

Jaffa Excavations: Syllabus

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An Archaeological Field School of the Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project (CM169 & C177)

June 27 to July 31; Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Israel

Session: Sun-Thr. (Field School); Fri-Sat. (Physical Settings Fieldtrips)

*Please note that this syllabus is subject to modification until the start of the course.
It is provided as a guide regarding the daily schedule and expectations concerning participation.*

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project archaeological field school is intended to introduce students to archaeological methods and practices commonly employed in Near Eastern archaeology by involving them in the full array of hands-on, day-to-day activities of an ongoing archaeological research project. The course's primary objective is to familiarize students with archaeological field methods (CM169), but will also provide students with practical lab experience including find documentation and processing, approaches to artifact analysis, and data management. The other component of the course is a historical and archaeological investigation of ancient Israel through excavation experience, lectures, and field trips to several different regions of Israel (C177).

Fieldwork. The excavation fieldwork will be conducted on-site in Jaffa, Israel on the south side of Tel Aviv, approximately 60 km to the northwest of Jerusalem. Fieldwork is conducted from 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM Sunday through Thursday (the Israeli workweek) and students will participate in three weekend field trips to the northern coast, Jerusalem, and the Galilee region of Israel. (The daily and weekly field schedules are subject to change according to conditions that may arise.) During fieldwork students will be trained in field recording methods and the use of a wide range of tools for excavation and recording.

Practica. Students will also participate in a number of activities related to the excavation that are intended to demonstrate the processes associated with preparing, analyzing, and recording various types of material culture that are necessary for publication. Students will rotate through a number of lab practica on a schedule that will be determined at the start of the excavation season. Examples of practica include object cleaning, sampling, restoration, conservation, photography, 3D scanning, drawing, data entry, etc.

Lectures and Fieldtrips. At least 3 times a week 50-minute lectures will be given on the art and archaeology of ancient Israel and Canaan, methodology, and other topics. On three weekends and two afternoons students will be taken on fieldtrips to different regions of Israel (e.g., Jerusalem, Galilee/North Coast).

REQUIRED TEXTS

Students are expected to bring the following texts with them in order to complete the readings:

Mazar, Amihai (1990) *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible 10,000–586 BCE*. 1st ed. Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday.

Peilstöcker, Martin, and Aaron Alexander Burke (eds.). 2011. *The History and Archaeology of Jaffa 1*. The Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project 1. Monumenta Archaeologica 26. Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, Los Angeles. [[Buy](#)]

Electronic readings. Additional required readings in this document are posted on the CCLE course website found at the following link: <https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/141A-ANNEAC177-1>.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Students are recommended to obtain a copy of the latest edition of the following text, which they should consult during the fieldwork component:

Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn (2012). *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice*. New York: Thames & Hudson.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for student participation. Students are, however, expected to participate in all scheduled activities including fieldwork, practica, and fieldtrips in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade. Students are forewarned that days are long, but that the primary basis for grading is evidence of active participation and genuine effort in the assigned activities whether fieldwork, practica, lectures, or fieldtrips.

Fieldwork. Students will participate in supervised excavations in Jaffa for 5 weeks (with limited fieldwork continuing into the 6th week). They will actively participate in keeping accurate excavation records, mapping finds, drawing plans and sections, field photography, and completing a Harris matrix. Each student will be trained in the use of basic archaeological tools and recording methods. As a result of this work students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the concept of the locus and be able to describe stratigraphic relationships. Field practica discussed on site or in the afternoon will, among others, include (click links below to access the project's protocol sheets):

- [Materials Sampling](#)
- Locus & Pottery Bucket Recording
- Field observations
- [Flotation](#)
- [Radiocarbon and Seed Samples](#)
- [Seals and Sealings Recovery](#)
- [Residue Sampling](#)
- [Dendrochronology Sampling](#)

