

**Field Methods and Techniques in Field Archaeology**  
**Preliminary Syllabus for Kabri 2013 excavations**  
**June 23 – July 11, 2013**

Excavation Directors:

Dr. Eric Cline (George Washington University)  
Dr. Assaf Yasur-Landau (University of Haifa)

Field School:

Alexandra Ratzlaff (Boston University), Director  
Kyle Leonard (University College London), Asst. Director

**Synopsis**

The Mediterranean Field Program at Tel Kabri aims to introduce the student to archaeological field experience, using the site of Tel Kabri, the western Galilee, and the larger region of Israel. This course in particular will train the student in the methods and techniques of modern field archaeology. The aim is to enable the student to acquire and develop the skills required for proper excavation and recording. Emphasis is placed on basic field technique and strategy, stratigraphical analysis, documentation, and chronological tools. These skills will be taught not only in the lecture hall, but also in the field as well.

**Textbook (please purchase ahead of time and bring with):**

Hester, Thomas R. et al. 2008 *Field Methods in Archaeology*. Seventh Edition. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press. [available on Amazon:

[http://www.amazon.com/Field-Methods-Archaeology-Thomas-Hester/dp/1598744283/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1304869723&sr=1-2](http://www.amazon.com/Field-Methods-Archaeology-Thomas-Hester/dp/1598744283/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1304869723&sr=1-2) ]

Equipment: In addition to your trowel, you will also need to bring the following field supplies:

- Sturdy field notebook
- Small ruler (cm)
- Pen, pencil & eraser

Note: if you don't already have a trowel, buy this one from Amazon at the same time as the above textbook and save on shipping:

[http://www.amazon.com/Marshalltown-45-5-Inch-2-Inch-Pointing/dp/B00002NBL1/ref=pd\\_sim\\_b\\_7](http://www.amazon.com/Marshalltown-45-5-Inch-2-Inch-Pointing/dp/B00002NBL1/ref=pd_sim_b_7)

**Requirements:**

Participation in workshops (including stratigraphy, top plans, section drawing, techniques of archaeological survey, pottery reading, zooarchaeology, work in the "Practice Square"); receive on-site instruction from supervisors in the field; keep a field notebook; assignments & quizzes; write a final excavation and analysis report. All readings must be done before class time.

Final report:

Students will submit a formal report on the area in which they have been excavating at the end of the course. Depending upon the area of the site in which the student is working, the report will probably consist of schematic top plans, a section drawing, descriptions of the loci, elevations, a daily record, and a stratigraphical summary.

**On-site application and demonstration of skills:**

Students will be evaluated based upon the quality of their field notebook (including daily entries and the paperwork associated with excavation of their area), participation and performance in workshop applications and in their assigned areas.

**Course grade:**

The course grade will be determined as follows: final report, 50%; on-site application and demonstration of skills, 20%; assignments & quizzes, 20%; workshop & field participation, 10%.

**Tentative Schedule:**

<b>Sun 6/23</b> Field	Excavation basics; using your trowel and other equipment (Ratzlaff, Leonard) <u>Readings:</u> Hester 2009 (21-25, 69-92, 98-101, 104-109), Burke 2008 (129– 140, 156 – 172).
Workshop	Opening a square (Practice square) (Ratzlaff, Leonard, SAAS)
Lecture	Orientation and Welcome (Cline, Yasur-Landau, and other Staff Members)
<b>Mon 6/24</b> Field	Principles of Stratigraphy; Taking Elevations (Ratzlaff, Leonard, SAAS) <u>Readings:</u> Hester 2009 (235-251)
Workshop	Field Recording/Notebooks and Forms (Ratzlaff) <u>Readings:</u> Hester 2009 (113-137), Burke 2008 (147-150), Consult Binder for examples.
Lecture	“Tel Kabri, History and Excavations” (Cline and Yasur-Landau) <u>Readings:</u> Cline and Yasur-Landau 2006, 2007; Cline, Yasur-Landau, and Goshen 2011; Yasur-Landau, Cline, and Pierce 2008
<b>Tues 6/25</b> Field	Artifact handling / Finds Processing (Ratzlaff, Koh) <u>Readings:</u> Hester 2009 (113-137), Burke 2008 (147-150)
Jr. Lecture	“Sea Peoples, Places, and Things” (Friedman)
Lecture	“Organic Residue Analysis: Reconstructing the Sourcing, Production, Trade, and Consumption of Ancient Organic Commodities” (Koh) <u>Readings:</u> TBA
<b>Wed 6/26</b> Field	Taking field measurements, Intro to Top Plans (Leonard, SAAS)
Workshop	Top Plan Exercise on Practice Square (Ratzlaff, Leonard, SAAS) <u>Readings:</u> Hester 2009 (215-225), Burke 2008 (116–122, 126–127)
Jr. Lecture	“Crusader Sites in the Galilee: Xtians et al” (Pacheco)
<b>Thurs 6/27</b> Field	In-Field Quiz: Excavation basics, equipment, and procedures. (Ratzlaff, Leonard) * <i>Week 1 Assignment Due</i>

