

ISRAEL: JEZREEL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SUMMER 2014



This field school program is run by the Jezreel Valley Regional Project. It provides students with the opportunity to participate in an archaeological excavation at Tel Megiddo, a UNESCO world heritage site with evidence of human occupation dating from the Early Bronze Age to the Roman era. Megiddo is famous as the home of King Solomon's Stables and as biblical "Armageddon." The OU faculty leader will be Assistant Professor Rangar Cline, from the Religious Studies Program. He is an historian of the later Roman Empire who has participated in archaeological projects in Italy and Greece and Israel. His book, *Ancient Angels*, about angel veneration in the Roman Empire, was recently published with Brill Press (2011).

OU students will earn four credits on this four-week field school. They will be introduced to methods and techniques of field archaeology through lecture presentations, field and lab tutorials, field trips, and hands-on experience as they participate in excavations at Megiddo. This program offers students the chance to experience the full range of activities associated with field research, including hypothesis formulation and testing, project design, methods for collecting and recording archaeological data, laboratory analysis of artifacts and eco-facts, and the role of context in interpretation. Additionally, students will

participate in field trips and lectures that will place Tel Megiddo and the Jezreel Valley in the broader context of the Bronze Age to Medieval Near East.

Overall, the primary goal of the program is to provide team members with an accessible, working knowledge of the fundamentals of archaeological field work, the historical context of the current excavation setting, and an understanding of the contributions of archaeology in general, and this expedition in particular.

At the end of the course, students will have working knowledge of key concepts, procedures, and analyses related to archaeological field work, preparing them for further field and laboratory work and a solid foundation for additional advanced-level training.

A 5-day pre-season tour is included in the program, giving participants a regional overview of archaeological material in northern Israel. Participants visit numerous sites representing a broad chronological range, from the Early Bronze Age to the Early Islamic and Crusader eras. At those sites JVRP staff members give historical, archaeological, and geographical lectures. This tour will provide an enriching experience for all participants and contextualize the excavations at Tel Megiddo within the regional and chronological framework of the area.



Links: [Jezreel Valley Regional Project Web Site](#)
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