Practica. During afternoon sessions students will receive introductory training in a variety of practical aspects of artifact processing, as well as record keeping and database management, which address fundamental archaeological analyses (i.e., archaeological practica). Among others these will include:

- Field House/Laboratory introduction
- Pottery cleaning/artifact preparation; [Inscribed Object Recovery](#)
- [Object Processing & Object Registration](#)
- [OCHRE & Standard Operating Procedures](#)
- [Photography](#)
- [Pottery Processing](#): Cleaning, Sorting, Reading, and Registration
- Restoration; Reassembling Restorable Artifacts
- Pottery Illustration & [3D Scanning of Artifacts](#)
- Object Analysis

The importance of post-excavation analysis is underscored by participation of all staff and students in the process of finalizing the project's records, which takes place during the last week of the program. During that week ideally excavation will have ceased and both staff and students focus on the completion of work that will enable the continuation of analysis of archaeological remains after departing the field. For this week students will be assigned to various roles within the project for which they will put to use the lessons learned from their practica. Students who have excelled or expressed particular interest in one area may be given the opportunity to focus on a particular task. For the schedule of Practica, see *Weekly Schedule* below.

Lectures and Fieldtrips. Attendance of lectures, which will be given two to three times a week, and participation in both fieldtrips is mandatory. For schedule, see *Lectures* below.

GRADING

Undergraduate grading:

- *Attendance* (20%). Attendance and participation of all activities (fieldwork, practica, lectures, and field trips) are evaluated as part of this component of the grade. Certain illnesses or injuries resulting from normal activities, which are not deemed debilitating, may require reassignment from the field to lab work in order to maintain adequate participation.
- *Fieldwork and practica* (60%). This component is based on an assessment of the student’s field supervisor and project staff, largely taking effort and participation into account.
- *Field Journal* (20%). Each student is required to submit a 1-page journal entry twice a week summarizing his or her experiences during excavation and practica. Journal entries must be double-spaced, written in 12pt font and emailed to Dr. Smoak every Monday and Wednesday (8 total) by 8 pm (smoak@humnet.ucla.edu).
 - **Guidelines:** The journal is *not* about your feelings concerning the excavation experience or thoughts about other members of the team. It is about documenting what you are learning. Every day you will learn a new aspect related to field and lab work, which you should describe in your entries. These should focus on the application of both field and lab practica, but could include observations regarding the nature of excavations and aspects related to excavations that impact either the conduct or outcomes of the research. As much as efforts are made to clarify what everything means, it is the student’s responsibility to make sure that he or she understands on a daily basis what they are doing and why. The first clue that you are not asking enough questions are blank, random, or meaningless journal entries.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Fieldwork and practica are conducted from Sunday through Thursday (the Israeli workweek). The daily routine includes:

4:40 AM	Wake-up and light breakfast
5:00 AM	Walk to the site
5:15 AM–1:30 PM	Fieldwork day; meet at Museum
9–9:30 AM	Second breakfast
11–11:15 AM	Fruit break
1:30–2:30 PM	Lunch
2:30–4:00 PM	Free Time
4:00–6:00 PM	Afternoon practica
6:00–6:45 PM	Lecture
7:00 PM	Dinner

You must be at the site no later than 5:15 AM every morning.

Please note that the schedule is subject to modification as necessary to accommodate the timing of particular activities. Revised schedules will be provided as warranted.

Orientation Day

Saturday 3–6 PM Walking Tour and Orientation to Jaffa (A. Burke; Field Supervisors)
 6–8 PM Group Dinner in Jaffa

Week 1 Excavation

June 29–July 3

Readings: Jaffa's archaeology (Burke and Lords 2010; Herzog 2008; Kaplan and Ritter-Kaplan 1993; Sweeney 2003)**; Mazar 1990, chaps. 4–5.

