



TEL BETH-SHEMESH ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT, ISRAEL

Course ID: ARCH 350D
June 17 – July 12, 2018

DIRECTORS:

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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 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 junction 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.

Since 1990, the Tel Beth-Shemesh Excavation Project has served as a field school, where students from all over the world gather to learn the many aspects of archaeological field research: excavation methods and techniques, surveying with laser-based equipment, data acquisition and recording, artifact cataloging, and cultural contextualizing. This summer our efforts will concentrate in the northern area of the site to explore cultural diversity, continuity, and changes from Level 4 (10th century BCE) down to Level 9 (14th century BCE). The 2017 season surprised us with the discovery of a channel resting along the northern face of a temple, which we had uncovered a few years earlier. The Temple and channel rest over the northern ruins of a Late Bronze Age palace that we uncovered in 2008-09. The palace dates from the el-Amarna period (ca. 14th century BCE) and was likely the seat of a female monarch who

corresponded with Amenhotep III. Our goal is to clarify the palace remains and identify other remains associated with it. Immediately to the south of the palace and on a higher level, we will continue our exposure of the southern half of the Iron Age I Temple 1651, dating from the 12th-11th centuries BCE. Our work last year may have exposed elements of another temple upon which Temple 1651 rests, but clarification of that relationship needs further investigation. When the northern half of the temple was excavated a few years ago, an exciting assemblage of artifacts, all pointing to a sacred function of the building were clearly evident—we anticipate similarly exciting finds as the southern half is exposed. Perhaps in 2018 we will be able to identify whom the people of Beth-Shemesh were worshipping in the temple.

ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

Credit Units: Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter credit units) through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Connecticut College is a private, highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix). This field school provides a minimum of 160 direct instructional hours. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institutions prior to attending this field school.

Transcripts: An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One additional transcript may be sent to the student's home institution at no additional cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the National Student Clearinghouse: <http://bit.ly/2hvurkl>.

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 methods. Through hands-on learning, students gain experience in excavating and field documentation. They will 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 should 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.

Student 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 (1200-1000 BCE) and Late Bronze Age (1350-1200 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, how to fill out feature and sediment (locus/layer) forms, catalogue artifacts, and draw stratigraphic profiles.

Laboratory Analysis: Various 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 cataloging, and the dry brushing of the faunal remains.

Students should plan to arrive at the kibbutz in the afternoon on Sunday, June 10. The excavations begin on Monday, June 11 and run until July 5. During the week (Sunday – Thursday) we will excavate 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).

Students are free to travel on your own on the weekends (Friday-Saturday). An arrangement will be made on one of the weekends to visit the Israel Museum to study some of the cultural finds that are relevant to our archaeological work and especially as they relate to our work connected with the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages. Travel to the museum will be arranged either by a rented vehicle or shared taxis (at volunteers' expense).

DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Archaeological field work involves physical work in the outdoors. Be aware that conditions in the field are different than those you experience in your home, dorms, or college town. This program operates in south-central Israel. During the day, temperatures can reach above 30°C (85°F) and humidity is very low. In order to be protected from the sun you must wear clothing that covers your shoulders and a hat. Sunscreen and sturdy, closed-toe footwear is required. No sandals are permitted on site. Scorpions, spiders, and the occasional snake are encountered in the excavation area.

If you have any concerns, please consult with your doctor. All other concerns, please discuss with the project directors, as appropriate.

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for participation in this field school. Students will receive hands-on training in archaeological fieldwork and will spend most of their time learning how to excavate and how to interpret and record their finds. Students must come equipped with sufficient excitement and adequate understanding that the archaeological endeavor requires real, hard work in a camp-like environment. It will be hot, temperatures can rise above 30°C (85°F), and they will get very dirty. Students will be taught how to use a variety of excavation tools, from pick-axes, shovels, and wheelbarrows, to trowels, brushes, and sieves, and are expected to use all of them. Archaeology involves physical work and exposure to the elements and thus, requires a measure of acceptance that this will not be the typical university learning environment. Students will get sweaty, tired, and have to work closely with others. We hope that the thrill of archaeological discoveries that have remained buried for thousands of years will outweigh the stiff muscles and early mornings.

GRADING MATRIX

Students are required to participate in all components of the field school, including field work, laboratory work, work-shops, and lectures. Grades are determined as follows:

40% - Field work. Students will be assessed on the quality of their field work (i.e. their ability effectively to use the excavation tools, correctly articulate a cultural feature, trim a baulk, measure the provenience of an artifact, record their finds, use the level record sheets, fill out pottery tags, etc.).

20% - Laboratory work. Students will also be assessed on the quality of their laboratory work (i.e. participation in pottery washing, proficiency in ceramic classification, and processing faunal remains).

20% - Field Journal. Students must keep a personal field journal that will be graded at the end of the course. This field journal must include a daily top-plan sketch and a summary of the day's excavation activities. Students are also encouraged to note the significance of their finds as they learn more about them, the site, and the broader cultural sphere. These journals will be returned to the students before they leave Israel.

20% - Final Examination. Students will take an exam in the last week of the field school. They will be tested on excavation techniques, terminology, recording methods, and the socio-cultural-political-religious contexts of the remains they recovered at the site. They are expected to be able to link the lectures and readings to their field and laboratory work.

