



NT160 Biblical Archaeology and the New Testament

Rev Dr Lim Kar Yong | 1.5CR

About the Course

This course will take students on an unforgettable journey to various archaeological sites through visual presentations, and examine various inscriptions, numismatics, buildings, and other artefacts related to the New Testament. The primary focus of the course will be on investigating the connection between archaeological evidence and selected passages of the New Testament, and showing how a proper understanding of the historical, cultural, linguistic, and political background of the 1st Century can help us be better interpreters of the Scripture.

There will also be practical sessions on how we can appropriately apply what we have learnt in reading the New Testament by taking archaeological evidence into account.

Credits	Fees*
1.5CR	S\$225(Credit) S\$120 (Audit)
Class Format	* Alumni are entitled to 10% discount on audit course(s)
Online	

About the Lecturer

Rev Dr Lim Kar Yong is Lecturer in New Testament Studies, Director of Postgraduate Studies, and Director of the Centre for Bible Engagement at Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, Seremban. He also serves as Adjunct Lecturer in a number of seminaries in Malaysia and the region, and regularly preaches and conducts seminars in churches. He has authored three books - *The Sufferings of Christ are Abundant in Us: A Narrative Dynamics Investigation of Paul's Sufferings in 2 Corinthians*; *Metaphors and Social Identity Formation in Paul's Letters to the Corinthians*; and *Jesus the Storyteller*; and numerous essays.



Kar Yong maintains his personal website at: www.karyonglim.com

Course Objectives

Through the course, it is hoped that the student will:

- Investigate the connection between archaeological data based on various inscriptions,

numismatics, buildings, and other artefacts and the New Testament

- Examine how a proper understanding of the historical, cultural, and political background of the 1st Century based on archaeological evidence might offer fresh insights and perspectives in interpreting New Testament passages
- Engage in practical sessions by applying what we have learnt in reading selected passages of the New Testament based on archaeological evidence
- Consider how archaeological data can authenticate the historical reliability of the New Testament

Course Outline & Resources

VIDEO LECTURES & ACTIVITIES

For each topic, the relevant video lectures can be accessed through the video links provided on the course Moodle site. At the end of each set of video lectures, all lecture questions should be completed before proceeding to the next topic.

REQUIRED READING

Please see the Course Bibliography below for more details. Articles should be available on EBSCOhost as PDFs to be downloaded.

S/N	Lecture Topic	Activities	Required Reading
1	Introduction to Biblical Archaeology	Lecture 1 Questions	Articles by: Campbell (2005) Grigsby (1985) Shanks (2005) Strange & Hershel (1982) Thompson (2017) Vardaman (1962) Articles by: Cadbury (1931) Edwards (2016) Fairchild (2017) Friesen (2010) Hill (1980) Murphy-O'Connor (1984)
2	Jerusalem and the Ministry of Jesus I	Lecture 2 Questions	
3	Jerusalem and the Ministry of Jesus II	Lecture 3 Questions	
4	The Life of Jesus	Lecture 4 Questions	
5	The Life of Paul I	Lecture 5 Questions	
6	The Life of Paul II	Lecture 6 Questions	
7	The Life of Paul III	Lecture 7 Questions	

Course Requirements

1. **Video lecture questions:** Complete all video lecture questions.
2. **Book review:** Write a 1000-word review of Chapters 1, 2 and 5 of David Fiensy's *Insights from Archaeology: Reading the Bible in the Twenty-First Century*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2017. You can consider using the following structure for the review: (a) summarise the main ideas in each chapter; (b) evaluate the strengths of its arguments; (c) evaluate the weaknesses of its arguments. No citations or bibliography will be needed for this review.
3. **Research paper:** Write a research paper about 2,500 words on a significant archaeological site related to the New Testament (for example, Capernaum, Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi), OR a significant archaeological discovery related to the New Testament (this could include inscriptions, archaeological excavations of buildings, coins, etc. - for example, the Erastus Inscription, the tenement housing and house churches in the New Testament). Describe its history and excavation, and summarise the main discoveries and their impact upon the background or text of the New Testament. Discussion should also include any ambiguity, disagreement or controversy concerning the archaeological evidence. If you are able, please include primary data and sources as well in your paper.

In summary, the suggested format of your paper may look like the following (please feel free to make changes that would suit your paper):

- A. Suggested biblical city/archaeological evidence
- B. Biblical data referenced and summarized related to A. above
- C. Historical data (non-biblical records), geographical and/or topographical data if available
- D. Archaeological data—summarising main excavations, discoveries and significant contribution to understanding or illumination of the biblical text
- E. Summarising any ambiguity, speculation, disagreement or controversy concerning the archaeological data and its impact on biblical interpretation
- F. Summary and conclusion

With special permission, the student may also elect to write on other topics, including the archaeological background of a section of Scripture or of a significant event. For example, 'Archaeology and the Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor in Revelation'; 'The Contribution of Archaeology to the Understanding of the Role and Status of Women in the Roman Empire and its Impact in Reading 1 Corinthians 11'; or 'The Discovery of Homosexual Frescos in Pompeii and its Impact in Reading Romans 1'. Please feel free to run by your ideas with the instructor.

