

Instructor: Professor Oded Borowski

S310 Callaway Ctr, Ext. 7-7951,
Office hours: T 1:00-2:00 PM
and by appointment

Class time and place TBA

MES 251WR/JS 251WR/REL 370WR/OT 698-000: **DAILY LIFE IN ANCIENT ISRAEL**

Course Objectives:

- (*) To introduce the student to the different aspects of daily life during the period of the Israelite tribal confederacy and the monarchy (1200-586 BCE). These aspects include the economy, different occupations and means of livelihood, cultural, social and religious activities, different art modes, etc.
- (*) To examine the interaction between the Israelites and their ecology. Questions to be raised concern the relationship of the Israelites to their environment, the benefits they reaped and/or the damage they caused.
- (*) To develop certain skills related to research and the dissemination of knowledge including identification of source materials, critical analysis of data, presenting results in written and in oral forms (reports, papers).

Students are expected to do the readings ahead of time, attend all classes, and participate in class discussions. Primary sources to be used are the Bible and archaeology. Secondary sources are the required textbooks, books on reserve, and additional handouts.

THIS COURSE FULFILLS THE POST-FRESHMAN WRITING REQUIREMENT.

Textbooks: Oded Borowski, *Agriculture in Iron Age Israel* (Boston, MA: ASOR, 2002).
Oded Borowski, *Every Living Thing: The Daily Use of Animals in Ancient Israel* (Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 1998).
Oded Borowski, *Daily Life in Biblical Times* (Atlanta, GA: SBL, 2003).
Oxford Study Bible (New York: Oxford University Press).

On Reserve: Frank S. Frick, *The City in Ancient Israel* (Missoula, MT: Scholars Press, 1977)
Zeev Herzog, *Archaeology of the City* (Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University/Institute of Archaeology, 1997)
Victor H. Matthews, *Customs and Manners in the Bible* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991).
Victor H. Matthews and Don C. Benjamin, *Social World of Ancient Israel 1250-587 BCE* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991).
Leo G. Perdue et al., *Families in Ancient Israel* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997)
Roland de Vaux, *Ancient Israel* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmann, 1997)

Session 1 Introduction to the Course and the requirements

2 Introduction: The Land and its Natural Resources; Textual and Material Sources; The People – *Daily Life*, 1-11

Topic 1 - Economy: Agriculture, Herding, and Trade

3 Land Use - *Agriculture*, 3-44; 143-162; *Daily Life*, 25-28

4 Field Crops; Orchards and Vineyards; Vegetables - *Agriculture*, 47-99; 101-139; *Daily Life*, 28-29

5 Herding - *Daily Life*, 29-30; *Every Living Thing*, 39-85; *Manners & Customs*, 16-18

Trade - *Daily Life*, 55-59; *Bible* - 75*-76*

Topic 2 - The Israelite Kitchen, Diet & Health

6 Food and Diet - *Daily Life*, 63-74; *Manners & Customs*, 19-20

7 Health - *Daily Life*, 74-80; *Manners & Customs*, 125-126

Topic 3 - City Planning & Housing

8 The Village - *Daily Life*, 13-21; *Bible*, 69*-73*; *Manners & Customs*, 41-49

9 The City - *Daily Life*, 43-54; *Manners & Customs*, 102-115

Topic 4 - Religion, Cult, Temples

10 Early religious practices - *Daily Life*, 24-25; *Manners & Customs*, 26-28; 75-85; *Bible*, 76*-78*; 141*-142*; *Every Living Thing*, 211-30

11 Religion in Monarchical Times - *Daily Life*, 54-55; *Manners & Customs*, 138-144; *Bible* - 146*-147*; 148*-153*;

Topic 5 - Social Behavior, Laws & Customs

12 Early Practices - *Daily Life*, 21-24, 80-83; *Manners & Customs*, 3-13; 20-26; 28-31; 67-74; *Social World*, 1-21; 82-131; 142-154

13 Urban Society - *Manners & Customs*, 115-120; 130-138; *Social World*, 199-236; *Bible* - 73*-75*

Topic 6 - Death, Burials & Cemeteries

14 Early Practices - *Daily Life*, 83-84; *Manners & Customs*, 11-14; 74-75

15 Urban Society - *Manners & Customs*, 127-130

Spring recess

Spring recess

16 Oral presentations on selected topics

Annotated bibliography is due.

