



Israel Study Tour: Historical Geography of the Bible

BIBL 0603 (Seminary) / RLGS 3073 (University College) Course Syllabus*

Drs. Ginger Caessens, Daniel Driver, Rebecca Idestrom

1 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 Negeb, 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 course is *physically demanding*. It will involve significant amounts of walking in a hot climate.

Full details regarding cost, registration, payment, and travel are available from Dr. Idestrom¹ or Dr. Driver² or on the web at <http://danieldriver.com/israel-2013/>

*The course will take place at various locations in Israel from May 12 to June 3, 2013. In addition, four preparatory classes will occur at Tyndale during the Winter 2013 semester.

¹Email ridestrom@tyndale.ca or phone her at 416.226.6620 x6771.

²Email ddriver@tyndale.ca or phone him at 416.226.6620 x2201.

2 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.

3 Required Texts

1. Rasmussen, Carl G. *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*. Revised Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010. ISBN 978-0310270508.
2. An extensive course-pack will be provided by Dr. Ginger Caessens on arrival in Israel.

4 Supplementary Texts

Suggested readings in preparation for the Israel tour include the following items, which will be placed on reserve in the Tyndale Library.

1. Gabriel Barkay, "The Garden Tomb: Was Jesus Buried Here?" *Biblical Archaeology Review* (Mar/Apr 1986): 40–57. [Online](#).
2. Richard A. Batey, "Sepphoris: An Urban Portrait of Jesus." *Biblical Archaeology Review* (May/June 1992): 50–62. [Online](#).
3. Jodi Magness, "What Did Jesus' Tomb Look Like?" *Biblical Archaeology Review* (Jan/Feb 2006): 38–49, 70. [Online](#).
4. Paul Kern, "Under Siege." *Odyssey* (Jan/Feb 2004): 40–47, 61.

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.

5 Course Evaluation

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. Also prior to departure, students are to complete the **required reading** from Rasmussen's *Zondervan Atlas of the Bible*.
3. **Three quizzes** will be held during the time in Israel, evaluating students' grasp of the lectures and on-site instruction. Students will be given study questions to help in preparation for the quizzes, and the schedule provides time to prepare.
4. Before leaving Israel students will write a **final exam** evaluating their overall understanding of the course material. Sample review questions are provided and students will be given study time to prepare.
5. The semester's work will be weighted as follows, though the instructors reserve the right to adjust the balance as necessary:

Map Studies	10%
Required Reading	10%
Quizzes (3 x 15%)	45%
Final Exam	35%

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 apply consequences for academic dishonesty. Students are advised to consult the Academic Calendar (<http://tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar>) for more information on this policy and its application to their work in this course.

6 Course Schedule

During the Winter Semester 2013 we will have four classes in preparation for the Israel Study Tour. Classes will be held on the following Friday evenings, from 6:30–9:30 PM.

Reading	Lecturer	Date
Syllabus	Dr. Idestrom	25 January
Rasmussen 1–64	Dr. Driver	1 March
Rasmussen 180–215	Dr. Idestrom	5 April
TBA	Dr. Driver	26 April

Key dates for the tour of Israel appear below.

Depart for Israel	12 May (Sunday)
Quiz I	20 May (Monday)
Quiz II	26 May (Sunday)
Quiz III & Final Exam	2 June (Sunday)
Return to Canada	3 June (Monday)

7 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.
- Rainey, Anson, and R. Steven Notley, *The Sacred Bridge*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2005. (This replaces the earlier *Macmillan Bible Atlas* and *Carta Bible Atlas*.)
- Rogerson, John. *Atlas of the Bible*. Oxford: Phaidon/Equinox, 1989.

General Geography of the Holy Land

- Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible*. Trans. Anson Rainey. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1967.
- 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: Kregel Academic Publishing, 2000.
- DeVries, LaMoine F. *Cities of the Biblical World*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
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- Kenyon, Kathleen Mary. *Archaeology in the Holy Land* (London: E. Benn, 1960).
- Levy, Thomas Evan. *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*. New approaches in anthropological archaeology. London: Continuum, 2003.
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- Tappy, Ron E. *The Archaeology of Israelite Samaria*. Atlanta, Ga: Scholars Press, 1992.

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.
- Yadin, Yigael, and R. Grafman. *Jerusalem Revealed: Archaeology in the Holy City, 1968–1974*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society in Cooperation with “Shikmona” Pub, 1975.
- Shanks, Hershel. *Jerusalem’s Temple Mount: From Solomon to the Golden Dome*. New York, NY: Continuum, 2007.

Galilee

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- Meyers, Eric M., ed. *Galilee Through the Centuries: Confluence of Cultures*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1999.
- Reed, Jonathan L. *Archaeology and the Galilean Jesus: A Re-Examination of the Evidence*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2000.
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Biblical Thinking about the Land

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- Habel, Norman C. *The Land Is Mine: Six Biblical Land Ideologies, Overtures to biblical theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995).
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- Hess, Richard S., and Gordon J Wenham, eds., *Zion, City of Our God*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 1999.

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- Dever, William G. *Who Were the Early Israelites, and Where Did They Come From?* Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2003.
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