ASSIGNMENTS BREAKDOWN

S/N	Assignments	Grade Percentage
1	Video Lecture Questions	10%
2	Book Review	40%
3	Research Paper	50%
	Total	100%

GUIDELINES FOR ESSAY-WRITING

1. The paper must reflect graduate-level research skills. There must be a minimum of five sources in your bibliography (not including the Bible).
2. The paper must reflect academic integrity in that due credit must be given to every source quoted or used. Footnotes should be used to document the sources. Every source cited should also appear in the bibliography. Please abide by the Turabian or Chicago Style for all your footnoting and bibliography.
3. The paper must reflect a good command of English and organisation of thought. Writing must be concise and clear. Please proof-read your paper before submitting it.
4. The paper must reflect the customary hallmarks of academic writing: treat those who hold different opinions from you with respect, and avoid colloquialisms and slang.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

1. For **style and formatting** of assignments, please refer to the section on “General Formatting for all Assignments” available on the BGST Online Student Manual.
2. ALL assignments are to be submitted by uploading via Moodle. Alternatively, assignments can be sent via email to assignments@bgst.edu.sg without the need to cc. the lecturer (unless requested by the lecturer).
3. Students must submit all their assignments **6 months** after the course registration date

Students are advised that BGST **strongly discourages plagiarism**. For more information on this point (what plagiarism is, how BGST penalises it), please consult the BGST ‘Guidelines for Academic Papers’.

Course Bibliography

REQUIRED READINGS

Core Texts

*David Fiensy. *Insights from Archaeology: Reading the Bible in the Twenty-First Century*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2017 (Chapters 1, 2 & 5 only).

*Clyde Fant & Mitchell Reddish. *Lost Treasures of the Bible: Understanding the Bible through Archaeological Artifacts in World Museums*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008 (only essays related to the New Testament).

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*J Randall Price & H. Wayne House, eds. *Zondervan Handbook Of Biblical Archaeology: A Book By Book Guide To Archaeological Discoveries Related To The Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017 (only essays related to the New Testament).

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Balch, David L, and Annette Weissenrieder, eds. *Contested Spaces: Houses and Temples in Roman Antiquity and the New Testament*. Tubingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2012.

Balch, David L. "Rich Pompeiian Houses, Shops for Rent, and the Huge Apartment Building in Herculaneum as Typical Spaces for Pauline House Churches." *Journal For The Study Of The New Testament* 27/1 (2004): 27-46.

Bakirtzis, Charalambos and helmut Joester, eds. *Philippi at the Time of Paul and After His Death*. Harrisburg, Pa: Trinity Press International, 1988.

Berlin, Andrea M. "The Archaeology of Ritual: The Sanctuary of Pan at Banias/Caesarea Philippi." *Bulletin Of The American Schools Of Oriental Research* 315 (August 1999): 27-45.

Billings, Bradly S. "From House Church to Tenement Church: Domestic Space and the Development of Early Urban Christianity - he Example of Ephesus." *The Journal Of Theological Studies* 62/2 (2011): 541-569.

Cadbury, Henry Joel. "Erastus of Corinth." *Journal Of Biblical Literature* 50/2 (1931): 42-58.

Campbell, Douglas A. "Possible Inscriptional Attestation to Sergius Paulus (Acts 13:6-12), and the Implications for Pauline Chronology." *Journal of Theological Studies* 56/1 (2005):1-29.

Charlesworth, James H., ed. *Jesus and Archaeology*. Grand Rapids: William B Eerdmans, 2006.

Charlesworth, James H., ed. *Jesus and Temple: Textual and Archaeological Explorations*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2014.

Cline, Eric H. *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: OUP, 2007.

Currid, John D. *Doing Archaeology in the Land of the Bible: A Basic Guide*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.

Edwards, James R. "Archaeology Gives New Reality to Paul's Ephesus Riot." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 42/4 (2016): 24-32, 62.

Evans, Craig A. ed., *The World of Jesus and the Early Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2011.

Evans, Graig A. *Jesus and his World: The Archaeological Evidence*. London: SPCK, 2012.

Fairchild, Mark R. "Laodicea's 'Lukewarm' Legacy: Conflicts of Prosperity in an Ancient Christian City." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 43/2 (2017), no. 2: 30-39, 67-68.

Fairchild, Mark R. "Why Perga?: Paul's Perilous Passage through Pisidia." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 39/6 (2013): 52-59, 84.

