



Course Syllabus

SPRING/SUMMER 2018

ISRAEL STUDY TOUR: HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE BIBLE
BIBL 0603 (Seminary)
RLGS 3073 (University College)

MAY 13 – JUNE 4, 2018

TYNDALE SEMINARY INSTRUCTOR:
DR. REBECCA IDESTROM

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Office Hours: Mondays, 2:00-3:00 PM, Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00 PM,
Thursdays, 2:00-3:00 PM, by appointment

UNIVERSITY OF THE HOLY LAND INSTRUCTOR:
DR. GINGER CAESSENS

Location: On site at various locations in Israel.¹

Prerequisites: None

To access your course material, please go to <http://classes.tyndale.ca>. Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account. For information how to access and forward emails to your personal account, see <http://www.tyndale.ca/it/live-at-edu>.

Full details regarding costs, registration, payment, and travel are available from Dr. Rebecca Idestrom.

Please Note: For Seminary students, this course can count as either a New Testament elective or an Old Testament elective.

¹ In addition, three preparatory classes will occur at Tyndale during the Winter Semester 2018. See specific dates below.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study tour which combines travel with lectures and readings to provide students with a rich, on-site learning experience. Students will spend three full weeks in Israel visiting sites throughout the country that formed the stage on which so many biblical events were played out. Our tour will move region-by-region, spending time in Jerusalem and Judea, Benjamin, the Coastal Plain, the Negev, the Dead Sea area, the Jordan Valley, the Galilee, and the Golan Heights. In each area students will learn about its geography and archaeology, exploring how the features of each area shaped the history of its people. Attention will also be given to the imagery and symbolism connected with each region in both the Old and New Testaments.

Please be aware that this is a physically demanding course, which will involve significant amounts of walking in a hot climate.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- describe the geography and topography of various regions within the Holy Land,
- identify many significant sites and regions in the Holy Land on a map,
- outline the history and archaeology connected with many significant sites and regions in the Holy Land,
- describe the roles which many sites and regions play in the biblical texts,
- explain how knowledge of these sites enriches our interpretation of particular biblical passages.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Rasmussen, Carl G. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*. Revised Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010. ISBN # 978-0-310-27050-8.
(Read pages 1–64 and 180–215)

An extensive course-pack will be provided by Dr. Ginger Caessens on arrival in Israel.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

Suggested Reading in preparation for the Israel Tour include the following items, which will be placed on the Israel Tour Course page:

Jodi Magness, "What Did Jesus' Tomb Look Like?" *BAR* (Jan/Feb 2006): 38-49, 70.

Gabriel Barkay, "The Garden Tomb, Was Jesus Buried Here?" *BAR* (Mar/Apr 1986): 40-57.

Paul Kern, "Under Siege," *Odyssey* (Jan/Feb 2004): 40-47, 61.

"Sepphoris," *BAR* (May/June 1992): 50-62.

If the participant is not very familiar with the overall biblical story, it is helpful to also read the Old Testament historical books, particularly Joshua through to Nehemiah, as well as the New Testament gospels in preparation.

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. As we move into each new region students will complete a **map study** designed to familiarize them with the area and its sites. **Bring the completed map studies along to Israel.**
2. **Three quizzes** will be held during the time in Israel, evaluating the students' grasp of the lectures and on-site instruction. Students will be given study questions to help preparation for the quizzes, and the schedule allows time to prepare.
3. Before leaving Israel students will write a **final exam** evaluating their overall understanding of the course material. Sample review questions are provided and the students will be given study time to prepare.
4. The course work will be weighed as follows:

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|--|-------|
| Map Studies (to be completed prior to departure) | 10 % |
| Three quizzes in Israel (3 x 20 %)= 60 % | 60 % |
| Final Exam in Israel | 30 % |
| Total Grade | 100 % |

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized

material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at <http://tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar>.

E. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

During the Winter Semester 2018, we will have three classes in preparation for the Israel Study Tour. Classes will be held on the following dates:

Friday, March 2, 2018, 6:30-9:30 PM (Read Rasmussen, pp.1–64 prior to class)
Friday, April 6, 2018, 6:30-9:30 PM (Read Rasmussen, pp. 180–215 prior to class)
Friday, April 27, 2018, 6:30-9:30 PM

For a full tour itinerary, please see the downloadable version on the course web-site.

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|------------------|-------------------------|
| Sunday, May 13 | Depart for Israel |
| Monday, May 21 | Quiz I |
| Sunday, May 27 | Quiz II |
| Saturday, June 2 | Quiz III and Final Exam |
| Monday, June 4 | Return to Canada |

Please Note: Every reasonable effort will be made to include all sites in the itinerary. As in any travel program, however, some flexibility may be required to accommodate unexpected circumstances.

V. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

** The journal *Biblical Archaeological Review* is generally an excellent resource for all of the topics below.

Atlases

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Cleave, Richard. *The Holy Land Satellite Atlas, Volume 1*. Nicosia, Cyprus: Rohr Productions, 1999.

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Baly, Denis. *The Geography of the Bible*. Revised ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1974.

Bolen, Todd. *Pictorial Library of Bible Lands, Volume 1-10*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic Publishing, 2000.

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Jerusalem

- Avigad, Nahman. *Discovering Jerusalem*. Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1983.
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- Killebrew, Ann E., and Andrew G Vaughn, eds., *Jerusalem in Bible and Archaeology: The First Temple Period*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.
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