Syllabus

REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE JUDEAN DESERT - 43326

Last update 19-11-2013

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Archaeology

Academic year: 2

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Uri Davidovich

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Coordinator Office Hours: uri.davidovich@mail.huji.ac.il

Teaching Staff: Uri Davidovich
Course/Module description:
The course focuses on the regional perspective of archaeological research, and on related research methods and data processing. The platform used to demonstrate the principles of regional archaeology is the Judean Desert, which will be investigated from multiple aspects throughout the course.

Course/Module aims:
The aim of the course is to provide the outlines of regional inspection in archaeology, and their application in the case of reconstructing ancient activity patterns in the Judean Desert during the Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
1. Define the basic principles of regional archaeology.
2. Describe the research methods in regional archaeology of desert landscapes.
3. Analyze the archaeological record in the Judean Desert from the Neolithic to the Iron Age.
4. Classify activity patterns observed in the Judean Desert to autochthonic populations and settled societies.
5. Critically evaluate archaeological publications dealing with survey results and regional studies.

Attendance requirements(%):
85%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course is based on lectures. Reading of selected studies is required as a preparation for each lesson. In addition, two compulsory field trips will be given during the semester.

Course/Module Content:
1. Introduction to the course; Introduction to regional archaeology: basic definitions, theoretical approaches.
2. Introduction to regional archaeology: research methods in the past and present.
3. Archaeology of desert regions: basic principles.
4. The Judean Desert: environment and paleoenvironment.
5. Activity patterns in the Judean Desert, part 1: archaeology of semi-nomadic societies, the Beduins as a case-study.
6. Activity patterns in the Judean Desert, part 2: a look from the historic and modern
periods.
7. History of archaeological research and current paradigms in the study of late prehistoric and early historic periods in the Judean Desert.
8. Regional surveys in the Judean Desert: methodological issues and the dating of desert sites.
9. [undated phenomena]: enclosures; tumuli; carnivore traps; long built lines.
10. Judean Desert caves.
11. Resources in the Judean Desert and Dead Sea region: asphalt; salt; date palms; incense plants.
12. Movement in the desert: archaeological research of trails and ascents.
13. The Judean Desert from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age: activity patterns in the periphery of the settled lands.

Required Reading:
lessons 1-2:
lesson 3:
lesson 4:
 lesson 5:
lesson 7:
lesson 8:
lesson 9:
lesson 10:
lesson 11:
Sea asphalt to Canaan and Egypt in the Chalcolithic-Early Bronze Age (4th-3rd millennium BC). Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta 56: 2743-2759.

lesson 12:

lesson 13:

lesson 14:

Additional Reading Material:
General Bibliography - The Judean Desert from the Neolithic to the Iron Age:


Danin A., Orshan G. and Zohary M. 1975. The vegetation of the northern Negev and


**Course/Module evaluation:**
- End of year written/oral examination 0 %
- Presentation 0 %
- Participation in Tutorials 20 %
- Project work 80 %
- Assignments 0 %
- Reports 0 %
- Research project 0 %
- Quizzes 0 %
- Other 0 %

**Additional information:**
The final grade is calculated based on reading and active participation, and on the final project. The project may be either a summary of literature regarding a specific topic, or a research project involving "hands-on" investigation. An abstract of the project must be submitted, after consultation, by 31.5.2014. Dead-line for project submission - 20.7.2014, using email only, to uri.davidovich@mail.huji.ac.il