- Fant, Clyde & Mitchell Reddish. *Lost Treasures of the Bible: Understanding the Bible through Archaeological Artifacts in World Museums*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Fiensy, David A. and James Riley Strange, eds. *Galilee in the Late Second Temple and Mishnaic Periods, Volume 1: Life, Culture, and Society*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2014.
- Fiensy, David A. and James Riley Strange, eds. *Galilee in the Late Second Temple and Mishnaic Periods, Volume 2: The Archaeological Record from Cities, Towns, and Villages*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015.
- Friesen, Steven J. "The Wrong Erastus: Ideology, Archaeology, and Exegesis." In *Corinth in Context: Comparative Studies on Religion and Society*, edited by Steven J. Friesen, Daniel N. Schowalter, and James C. Walters. 231-256. Leiden: Brill, 2010.
- Friesen, Steven J. and Daniel N. Schowalter, eds. *Urban Religion in Roman Corinth: Interdisciplinary Approaches*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2005.
- Friesen, Steven J., Daniel N. Schowalter, and James C. Walters. Eds. *Corinth in Context: Comparative Studies on Religion and Society*. Leiden: Brill, 2010.
- Furnish, Victor Paul. "Corinth in Paul's Time: What Can Archaeology Tell Us?." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 14/3 (1988): 14-27.
- George, Michele. "Domestic Architecture and Household Relations: Pompeii and Roman Ephesos." *Journal For The Study Of The New Testament* 27/1 (2004): 7-25.
- Goodrich, John K. "Erastus of Corinth (Romans 16.23): Responding to Recent Proposals on His Rank, Status, and Faith." *New Testament Studies* 57/4 (2011): 583-593.
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- Grigsby, Bruce H. "Washing in the Pool of Siloam: A Thematic Anticipation of the Johannine Cross." *Novum Testamentum* 27/3 (1985): 227-235.
- Hill, Andrew E. "The Temple of Asclepius: An Alternative Source for Paul's Body Theology." *Journal Of Biblical Literature* 99/3 (1980): 437-439.
- Hoerth, Alfred and John McRay. *Bible and Archaeology; An Exploration of the History and Culture of Early Civilizations*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
- Jewett, Robert. "Tenement Churches and Pauline Love Feasts." *Quarterly Review* 14/1 (1994): 43-58.
- Koester, Helmut, ed. *Pergamon, Citadel of the Gods: Archaeological Record, Literary Description, and Religious Development*. Harrisburg, Pa: Trinity Press International, 1998.
- Koester, Helmut, ed. *Ephesos, Metropolis of Asia: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Its Archaeology, Religion, and Culture*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Universtiy Press, 2004.

- Magness, Jodi. *The Archaeology of the Holy Land From the Destruction of Solomon's Temple to the Muslim Conquest*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2012.
- McRay, John. *Archaeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. "The Corinth that Saint Paul Aaw." *The Biblical Archaeologist* 47/3 (1984): 147-159.
- Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *St. Paul's Ephesus: Texts and Archaeology*. Collegeville, Minn: Liturgical Press, 2008.
- Oakes, Peter S. *Reading Romans in Pompeii: Paul's Letter at Ground Level*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013.
- Schowalter, Daniel N. "Seeking Shelter in Roman Corinth: Archaeology and the Placement of Paul's Communities." In *Corinth in Context: Comparative Studies on Religion and Society*, edited by Steven J. Friesen, Daniel N. Schowalter, and James C. Walters. 327-341. Leiden: Brill, 2010.
- Shanks, Hershel & Dan Cole, eds., *Archaeology and the Bible, vol. 2: Archaeology in the World of Herod, Jesus and Paul*. Washington, D.C.: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1990.
- Shanks, Hershel. "The Siloam Pool: Where Jesus Cured the Blind Man." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 31, no. 5 (September 2005): 16-23.
- Strange, James F, and Hershel Shanks. "Has the House Where Jesus stayed in Capernaum Been Found: Italian Archaeologists Believe They Have St Peter's Home." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 8/6 (1982): 26-37.
- Thompson, Robin. "Healing at the Pool of Bethesda: A Challenge to Asclepius?." *Bulletin For Biblical Research* 27/1 (2017): 65-84.
- Vardaman, Jerry. "New Inscription which Mentions Pilate as 'Prefect'." *Journal Of Biblical Literature* 81/1 (1962): 70-71. .
- Varriale, Ivan. "Architecture and Decoration in the House of Menander in Pompeii." In *Contested spaces: Houses and Temples in Roman Antiquity and the New Testament*, 163-1 . u bingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2012.
- Verhoef, Eduard. *Philippi: How Christianity Began in Europe: The Epistle to the Philippians and the Excavations at Philippi*. London: Bloomsbury, 2013.
- Von Wahlde, Urban C. 2011. "The Puzzling Pool of Bethesda: Where Jesus Cured the Crippled Man." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 37/5 (2011): 40-47, 65.