Topic 7 - Music

17 At Home and in Public - *Daily Life*, 87-93; *Manners & Customs*, 123-125

Topic 8 - Occupations

18 Agriculturalists, Herders, Traders, Seafaring - *Social World*, 37-66

19 Wine and Oil Making - *Agriculture*, 110-114; 119-126

20 Weaving, Dyeing, Leather, Metallurgy, Pottery, etc. - *Daily Life*, 30-35

Outline (with bibliography) is due.

Topic 9 - Warfare

21 Early Times - *Daily Life*, 35-41; *Manners & Customs*, 31-32; 60-66

22 During the Monarchy - *Daily Life*, 59-61; *Manners & Customs*, 144-150

Topic 10 - Women in Israelite Society

- 23 The Place of Women - *Daily Life*, 109-126; *Manners & Customs*, 10-11; 120-122; *Social World*, 22-36; 67-81; 132-141; 176-186; *Bible, Proverbs* 31:10-31

First draft (with bibliography & outline) is due.

Topic 11 - The Rich & Powerful

- 24 Kings, Priests, Nobility - *Social World*, 155-175; 187-198
25 Palaces and Other Accommodations - *Daily Life*, 49-51

Topic 12 - Art & Writing

- 26 Art - Ivory, Clay and Glyptic Art, Metal, and More - *Daily Life*, 93-98
Writing - Official and Private - *Daily Life*, 99-107; *Social World*, 237-252

Final paper is due.

- 27 Oral presentations on selected topics

(*The course uses a Blackboard site where session outlines, illustrations, leading questions, announcements, and other materials are posted.

(*The course uses a LearnLink (LL) conference for two-way communication.

(*Final grade includes (1) weekly reports (30%); (2) oral presentations (15%); (3) research paper (30%); (4) environmental matters (15%); and (5) book review (10%).

(*Extra credit is available by attending lectures on archaeological topics and submitting a 1-2 page report.

(*Graduate students will be assigned additional work.

Weekly reports: (30%)

Every Thursday, students are required to submit a 2-3-page report on the readings and issues discussed in class during the previous two sessions. Each report should include citations and a bibliography using the Author/Date style.

Environmental Matters: (15%)

Before every session, each student is supposed to submit via LL an environmentally related question or observation for discussion connected with the session. Questions can arise from the readings. Each submitted question or topic gets one (1) point; a topic or question that will be considered in class earn two (2) points. Students can make more than one submission.

Oral Reports: (15%)

Will be assigned for Sessions 16 and 27.

Final paper: (30%)

Final paper (15-17pp) is due on Session 26.

 Annotated bibliography is due on Session 16.

 Outline is due on Session 20.

 First draft is due on Session 23.

Book review: (10%)

Can be written on any of the books consulted for the paper.

NO EXTENSION GIVEN FOR ANY OF THE WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS.

Course Requirements:

(1) Attendance

It is the Department policy that attendance in class is required. Absences may be excused for medical reasons (with a note from your doctor or health service), for participation in official school functions (with a note from the Dean) or by prior arrangement with the instructor with the instructor's consent. Three (3) or more unexcused absences will lower the final grade by one-half letter grade for each three unexcused absences.

(2) Participation

Students are expected to do all readings and come prepared to take part in class discussions.

(3) Weekly reports and Final paper

(4) Oral presentation

(5) Consideration of Environmental matters

(6) Book review

ALL CELLPHONES AND PAGERS MUST BE TURNED OFF BEFORE ENTERING THE CLASSROOM.

The honor code is strictly observed in this course including plagiarism.