TRAVEL & MEETING POINT

Students arriving by air will be met at the Tel Aviv International Airport (TLV) by project staff members on June 17. Please wait at the Currency Exchange Office in the main arrival hall. This is just after the baggage claim area, outside the security doors.

If your flight is delayed or you miss the group's designated meeting time, please call, text, or email Dr. Zvi Lederman (zvi.lederman@gmail.com). His cell phone number will be provided to all enrolled students.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

US citizens do not need a formal visa to enter Israel, but an onward or return ticket and proof of sufficient funds may be required for entry. Although the Israeli government does not require that a passport be valid for six months from the date of entry, airlines routinely do so and may decline boarding if a traveler has less than six months validity on his or her passport.

Travelers normally receive a free, three-month tourist visa upon arrival in Israel, which may be extended. It is important **not to say** that you are coming to Israel to work—they will understand that to mean you will be working for remuneration. Your function is as a **tourist** visiting various sites in Israel.

Israel no longer stamps passports with an entry stamp, but instead provides all travelers with an entry card, although travelers reserve the right to stamp the passport. All travelers should retain this entry card throughout the duration of their stay in Israel as it is their proof of lawful entry. Although not required for exit, travelers are advised to have their entry card to avoid delays when departing Israel.

Citizens of other countries should research the website of the Israeli Embassy in their home country for visa requirements.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Students are required to bring a hard-covered field note book, pens, pencils, an eraser, a small metric ruler, and a pointing Marshalltown trowel that is between 4 and 6 inches long. Everyone must wear robust, closed shoes or work boots on site. No one is permitted on site with sneakers or sandals. Work gloves are not required as there are several pairs on site, but students should consider bringing their own. You must wear a hat at all times when outdoors and sunscreen is necessary as temperatures are typically above 25 degrees Celsius. For this reason, everyone must wear a T-shirt or long-sleeved shirt on site to protect their shoulders from burning. Sunglasses with UV protection are also recommended.

A detailed packing list will be sent about one month before departure.

ACCOMMODATIONS

During the week, students and staff stay in the modest but comfortable guest-house at kibbutz Ramat Shapiro, which is 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 provide plenty of nutritious, basic food in the tradition of local cuisine. 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. Breakfast is served on site (second breakfast) and normally includes cucumbers, tomatoes, and other fresh vegetables, eggs, bread, cereal, fresh milk, and yoghurt. The meals are kosher. Specific dietary needs cannot be accommodated but vegetable dishes are always served. Tap water at the kibbutz and throughout Israel is safe to drink.

Weekends will generally be on your own.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (June 17-June 21):

Sunday	Arrive at the Tel Aviv International Airport (TLV) and make your way to kibbutz Ramat Shapiro 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 break 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 break 18:00: Lecture 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 break 18:00: Lecture

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 break
19:00: Group Dinner

Friday Free to travel

Saturday Free to travel

Week 2 (June 24-28):

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
15:00: Shower 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: Shower break
17:00: Pottery reading workshop
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

15:00: Shower break
19:00: Group Dinner

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

Friday Free to travel

Saturday Free to travel

Week 3 (July 1-5):

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
15:00: Shower 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: Shower break
17:00: Pottery reading workshop
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
15:00: Shower break
19:00: Group Dinner

Wednesday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
17:00: Pottery reading workshop
15:00: Shower break
18:00: Lecture
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
15:00: Shower break
19:00: Group Dinner

Friday 7:00: Rise-and-shine
7:30: Breakfast
8:00: Visit Israel Museum

Saturday Free to travel

Week 4 (July 8-12):

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
15:00: Shower 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: Shower 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
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:00: Shower break
17:00: Pottery reading workshop
18:00: Lecture – What We Have Learned This Season at Tel Beth-Shemesh
19:00: Group dinner

Wednesday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Unit excavation
8:30: Second Breakfast on site
10:00: Stop work and prepare for final photos
13:00: Return to the kibbutz
13:30: Group lunch
14:00: Pottery washing
15:00: Shower break
17:00: Final Exam
19:00: Group dinner

Thursday 5:00: Bus to the site
5:30: Final photos begin
8:00: pack equipment and secure the site
9:00: Equipment cleaning and packing
10:30: Project comes to end for the season

MANDATORY READINGS

The readings listed below will be posted on the field school Moodle website. Hard copies will also be available at the field school camp.

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.

1997 Beth-Shemesh: Culture Conflict on Judah's Frontier, *Biblical Archaeology Review* 23 (1): 42-49, 75-77.

Chovanec, Zuzana, Bunimovitz, Shlomo, and Lederman, Zvi

2015 Is There Opium Here? – Analysis of Cypriot Base Ring Juglets from Tel Beth-Shemesh, Israel, *Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry*, Vol 15, No. 2: 175-189.

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

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Bunimovitz, Shlomo and Lederman, Zvi

2013 Solving a Century-Old Puzzle: New Discoveries at the Middle Bronze Gate of Tel Beth-Shemesh, *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 145 (1):6-24.

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 Baʿl Inscription from Tel Beth-Shemesh, *Tel Aviv*, Vol. 38: 179-193.