<b>Sun 6/30</b> Jr. Lecture	“Everyone Poops: Reconstructing Ancient Subsistence Practices in the Negev Highlands” (Dunseth)
Lecture	“Introduction to the Middle Bronze Age in Israel” (Yasur-Landau) <u>Readings:</u> Ilan 1995; Rainey and Notley 2006: Chapter 5 (50-60)
<b>Mon 7/1</b> Field	Pottery in the field (Ratzlaff, Leonard) <u>Readings:</u> Amiran, ch. 9; Bader 2007
Workshop	Pottery processing (Yasur-Landau, Samet, and Devery) <u>Readings:</u> Amiran, ch. 9; Bader 2007
<b>Tues 7/2</b> Field	Collection of zooarchaeological finds (Marom, Leonard) <u>Readings:</u> Hester 2009 (295-317); Firmage 1992; Lev-Tov and McGeough 2007
<b>Workshop</b>	Fine grid in Practice Square (Ratzlaff, Leonard, SAAS) <u>Readings:</u> TBA
<b>Lecture</b>	“Introduction to Zooarchaeology” (Marom) <u>Readings:</u> deFrance 2009
<b>Wed 7/3</b> Field	Archaeological drawing (Leonard, SAAS) <u>Readings:</u> Hester 2009 (159-164, 170-174)
Jr. Lecture	“Apiculture: Putting the Sweet and Sticky back in Archaeology” (Bryan)
Lecture	Biblical Archaeology: A Very Brief Introduction (Cline) <u>Readings:</u> Cline 2009
<b>Thurs 7/4</b> Field	Area Tours; Individual Area Analysis Q &A (Area Staff) <i>* Week 2 Assignment Due</i>
<b>Sun 7/7</b> Field	Recovery of frescoes and other small finds in the field (Leonard, SAAS) <u>Readings:</u> TBA
Lecture	Frescoes in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean (Goshen) <u>Readings:</u> Bietak 2007; Feldman 2007; Cline, Yasur-Landau, and Goshen 2011; Niemeier and Niemeier 1998.
<b>Mon 7/8</b> Field	Stratigraphy analysis & Intro to Section Drawing (Ratzlaff, Leonard) <u>Readings:</u> Burke 2008 (151-152, 320-322)
Workshop	Section drawing exercise (Ratzlaff, Leonard, SAAS)
Jr. Lecture	“Site Conservation: Do's and oh...God, please, Dont's” (Leonard)
<b>Tues 7/9</b> Field	Field Photography (Cline, Leonard) <u>Readings:</u> Hester 2009 (159-164, 170-174)
Workshop	Analytical Quiz: Excavation Scenarios (Ratzlaff, Leonard) <i>* Week 3 Assignment Due</i>
Lecture	“Canaanite Rulership” (Samet) <u>Readings:</u> TBA

<b>Wed 7/10</b> Workshop	Final Report/Paper tutorial (Ratzlaff, Cline, Yasur-Landau) <u>Readings:</u> Burke 2008 (343-353); Gadot and Yasur-Landau 2006; Gadot et al 2006
-----------------------------	---

