

AR 342/742: Introduction to Syro-Palestinian Archaeology

Professor Andrea M. Berlin

Office: Room 341, 675 Commonwealth Ave.

Office hours: Wed. 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

MWF CAS 325

617-358-1651

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In Israel, ancient birthplace of three major religions and modern flashpoint for bitter territorial disputes, archaeology is not simply academic. Here, material remains are fundamental to people's identities and regard for place. In this course we focus on a period of almost two millennia, from the Israelite to the Moslem conquests (c. 1200 BCE – 640 CE). Over this long era, figures larger than life made history here: David and Goliath, King Solomon, Judah Maccabee, Herod the Great, Jesus, Constantine, and Mohammed. Their lives became stories set in time but transcending it, and the land in which their stories took place was itself transformed from mere geography to the Holy Land. We will study the sites and remains that archaeologists have recovered and learn how that physical evidence plays its part in the larger historical drama.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Ehud Netzer, *The Palaces of the Hasmoneans and Herod the Great*. Jerusalem, Israel Exploration Society: 2001.

Assigned articles are available in .pdf on the course web site:

<http://blogs.bu.edu/aberlin/archaeology-in-the-holy-land/>

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

You are expected to come to all of the lectures and to complete all of the reading assignments. You are responsible for all information covered in class. You will have several opportunities to display the knowledge that you have acquired:

1. **Six In-Class Discussions:** There will be **six** discussion days: 9/23, 10/24, 11/9, 11/21, 12/9, and 12/12. On each of these days we will address a specific question and/or issue. Readings and lectures prior to that day will provide background and information for discussion.
2. **Four Short Papers:** Short papers will be due on **four** of the discussion days: 9/23, 10/24, 11/21, and 12/12. At least two weeks in advance you will receive a set of specific questions to answer. Your total page count should not exceed 8 pages. Note that the short length requires you to distill and communicate your points clearly and succinctly.

3. For students registered for **742**: We will devote our additional hour to discussing two books: Raz Kletter, *Just Past? The Making of Israeli Archaeology* (Equinox, London: 2006) and Nadia Abu el-Haj, *Facts on the Ground. Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society* (University of Chicago Press, 2001). You will be responsible for crafting and leading class discussions on these books on 12/9 and 12/12.

COURSE GRADING

In general, I will weigh the short papers equally; their average will count for 80% of your final grade. I will assess the remaining 20% based on your engagement and contributions during in-class discussions. In the final calculation, however, I will also consider improvement or its opposite.

MAKE-UPS

You will be allowed to make up work if circumstances prevent you from attending class on the day it is due. Rescheduling must be done as soon as possible after the absence, and will be by mutual agreement.

EXPECTATIONS

1. Punctuality and attendance are required. Attendance will affect course grade.
2. Emergency absences should be phoned in (617-358-1651) or emailed to aberlin@bu.edu before the class meeting. ALWAYS NOTIFY, even about a projected late arrival to class.
3. All written assignments must be handed in on time. Late assignments will lose a full letter grade.
4. Written assignments must be professionally presented:
 - word processed with no spelling or grammatical errors (use SPELL CHECK!)
 - 12 point *Times New Roman* font
 - double spaced with 1" side and top/bottom margins to allow room for written feedback
5. You are expected to know and understand the provisions of the CAS Academic Conduct Code: www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean's Office.