

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF RELIGION**

**RELB 255 Archaeological Fieldwork  
RELB 455 Archaeological Fieldwork  
RELB 530 Archaeological Fieldwork**

June 20 - July 7, 2016

3 credit hours

Instructor: Martin G. Klingbeil, DLitt  
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**COURSE OUTLINE**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

“In conjunction with the archaeological expeditions, sponsored by Southern Adventist University, qualified students obtain practical experience and training in archaeological fieldwork by assisting in the supervising of excavation drawings, registering, reading of pottery, and related work. Fees are assessed to cover the expenses of fieldwork and room and board” (2014-15 Catalog).

**OBJECTIVES:**

The course Archaeological Fieldwork is designed to acquaint students with the methods and techniques of archaeological excavation in the Middle East. The field school in conjunction with *The Fourth Expedition to Lachish* will encompass excavation, lectures, and pottery reading and analysis designed to train students for work in the field and acquaint them with archaeological work in Israel.

Emphasis will be placed on actual fieldwork at the site of Tel Lachish and 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.

**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 excavating the very places and seeing the settings from the perspectives that the biblical writers and their subjects experienced often brings the ANE and its history into sharper focus. There is a consistent pattern of enthusiasm and excitement in the contextualization and illumination of ancient life ways.

For archaeology majors and minors this course introduces them to the actual methods and techniques of archaeological excavation, which will be essential to their future work and employment. Most Cultural Resource Management companies and academic graduate programs require field experience as part of the qualifications.

**STRUCTURE:**

The structure of the course Archaeological Fieldwork will include actual fieldwork (training in field methods, recording system, database, survey, and interpretation), lectures by excavation directors, core staff, and invited scholars three times a week, daily pottery reading and analysis, and guided fieldtrips to important archaeological sites in the Shephelah region.

## WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS

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**Database Entry:** Each student will be trained and contribute to the database for their square including daily details of activity in the area, locus descriptions and assigning of numbers, pottery bucket assignments, levels for all features, top plans, and section drawings, etc. Each tablet with installed CIRC database will be the recording tool for that particular square. Students will rotate in the square for database training as coordinated by the square supervisor. Each student needs to have completed a minimum of two full days on the database to meet this requirement. This participation will account for twenty percent of the student's final grade in the course.

**Survey Team:** Each student will be trained in the daily activities of the survey team, working with the total station in the establishing of GPS points for archaeological features and objects, as well as their integration into the ArcGis software that is used to create the daily top plans. Students will rotate on a daily basis to in the square for archaeological survey training as coordinated by the square supervisor together with the surveyor. Each student needs to have completed a minimum of one full day on the survey training to meet this requirement. This participation will account for twenty percent of the student's final grade in the course.

**Journal:** Each student will be required to complete a daily journal of the excavation of their area and the instruction received in areas of training in fieldwork. The journal also needs to include notes on lectures presented in the field school (the lecture schedule will be handed out at the beginning of the dig). The journal should be in the form of a notebook (separate from the notebooks required for journaling the weekend tours) and each day's entry should be no less than 100 words. The journal will be worth twenty percent of the student's final grade in the course.

## PRE-SESSION REQUIREMENTS (ONLY FOR RELB 530)

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**Pre-Session Reading:** Students registered for graduate credit (RELB 530) need to complete the following readings prior to the beginning of the class.

Renfrew, Colin and Bahn, Paul. *Archaeology: Theory, Method, and Practice*. 6th edition. London: Thames and Hudson, 2012.

Herr, Larry. *The Madaba Plains Project Field Manual*. Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 1988.

Ussishkin, David. *Biblical Lachish: A Tale of Construction, Destruction, Excavation and Restoration*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society/Biblical Archaeology Society, 2014.

**Critical Book Reviews:** Students need to write a critical book review for each of the three sources above. Each critical book review should be 2-3 pages each (600-1000 words), typed, double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font with margins of one inch, preceded by a cover page. A good guideline for a critical book review can be found in:

Vyhmeister, Nancy J. *Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008. Pp. 183-187.

Due date for the 3 critical book reviews is: **June 1, 2016**. Completed book reviews may be sent as PDFs to the instructor's email address (see above).

## SESSION REQUIREMENTS

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**Attendance and Participation:** Excavation participants are required to attend and participate in all scheduled activities during their time overseas (getting up on time, field school lectures, pottery washing, pottery reading, meal times). It is essential for safety and logistics to be punctual to all appointments. Being tardy affects the entire group and every participant and may cause major difficulties in reaching destinations on time. 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. 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.

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

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Grades on the activities, attendance/participation, 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. Database	20%
2. Survey	20%
3. Journal (dig and lectures)	20%
4. Attendance and Participation	20%
5. Conduct and Responsibility	20%
TOTAL	100%

*Grade percentages:*

93-100% = A	77-79 % = C+
90-92 % = A-	73-76 % = C
87-89 % = B+	70-72 % = C-
83-86 % = B	60-69 % = D
80-82 % = B-	0-59 % = F

## **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE**

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Students needing additional assistance from the instructor may contact Dr. Klingbeil by e-mail (mklingbeil@southern.edu) face to face from 5AM to 8PM during the dig (except for 2-4PM).