



**Ginsburg Ingerman Overseas Students Program
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**

**The Archaeology of the Negev: Anthropological Perspectives on the Long-
Term History of a Desert
13-5-312**

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Office hours: Tuesday, 12:00-13:00

Office location: Building #:72 Room #:654

Course Description:

The course begins with an introduction to the basic geography of the Negev and then systematically reviews the archaeology of the region from the Neolithic, ca. 6,000 BCE, to the end of the Iron Age, 586 BCE. The subject is approached chronologically, and each period is approached historically, and in terms of its material culture and associated remains.

Course Objectives:

The general goal of the course is to explore the long term history of the Negev, with emphasis on the development of desert society and the relationships between the people of the desert, their environment, and the sedentary peoples living in the Mediterranean zone. Archaeology serves as the primary means of this exploration, but historical texts and ethnography will be drawn upon as well.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Know the historical framework of the Negev from 6,000 BCE onwards.
2. Understand the unique features of living in an arid zone in the past.
3. Comprehend the historiography of Desert and Sown relationships.
4. Be familiar with main theoretical issues of Southern Levantine Archaeology.
5. Summarize basic themes in the human and physical geography of the Negev.

Main Disciplines: Archaeology, Anthropology, History

Course Structure:

Lecture: 4 Total # of Credits: 4

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): 6

Teaching Method:

This course is a lecture and readings class, with one field trip. Students will have access to all power point presentations, enabling them to return to the illustrative

materials from the lectures, and all readings will be placed on line for ease of access.

Course Requirements

Compulsory attendance YES

Requirements:

1. Mid-term exam based on lecture materials
2. Field trip report
3. Final examination based on lecture materials

Structure of Final Course Grad

1. Participation	10%
2. Midterm Exam	40%
3. Final Exam	40%
4. Field trip report	10%
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	100%

Note:

Students will have their final grade lowered an entire grade level if they miss more than 2 class meetings unexcused.

Language of instruction is English

Time required for individual work: in addition to attendance in class, the students are expected to do their assignment and individual work:

4 hours of reading each week

20 hours of work towards midterm exam

4 hours of work on field trip report

20 hours of work towards final exam

Those expectations are approximate and correlate with the module's ECTS.

Course Schedule Layout:

Week 1

Introductory materials: the importance of the Negev for anthropological and historical research, environmental and climatic background of the desert, basic themes, chronologies.

Reading

Glueck, N.

1933-4 Explorations in Eastern Palestine, I. *The Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research*. 14: 1-113. [Read pp. 1-5].

Piotr Bienkowski

2007 Tribes, Borders, Landscapes and Reciprocal Relations: The Wadi Arabah and its Meaning. *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology* 20(1): 33-60.

Avner, U., and Carmi, I.

2001 Settlement Patterns in the Southern Levant Deserts during the 6th –3rd Millennia BC: A Revision Based on 14C Dating. *Radiocarbon* 43(3): 1203–1216.

Week 2

The Negev Neolithic: the last hunter gatherers and the transition to pastoral nomadism

Reading

Kuijt, I., and Goring-Morris, N.

2002 Foraging, Farming, and Social Complexity in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic of the Southern Levant: A Review and Synthesis *Journal of World Prehistory*. 16(4): 361-440.

Rosen, S.A., Savinetsky, A.B., Plakht, Y., Kisseleva, N.K., Khassanov, B.F., Pereladov, A.M., and Haiman, M.

2005 Dung in the Desert: Preliminary Results of the Negev Holocene Ecology Project. *Current Anthropology* 46(2): 317 – 327.

Week 3

Chalcolithic adaptations: villages, farming, pastoralism, and metallurgy (25/03),

Readings

Rowan, Y.M. and Golden, J.

2009 The Chalcolithic Period of the Southern Levant: A Synthetic Review *Journal of World Prehistory* 22: 1–92.

Week 4

The first colonization of the Negev – the Egyptian encounter during the Early Bronze Age 1

Reading

Yekutieli, Y.

2004 The Desert, the Sown and the Egyptian Colony. *Agypten und Levante* 14: 163-171.

Week 5

The first cities in the desert and the rising exploitation of desert mineral resources

Reading

Levy, T.E., Adams, R.B., Hauptmann, A., Prange, M., Schmitt-Strecker, S., and Najjar, M. 2002 Early Bronze Age Metallurgy: A Newly Discovered Copper Manufactory in Southern Jordan. *Antiquity* 76: 425 – 437.

Week 6

Roads, routes and control over space

Reading

Yekutieli, Y.

2009 The Har Hemar Site: A Northern Outpost on the Desert Margin? *Tel Aviv* 36: 218–240.

Week 7

The Middle Bronze I/Early Bronze IV/Intermediate Bronze/Early Bronze-Middle Bronze: What's in a name?

Mid-term exam based on lecture materials

Reading

Haiman, M.

1996 Early Bronze Age IV Settlement Pattern of the Negev and Sinai Deserts: View from Small Marginal Temporary Sites. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*. 303: 1-32.

Bereelov, I.

2006 Signs of sedentism and mobility in an agro-pastoral community during the Levantine Middle Bronze Age: Interpreting site function and occupation strategy at Zahrat adh-Dhra 1 in Jordan. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 25: 117–143.

Week 8

Was writing invented in the desert? Graffiti and rock art.

Field trip (Final date of the field trip will be determined as the semester begins)

Reading

Goldwasser, Orly

2011 The Advantage of Cultural Periphery: The Invention of the Alphabet. In Sinai (Circa 1840 B.C.E). In Sela-Sheffy, R. and Toury, G. (Eds) *Culture Contacts and the Making of Cultures*. Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University: Unit of Culture Research. Pp. 255-322.

Week 9 (May, 5-10)

Imperial exploitation: the second Egyptian colonization

Reading

Rothenberg, B.

1996/7 Researches in the Southern Arabah 1959-1990. *Arx* 2-3: 5-42.

Week 10 (May, 19-24)

The Bible and the desert - The relationship between archaeology and the Bible

Reading

Finkelstein, I. and Silberman, N.A.

2001 *The Bible Unearthed*. New York: The Free Press.

Flavio Barbiero N.d. Har Karkom Charles A. Whittaker

2003 The Biblical Significance of Jabal al Lawz. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Louisiana Baptist University.

Week 11

Sanctuaries, cult and spiritualism in the desert

Reading

Avner, U.

2002 *Studies in the Material and Spiritual Culture of the Negev and Sinai Populations, During the 6th-3rd Millennium B.C.* Unpublished PhD Thesis. Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Week 12

Subsistence in the desert: hunting, pastoralism and agriculture

Reading

Rosen, S.A. 2002. The Evolution of Pastoral Nomadic Systems in the Southern Levantine Periphery. In *Quest of Ancient Settlements and Landscapes*, eds. van den Brink, E., and Yannai, E. Tel Aviv, Ramot Publishing, Tel Aviv University. Pp. 23-44.

Bar-Oz, G., Nadel, D., Avner, U., and Malkinson, D.
2011 Mass Hunting Game Traps in the Southern Levant: The Negev and Arabah "Desert Kites". *Near Eastern Archaeology*, 74(4): 208-215.

Week 13

The Iron Age: the Israelite state, fortresses, farmers, and pastoralists
Final exam based on lecture materials

Reading

Cohen, R. 1979. The Iron Age Fortresses in the Negev. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 236:61-79.

Week 14

Final exam based on lecture materials