

Tel Beth-Shemesh Archaeological Project

The Tel Beth-Shemesh archaeological field school is a 5 week, 6 credit program (two third-year courses: Arky 3000 and Arky 3300) that takes place in Israel. Tel Beth-Shemesh is located in the Shephelah region, between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

University of Lethbridge students have been participating in this archaeological field school for over a decade, working alongside other students, volunteers, and researchers from around the world.

This year's field school will take place from **May 30 – July 3, 2015.**



Research Objectives of the Tel Beth-Shemesh Project

Since the beginning of modern explorations of the ancient world and its civilizations, Tel Beth-Shemesh attracted the interest of scholars and students of the ancient Near East. Its long sequence of occupational history has yielded a great deal of information about the past civilizations that flourished and faded in the region.

The overarching research goals of the project are to clarify the chronology of the site and to gain an understanding of the people that lived there between 1800 and 635 BCE. This year's excavation will focus on the early Iron Age (1200 BCE) and Late Bronze Age (1150 BCE) deposits in the northern area of the site where elite architecture and artifacts, and a massive destruction layer were discovered.

2015 Archaeological Field School

Through hands-on learning, you will gain experience in excavation methods and field documentation. You will also be introduced to the practical and intellectual challenges presented by field research.



You will receive training in laboratory analysis as well and have the opportunity to process and catalogue the cultural remains you find.

The broader context of your archaeological finds and the site will be explained through lectures and tours to other sites across Israel.



A Typical Weekday on the Dig

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4:15 Rise and shine | 14:00 Laboratory work |
| 5:00 Arrive at the site | 15:30 Shower / swim break |
| 8:30 Second breakfast | 17:00 Pottery analysis |
| 9:00 Back to excavating | 18:00 Evening lecture |
| 13:30 Lunch | 19:00 Dinner |

Weekends are spent visiting ancient and modern sites throughout Israel.



Field School Learning Outcomes

By the end of the field school, you will have a solid understanding of archaeological field methods, know the value of detailed excavation records, and have experience in laboratory analysis. You will also learn how your efforts and discoveries contribute to the academic goals of the research project.

You will be immersed in Middle Eastern culture, learn about the people that live there, its history, and the politics, and make many new friends!

Interested in Participating?

An archaeological field school requires real, hard work in a camp-like environment. It will be hot, you will get dirty, and be very tired by the end of the day. We hope that the thrill of discovering artifacts that were buried for thousands of years outweigh the stiff muscles and early mornings. There is no better way to learn how to do field research than actually doing it!

If you would like to participate in the 2015 field school at Tel Beth-Shemesh, Israel please contact Dr. Shawn Bubel, Department of Geography, University of Lethbridge. Email: bubest@uleth.ca