Course Syllabus

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

ISRAEL STUDY TOUR: HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE BIBLE
BIBL 0603 (Seminary)
RLGS 3073 (University College)

MAY 15 – JUNE 6, 2016

TYNDALE SEMINARY INSTRUCTOR:
DR. REBECCA IDESTROM
ridestrom@tyndale.ca, (416) 226-6620 ext 6771.

UNIVERSITY OF THE HOLY LAND INSTRUCTOR:
DR. GINGER CAESSENS

Location: On site at various locations in Israel.¹
Prerequisites: None

Full details regarding costs, registration, payment, and travel are available from
Dr. Idestrom or on the course website:
https://iscott.wordpress.com/tyndale-israel-study-tour-2016/

Please Note: For Seminary students, this course can count as either a New Testament
elective or an Old Testament elective.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study tour which combines travel with lectures and readings to provide
students with a rich, on-site learning experience. Students will spend three full weeks in
Israel visiting sites throughout the country that formed the stage on which so many
biblical events were played out. Our tour will move region-by-region, spending time in
Jerusalem and Judea, Benjamin, the Coastal Plain, the Negeb, the Dead Sea area, the
Jordan Valley, the Galilee, and the Golan Heights. In each area students will learn about

¹ In addition, four preparatory classes will occur at Tyndale during the Winter Semester 2016.
its geography and archaeology, exploring how the features of each area shaped the history of its people. Attention will also be given to the imagery and symbolism connected with each region in both the Old and New Testaments.

Please be aware that this is a physically demanding course, which will involve significant amounts of walking in a hot climate.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course students should be able to:
- describe the geography and topography of various regions within the Holy Land,
- identify many significant sites and regions in the Holy Land on a map,
- outline the history and archaeology connected with many significant sites and regions in the Holy Land,
- describe the roles which many sites and regions play in the biblical texts,
- explain how knowledge of these sites enriches our interpretation of particular biblical passages.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS


An extensive course-pack will be provided by Dr. Ginger Caessens on arrival in Israel.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

Suggested Reading in preparation for the Israel Tour include the following items, which will be placed on reserve in the Tyndale Library:


If the participant is not very familiar with the overall biblical story, it is helpful to also read the Old Testament historical books, particularly Joshua through to Nehemiah, as well as the New Testament gospels in preparation.

**C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

1. As we move into each new region students will complete a **map study** designed to familiarize them with the area and its sites. **Bring the completed map studies along to Israel.**

2. **Three quizzes** will be held during the time in Israel, evaluating the students’ grasp of the lectures and on-site instruction. Students will be given study questions to help preparation for the quizzes, and the schedule allows time to prepare.

3. Before leaving Israel students will write a **final exam** evaluating their overall understanding of the course material. Sample review questions are provided and the students will be given study time to prepare.

4. The course work will be weighed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map Studies (to be completed prior to departure)</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three quizzes in Israel (3 x 20 %)= 60 %</td>
<td>60 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam in Israel</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Grade</td>
<td>100 %</td>
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**D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK**

**Academic Integrity**

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and
Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at [http://tyndale.ca/registrar](http://tyndale.ca/registrar).

**E. COURSE EVALUATION**

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed.

**IV. COURSE SCHEDULE**

During the Winter Semester 2016, we will have three classes in preparation for the Israel Study Tour. Classes will be held on the following dates:

- **Friday, February 26, 2016, 6:30-9:30 PM** (Read Rasmussen, pp.1–64 prior to class)
- **Friday, April 1, 2016, 6:30-9:30 PM** (Read Rasmussen, pp. 180–215 prior to class)
- **Friday, April 29, 2016, 6:30-9:30 PM**

For a full tour itinerary, please see the downloadable version on the course web-site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 15</td>
<td>Depart for Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 23</td>
<td>Quiz I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 29</td>
<td>Quiz II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 5</td>
<td>Quiz III and Final Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, June 6</td>
<td>Return to Canada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please Note:* Every reasonable effort will be made to include all sites in the itinerary. As in any travel program, however, some flexibility may be required to accommodate unexpected circumstances.

**V. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

** The journal *Biblical Archaeological Review* is generally an excellent resource for all of the topics below.
Atlases

General Geography of the Holy Land

Archaeology of the Holy Land


Jerusalem


Galilee


**Biblical Thinking about the Land**

**The History of Ancient Israel**
Hoffmeier, James K. *Israel in Egypt, Israel at Sinai*

**The Ancient Near East and Israel’s Neighbours**


**The History of Second Temple Judaism**


**Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls**


**The History of Early Christianity**

