I. Course Description and Objectives
This is an introductory course on the archaeology relating to the Old Testament. A survey of the Ancient Near Eastern civilizations will be followed by a detailed, thematic study of the archaeology of Israel leading up to the time of the post-exilic prophets. Special attention will be given to the ways in which archaeological finds can be accommodated into an exegetical reading of the biblical text, with the book of Jeremiah as a case-study.

- First, an archaeological survey of all periods of the Old Testament times will be given (Mar 9-10).
- This will be followed by five different readings of the book of Jeremiah, each using a unique set of archaeological information: inscriptions, architecture, mortuary practices, agriculture, and crafts. Each of these sets will first be surveyed in broader areal and time frames, from Mesopotamia to Egypt, and from the Stone Age to the Canaanite Period, before being explored in the context of biblical Israel, particularly in the book of Jeremiah (Apr 6-7).
- Finally, the students will explore on their own the archaeological contexts of the post-exilic Prophets as part of their Research Project (Apr 27-28).

When taken successfully, the course will better equip the student to become a richer, more sensitive exegete of the Old Testament, for the teaching ministry of the church (GCTS Mission Statement #1-2).

II. Course Work & Evaluation
- Museum Visit. Visit to the Harvard Semitic Museum, on a date to be determined on the first day of class. While not a requirement, the students are strongly encouraged to take part and benefit from the enriching experience that the visit will add to the learning.
• **Two Exams on reading (50%).** On Apr 6 (on Mazar 1992) and Apr 27 (on Stern 2001). Details will be announced on the first day of class (See under IV. Textbooks & References).

• **One Research Project (50%).** Due on Apr 28. Students will carry out an archaeological Research Project on a post-exilic Prophet in the style of King's (1993) ) *Jeremiah: An Archaeological Companion*. A poster-presentation of the results will be given in class on Apr 28. Details will be discussed on the first day of class.

### III. Course Policies

- **Attendance is required.** Missing more than 4 hrs of classroom time will result in not being able to earn course credit.
- **Web-surfing is not allowed.** No web-surfing allowed during the class session.
- **Due-dates are strict.** Penalties will apply for the Midterms taken after the indicated dates, and no late submission will be allowed for the Research Project.
- **Plagiarism is fatal.** Plagiarism will result in failing the course and further possible disciplinary measures. For a detailed definition of plagiarism, refer to: [http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&tabgroupid=icb.tabgroup106849](http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&tabgroupid=icb.tabgroup106849).
- **Class recording is by permission only.** Class recording is allowed by permission only. And when granted, its use should strictly be limited for personal study only.

### IV. Textbooks & References

**Required Textbooks**


**Additional References**

Further references will be indicated in the course of the term, in addition to the ones listed below:


**Journals**

Following journals are often cited in the published works:

• *Biblical Archaeology Review* (BAR, 1975- )
• *Biblical Archaeologist* (BA, 1938-1997)
• *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* (BASOR, 1921- )
• *Israel Exploration Journal* (IEJ, 1950- )
• *Levant* (1969- )
• *Near Eastern Archaeology* (NEA, 1998- )
• *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* (PEQ, 1937- )
• *Tel Aviv* (TA, 1974- )

**V. Preliminary Course Schedule**

The topics for the indicated dates will be adjusted after the initial meeting on Mar 9. Plus, a date for the Field Trip will be decided during the first session on Mar 9.

• Mar 9: Introduction to Archaeology.
• Mar 10: Archaeological survey of the Old Testament times.
• Apr 7: Archaeological study of Jeremiah, in light of King’s (1993) *Jeremiah: An Archaeological Companion*.