

# **SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

## **MIDDLE EAST STUDY TOUR**

RELB 340 (3 hours)

June 17-July 27, 2015

Instructor: Michael G. Hasel, PhD

Hackman Hall, Room 121

Institute of Archaeology

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

“Sponsored by the School of Religion, the Middle East Study Tour focuses on the archaeological, historical, and geographical study of the region, with an emphasis on the comparative study of cultures, locations, and events as they relate to the Bible. Fees are assessed to cover the expenses of the tour,” *Southern Adventist University Catalog, 2014-15*.

### **COURSE PURPOSE AND GOALS:**

The Middle East Study Tour is designed to acquaint students with the significance of the extensive history and culture of the ancient Near East as they affect our understanding and interpretation of the Bible. The tour, which is divided over six consecutive weekends, will encompass sites throughout Israel as well as the Edomite site of Petra in Jordan. Emphasis will be placed on how knowledge of the geographic, archaeological and historical background to the Bible that can enhance both our understanding of the meaning of the text and the spiritual and practical implementation of its message in our lives today.

Preparatory and on site instruction will include a background to archaeological research in the Middle East. Emphasis will be placed on past and current excavations in Israel and their impact on biblical backgrounds, setting, events, and history. Sound principles of evaluation will be developed for assessing archaeological interpretation, recognizing its contributions and internal limitations. Students will gain insights concerning the current economic and political situations in the Middle East and how they relate to present and future hopes for peace in that region.

### **RATIONALE:**

Archaeology and ancient Near Eastern history has vividly illuminated the places, people, and common life ways of cultures adding significantly to the understanding of Biblical contexts. The privilege of actually walking in the very places and seeing the settings from the perspectives that the biblical writers and their subjects experienced often brings the Bible into a sharper reality and enriches Bible study and understanding. There is a consistent pattern of enthusiasm and excitement as Bible events are contextualized. The Bible suddenly comes alive in a way that it has not previously.

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

1. King, Phillip J. and Lawrence E. Stager. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

2. Browning, Ian. *Petra* (scanned as pdf).
3. Hasel, Michael G. and Giselle S. Hasel. *An Illustrated Archaeological Journal to the Holy Land*, First Edition. Collegedale, TN: College Press, 2014.
4. White, Ellen G. *Prophets and Kings* (Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1917). This may be purchased in print format, electronic format or audio format. Editions are available for Kindle, for computer for Ipod and MP3. The student may select the format that seems most convenient.

The first three of these books are to be read *prior* to the tours, as indicated below in the section titled "PRE-SESSION REQUIREMENTS." The last book should be brought on the tour and read during the six weeks the class is in Israel.

## STRUCTURE:

The structure of the Middle East Study Tour will consist of lectures and site visits during six consecutive weekends from June 18 to July 27, 2015. Lectures will be presented by the instructor on the bus en route to various sites, on location, and just prior to the tours. Participation and discussion is encouraged. Site visits will take place as scheduled on the attached tour schedule.

## PRE-SESSION REQUIREMENTS:

**Reading:** The reading of all of one book and parts of two books, as indicated below, is required *before* you leave on the trip.

King and Stager, *Life in Biblical Israel*, pages 1-390.

Browning, *Petra*, all pages.

The student is not required to bring the first two assigned books on the trip. *An Archaeological Journal to the Holy Land* and *Prophets and Kings* are required to be taken along on the tour.

**Book Reviews:** The book reviews are to be submitted to the instructor as an attachment to an email and sent to: [mhasel@southern.edu](mailto:mhasel@southern.edu). The book reports are to be e-mailed *before* boarding the plane in Atlanta. Each student must submit two book reports of *at least two pages each* (typed, double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins) on the assigned portions of the books by King and Stager and Browning summarizing the required portions of the book. Each book report must begin with the line, "I have read all of the required portions of *[insert the name of the book]*." The book reports will account for 20% of the student's final grade in the course.

**Site Paper:** Each student will be required to write a paper of *at least five pages* (typed, double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins) on a specific site on the itinerary. The paper will be designed as background information for providing a tour of the site and discussing: a) the major periods of occupation; b) the major architectural features of the site, i.e. palaces, temples, water sources, defensive systems, etc.; c) the relationship of the site with biblical history and how an understanding of these features aid in an understanding of Scripture. Included (in addition to the four written pages) should be a map of the site with different features outlined. This paper must be completed and e-mailed to the instructor *before* boarding the plane in Atlanta.

The student will present his site paper to the group prior to our tour of the site in question (either before departure for the site or on the bus). In order to avoid overlap, no two students will be permitted to prepare their papers on the same site. The site paper will account for twenty percent of the student's final grade in the course.

Hazor  
Caesarea Philippi  
Tel Dan  
Capernaum  
Tabgha (Heptapegon)  
Beth Shean  
Jericho

The Citadel  
Holy Sepulchre  
Mount of Olives  
Pool of Bethesda  
Masada  
Dome of the Rock  
Khirbet Qeiyafa

Qumran  
Petra  
Hezekiah's Tunnel  
Pool of Siloam  
Bethlehem  
The Herodian Houses  
Gezer

## SESSION REQUIREMENTS

**Attendance and Participation:** All participants are required to attend and participate in all scheduled tour activities indicated on the itinerary during their time overseas. It is essential for safety and logistics to be punctual to all appointments. Being tardy affects the entire tour and every person on it and may cause major difficulties in reaching destinations on time. Participation will include the presentation of the student's Site Paper to the group at a time designated by the instructor. Twenty percent of the student's grade will be based on attendance and participation.