## Downloadable Bibliography for Readings

- Amiran, R. 1971. *The Ancient Pottery of the Holy Land*. Jerusalem. Chapter 9, the Middle Bronze Age.
- Bader, B. 2007. A Tale of Two Cities: First results of a Comparison Between Avaris and Memphis. In *The Synchronisation of Civilisations in the Eastern Mediterranean in the Second Millennium B.C. III. Proceedings of the SCIEM 2000--2<sup>nd</sup> EuroConference, Vienna, 28<sup>th</sup> of May-1<sup>st</sup> of June 2003*, ed. Manfred Bietak and Ernst Czerny, 248-267. Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.
- Bietak, Manfred. 2007. Bronze Age Paintings in the Levant: Chronological and Cultural Considerations. In *The Synchronisation of Civilisations in the Eastern Mediterranean in the Second Millennium B.C. III. Proceedings of the SCIEM 2000--2<sup>nd</sup> EuroConference, Vienna, 28<sup>th</sup> of May-1<sup>st</sup> of June 2003*, ed. Manfred Bietak and Ernst Czerny, 269-98. Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.
- Burke, H., Smith, H., and Zimmerman, L. 2008. *The Archaeologist's Field Handbook: North American Edition*. Altamira Press: New York. [PDFs posted for downloading]
- Cline, E.H., and A. Yasur-Landau. 2006. "Your Career is in Ruins: How to Start an Excavation in Five Not-So-Easy Steps." *Biblical Archaeology Review* 32/1 (2006) 34-37, 71.
- Cline, E.H., and A. Yasur-Landau. 2007. "Poetry in Motion: Canaanite Rulership and Aegean Narrative at Kabri." In *EPOS: Reconsidering Greek Epic and Aegean Bronze Age Archaeology*: 157-165, S.P. Morris and R. Laffineur, eds. Aegaeum 28. Liège: Université de Liège.
- Cline, E.H., A. Yasur-Landau, and N. Goshen. 2011. "New Fragments of Aegean-Style Painted Plaster from Tel Kabri, Israel." *American Journal of Archaeology* 115/2: 245-261.
- deFrance, Susan. 2009. "Zooarchaeology in Complex Societies: Political Economy, Status, and Ideology." *Journal of Archaeological Research* 17: 105-168.
- Feldman, M.H. 2007. "Knowing the Foreign. Power, Exotica and Frescoes in the Middle Bronze Age Levant." In *Proceedings of the 51st Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale. Held at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, July 18-22, 2005*, edited by R.B. Biggs, J. Myers, and M.T. Roth, 281-86. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Firmage, E. 1992. Zoology. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. D. N. Freedman. New York, Doubleday. 6: 1109-1167.
- Gadot, Y. and Yasur-Landau, A. 2006. Beyond Finds: Reconstructing Life in the Courtyard Building on Level K-4. In: *Megiddo IV The 1998-2002 Seasons*, ed. I. Finkelstein et al. 563-580. Tel Aviv: Institute of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University.

- Gadot, Y. et al. 2006. Area K (Levels K-5 and K-4, The 1998-2002 Seasons). . In: *Megiddo IV The 1998-2002 Seasons*, ed. I. Finkelstein et al. 87-103. Tel Aviv: Institute of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University.
- Hester, Thomas R. et al. 2008 *Field Methods in Archaeology*. Seventh Edition. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.
- Ilan, D. 1995. “The Dawn of Internationalism — The Middle Bronze Age.” In *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*, edited by T.E. Levy, 297-319. London and Washington: Facts on File.
- Lev-Tov, J. and McGeough, K. 2007. Examining Feasting in Late Bronze Age Syro-Palestine Through Ancient Texts and Bones. In: Twiss, K. C. ed. *The Archaeology of Food and Identity*. Carbondale Il. :85-111.
- Niemeier, W.-D., and B. Niemeier. 1998. “Minoan Frescoes in the Eastern Mediterranean.” In *The Aegean and the Orient in the Second Millennium: Proceedings of the 50th Anniversary Symposium, Cincinnati, 18-20 April 1997*, eds. Eric H. Cline and Diane Harris-Cline, 69-97. *Aegaeum* 18. Liège: Université de Liège.
- Rainey, A. F. and Notley, R. S. 2006. *The Sacred Bridge. Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Chapter 5 (50-60). Jerusalem.
- Yasur-Landau, A., E.H. Cline, and G.A. Pierce. 2008. “Middle Bronze Age Settlement Patterns in the Western Galilee, Israel.” *Journal of Field Archaeology* 33/1 (2008) 59-83.