

ISRAEL: THEN AND NOW – PLUS!

3RD MODULE: ARCHAEOLOGY IN SERBIA

JULY 27 – AUGUST 19, 2010

Readings: Renfrew, C. and P. Bahn 2006 *Archaeology* (4th ed). Thames & Hudson
Xerox reading packet on Serbian archaeology (from Far Better Copy)

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Class meetings: The Field School meets on the Bronze Age site Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 2 PM. Afternoon activities (pottery washing, pottery analysis, animal bone analysis, conservation of archaeological material, soil analysis, Geographic Informations Systems analysis, archaeological and geological survey, and mapping) from 3-6 PM. Lectures are Monday through Wednesday from 8-9 PM. There will be lectures and demonstrations at other times as well.

Readings: There will be a text, *Archaeology* (Renfrew and Bahn), and several short xeroxed readings. These are to be read before the start of the dig. Other handouts will be distributed at the lectures. You are responsible for these readings and will be tested on them at the midterm and final examination. You are also responsible for the information in the xeroxed *Field Manual*.

Marking: Grades are based on seven different components. These are: your notebook, your written artifact analysis exercises, your fieldwork skills and attitude, a midterm, a final, an oral report and a written report. The oral and written reports are joint projects of your trench team. Volunteers not taking the course for credit may help as well. Archaeology is teamwork; a good team can pull up their marks by working well together. The components count the towards your grade as follows:

notebook	15 percent
exercises	15 percent
fieldwork	20 percent
midterm	5 percent
final	15 percent
oral report	10 percent
written report	20 percent

While it is not difficult to get a good mark by doing good work, nobody is guaranteed an "A" in this course. We take the grading seriously; you are, after all, getting college credits. The excavation is fun, but we expect you to take the work seriously as well.

Notebooks: Your notebook is an important record of the excavation that you alone are responsible for. Do not lose it. In it, you are expected to keep all of the records of your trench as it affects you. We expect that keeping the notebook should take you no more than 15-20 minutes per day, or about a page of writing (more or less). Within these parameters, it should be as complete as you can make it, containing observations that you make (composition of the soil, condition of the artifacts), and complementary to the notes that are entered on the unit sheets. Above all, **do not use the notebooks only to list artifacts and measurements.** Description is only part of what is desirable in a notebook. More important, for both us and you, is to use your notebook to record your interpretations of what you are doing and why, what you are finding and what it means. It is important to have this interpretation while you are actually digging, since it sometimes colors how you dig and what you report. Good notebooks are full of interpretation, full of details about what you are doing, and provide redundant backup facts for checking the unit sheets and maps.

Exercises: Each student is expected to complete the analysis exercises. These entail short written analyses of an object of material culture, a coin, and a potsherd, using standard analytical procedures.

Fieldwork: You are expected to work hard and pay attention to what you are doing. This includes those times when nobody is watching you. You are expected to work well with your team, meaning that you don't either hog the "good" jobs or shirk the "bad" ones. Nobody says that you must love everyone you are working with, but for four weeks you should at least be able to get along with them on a cordial basis. Do not be afraid to ask questions of your instructors or your trench supervisors, nor to show some initiative. You are not expected to know everything about excavating, but you are expected to try to learn as much as possible in the time you have. It is your job to see that the trench supervisor fills out and signs your skills checklist within the first two weeks, indicating that you have learned basic archaeological field skills.

Exams Essay and short answer exams, based on the readings and on lectures, with some reference to facts and techniques learned while excavating. Midterm is August 9, final is August 18.

Oral report A group report, given the last Wednesday of the session (August 16). Each team presents a description of the trench that they dug, with results and interpretation. The reports may vary in length and detail -- usually 20-30 minutes per team is sufficient -- and may include slides, drawings, pictures, or other aids to understanding the trench and its interpretation. The rest of the class listens and has a chance to ask questions of those presenting. In the course of the season, each trench will have a chance to practice explaining the progress and results of their excavation work to their peers by giving short oral presentations.

Written report Your final trench report, composed by the team which excavated the trench. This is your team's official record of your trench. In it, the results presented in the oral report are written up, plans and sections are included, and a list of loci with a brief description. The report also includes an inventory of significant artifacts. It need be no more than 5-6 pages in length.