Sunday	<i>Field:</i> Guidelines for Equipment Use ; Object and Sample Provenance <i>Practica:</i> Field House/Laboratory introduction (Burke)
Monday	<i>Field:</i> Materials Sampling <i>Practica:</i> Pottery cleaning/artifact preparation; Inscribed Object Recovery
Tuesday	<i>Field:</i> Locus & Pottery Bucket Recording; Field observations <i>Practica:</i> Object Processing & Object Registration
Wednesday	<i>Field:</i> Flotation <i>Practica:</i> OCHRE & Standard Operating Procedures
Thurs-Sat.	Fieldtrip: The Old City of Jerusalem and the City of David (two nights in Jerusalem) [Reading: see under week 1 PDF file, "The History and Geography of Jerusalem"]

Week 2 Excavation

July 6–10

Readings: Mazar 1990, chaps. 6–7

Sunday	<i>Field:</i> Radiocarbon and Seed Samples <i>Practica:</i> Photography
Monday	<i>Field:</i> Seals and Sealings Recovery <i>Practica:</i> Pottery Processing : Reading, Sorting, and Marking
Tuesday	<i>Field:</i> Residue Sampling <i>Practica:</i> Restoration <i>Workshop:</i> Egyptian pottery
Wednesday	<i>Field:</i> Dendrochronology Sampling <i>Practica:</i> Pottery Illustration and 3D Scanning of Artifacts
Thurs.-Sat.	Fieldtrip: Northern Coast: Akko, Megiddo, Caesarea (two nights) [Reading: see under week 2 PDF file "The History and Geography of the Northern Coast and Jezreel Valley"]

Week 3 Excavation

July 13–17

Readings: Mazar 1990, chaps. 8–9

Sun-Thr.	Regular excavation week. Afternoons dedicated to different practica as necessitated by project research, but including at a minimum pottery cleaning and reading.
Thurs.-Sat.	Fieldtrip: Galilee and Huleh Valley (two nights) [Reading: see under week 3 PDF file "The History and Geography of the Galilee Region"]

Week 4 Excavation

July 20–24

Readings: Mazar 1990, chaps. 10–11

Sun-Thr.	Regular excavation week. Afternoons dedicated to different practica as necessitated by project research, but including at a minimum pottery cleaning and reading. <i>Workshop:</i> GIS & Archaeology (K. Kowalski) <i>Workshop:</i> Faunal Remains (E. Maher)
Thurs.-Sat.	Free Weekend

Week 5 Excavation

July 27–31

Wednesday	<i>Practica:</i> Closing excavation strategy
Thursday	<i>Practica:</i> Section and Final Top Plan Drawing; Final Photography Final Dinner
Friday	Departures (August 1, 2013)

LECTURES

TIME: All lectures are scheduled for 6:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

LOCATION: TBA.

Week 1

June 29–July 3

Sunday *JCHP: A Cultural Heritage Approach to Archaeological Research* (A. Burke)
Monday *Excavation Methods* (M. Peilstöcker)
Tuesday
Wednesday *Jerusalem as Physical and Sacred Space* (J. Smoak)

Week 2

July 6–10

Sunday *Insurgency & Social Interaction: Recent Excavations of the Egyptian Fortress in Jaffa* (A. Burke)
Monday *GIS Lecture* (K. Kowalski)
Tuesday
Wednesday *Physical/Geographical Setting of the Northern Coast* (J. Smoak)

Week 3

July 13–17

Sunday *Ioppa Maritima: The Search for Jaffa's Ancient Harbor* (A. Burke)
Monday *Botanical Analysis* (A. Orendi)
Tuesday
Wednesday *Geography and History of the Galilee* (J. Smoak)

Week 4

July 20–24

Sunday *Jaffa and the Andromeda Myth* (M. Peilstöcker)
Monday
Tuesday *Faunal Archaeology* (E. Maher)
Wednesday *Tour of Visitor's Center (Area C)*

Week 5

July 27–31

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday *Ottoman Jaffa* (Y. Arbel)
Wednesday
Thursday *Final Dinner*

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