübingen and Basel: Francke, 1996.
- Smith, Dennis E. *From Symposium to Eucharist: The Banquet in the Early Christian World*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.
- Harland, Philip A., *Associations, Synagogues and Congregations*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.
- Ascough, Richard, Philip A. Harland, and John S. Kloppenborg. *Associations in the Greco-Roman World: A Sourcebook*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2012.
- *Greco-Roman Associations: Texts, Translations, and Commentary*. Edited by John S. Kloppenborg et al. Berlin and New York: De Gruyter, 2011–.