**Conduct and Responsibility:** Participants are reminded that they are visiting a foreign country as guests and are to act with courtesy and respect to all citizens and institutions. This includes (1) dressing appropriately when visiting holy sites; (2) behaving responsibly toward other members of the group and with others involved; (3) using language and body language that reflects Christian character and the standards of Southern Adventist University; (4) avoiding any compromising situations that might endanger yourselves, others, or the cohesion of the group. The directors maintain the right to send home any student who violates these principles and those outlined in the Student Handbook of Southern Adventist University. Twenty percent of the student's final grade will be based on conduct and responsibility.

**Reading:** The student should read *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 25-407 during the six weeks of the tour. Insights from the reading should be incorporated into the student's journal as they visit sites. The idea is to integrate what is read with what is seen and reflect on these ideas.

Jun 17-21, pp. 25-98 (Chapters 1-5)  
June 22-28, pp. 99-142 (Chapters 6-10)  
June 29- July 5, pp. 143-203 (Chapters 11-14)  
July 6-12, pp. 204-264 (Chapters 15-21)  
July 13-19, pp. 264-330 (Chapters 22-27)  
July 20-24, pp. 330-407 (Chapters 27-34)

**Journal:** Each student will be required to complete a daily journal for the extent of the trip outlining the major insights gained and the personal impact of the course for their intellectual and spiritual growth. The journal will be worth thirty percent of the student's final grade in the course. The journal should comment in detail on the following aspects: (1) The sites visited during that day and their historical and cultural significance including dates, persons, history and archaeology; (2) Experiences with the local culture that has impacted your thinking; (3) Reflections on your daily experiences; (4) Reflections on your reading from *Prophets and Kings*. These journals must be completed by Friday morning at 10:00 am, July 24 and will be returned to students before their departure on Monday, July 27. Late journals will not be accepted. The journals are worth 20% of the grade.

## COURSE EVALUATION

Grades on the papers and journal will be recorded as points. The final grade will be determined by weighted results of all elements in the grade distribution. The total thus obtained will be rounded to the nearest whole percent.

*Grade distribution:*

1. Site Paper	20%
2. Attendance and Participation	20%
3. Conduct and Responsibility	20%
4. Journal	20%
5. Reading Reports	20%
TOTAL	100%

*Grade percentages:*

92-100% = A	80-81 % = B-
90-91 % = A-	70-79 % = C
88-89 % = B+	60-69 % = D
82-87 % = B	0-59 % = F

**TOUR ITINERARY**

Weekend 1, June 18-21 (staff at site preparing)	<b>Tour:</b> Thursday: Arrive in Ben Gurion, 4:15 p (bus to Tiberias) Friday: Hazor; Caesarea Philippi; Dan; Golan; (Bus) Overnight Tiberias Saturday: Worship, Sea of Galilee; Boat ride; Capernaum; Tabgha (Bus); Overnight Tiberias Sunday: Hammath Tiberias Jordan River; Beth Shan; Jericho; Wadi Qelt Return; (Bus); Overnight: Kedma
Week 1, June 22-June 25	<b>Excavation</b>
Weekend 2, June 26-28	<b>Tour:</b> Friday: Citadel Museum; Via Dolorosa, Holy Sepulchre Sabbath: Mount of Olives, Pool of Bethesda
Week 2, June 28-July 2	<b>Excavation</b>
Weekend 3, July 3-5	<b>Tour:</b> Friday: Masada, Ein Gedi, Dead Sea (Bus) Sabbath: Garden Tomb (communion); Free time
Week 3, July 5-9	<b>Excavation</b>
Weekend 4, July 9-July 12 (long weekend)	<b>Tour:</b> Thursday: Drive to Eilat/Petra; Overnight Petra (Bus) Friday: Petra-Eilat; Overnight Eilat (Bus) Sabbath: Worship; Eilat rest and relax; (no Bus) Overnight Eilat Sunday: Eilat snorkeling/beach-Return; Overnight: at dig headquarters ( one way bus-Eilat-Kedma)
Week 4, July 13-16	<b>Excavation</b>
Weekend 5, July 17-19	<b>Tour:</b> Friday: Hezekiah's Tunnel; Pool of Siloam; Wohl Archaeological Museum; Burnt House; Broad Wall; Sabbath: SDA Church; rest, free time
Week 5, July 19-23	<b>Excavation</b>
Weekend 6, July 24-26	<b>Tour:</b> Friday: Israel Museum, Shrine of the Book, Bethlehem (optional) (Bus) Sabbath: Synagogue; SDA Church; rest, free time
Week 6, July 26-27	<b>Excavation</b>
Staff depart on Thursday night, July 30/31	Volunteers depart on Monday night, July 27

**FURTHER ASSISTANCE:**

Students needing additional assistance from the instructor prior to the tour may contact Dr. Hasel in his office (Hackman Hall, Room 121a). At other times the instructor can be reached by calling (423) 313-6406 or by e-mail at: [mhasel@southern.edu](mailto:mhasel@southern.edu). During the tour, the Instructor will be available during the day on the bus and in the early evening at the hotel.