

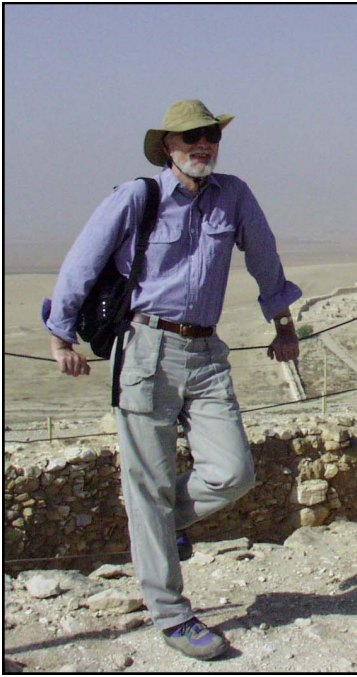
“Archaeology and the Bible”

RL 301-51 / SC 301-51

TR 11:00-12:15pm

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So what is archaeology? How do we do it? What can we learn from it? Is it simply a “science” or is there some “art” to it? While learning some answers to these questions, we will use a famous text (the Bible) to examine the relationship between archaeology and an ancient written religious document.

Did the walls of Jericho really come “tumbling down”? Were “Solomon’s stables” actually built by Solomon? Was Herod an evil man or a master builder -- or both? Who were the people who produced the Dead Sea Scrolls? Do we know anything about burial remains from Jesus’s family? Does the popular media distort the understanding of archaeology and the Bible? And who were the Israelites? How does one answer these questions?

Sometimes the “historical” claims of the Bible correspond with the results of archaeology, and sometimes archaeological evidence raises serious questions about the “historical” statements in the Bible. This course will discuss the philosophical relationship of archaeology and the Bible, explore the nature of archaeology itself, look at several examples where archaeology and the Bible interact, and then see how archaeology can illuminate our understanding of the biblical world.

