

BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY MAJOR

Biblical Archaeology is an integrative discipline that lies at the intersection of biblical studies, ancient languages, and the social sciences. Students in this major are trained to study the Bible within its long-term geographic, historical, cultural, and social contexts. In addition to core courses in archaeology, history, and ancient languages (including biblical languages), the major requires participation in an approved archaeological excavation and an interdisciplinary emphasis in Anthropology, Ancient Languages or Geology.

The combination of these disciplines provides a strong liberal arts foundation for a variety of vocations as students will be equipped to think historically, linguistically, and archaeologically. Of particular importance for the Christian is the way in which biblical archaeology provides a foundation for biblical study. Today as never before the cultural setting of the biblical text is accessible through archaeological and linguistic discoveries in the Near East. By mooring Scripture in ancient lifeways it is possible to clarify and enliven its message while exploring its contemporary relevance.

Requirements

Along with specific requirements for any major, all students in the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degree programs must meet all general education (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-information/academic-requirements-general-education/>) and graduation requirements (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-information/academic-requirements-general-education/#text>) under a single catalog.

Requirements for a major in Biblical Archaeology are 36 hours beyond the 12 hours from general education requirements:

Code	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
ARCH 211	Old Testament Archaeology	
or ARCH 213	New Testament Archaeology	
BITH 315	Christian Thought	
or BITH 374	Systematic Theology	
Greek or Hebrew language competency		
Core Requirements		16
ARCH 345	Archaeology of the Classical World	
or ARCH 456	Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament	
or BITH 456	Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament	
ARCH 365	Statecraft and International Relations in the Ancient Near East	
ARCH 366	Archaeology of Biblical Lands	
Select 6 credits of biblical studies in New Testament OR Old Testament:		6
<i>New Testament</i>		6
BITH 451	Greek Exegesis (taken twice)	4
or BITH 459	Greek Exegesis	
BITH 452	Issues in Modern New Testament Studies	2
<i>Old Testament</i>		6
BITH 443	Hebrew Exegesis (taken twice)	4

or BITH 444	Hebrew Exegesis	
BITH 431	Issues in Modern Old Testament Studies	2
Electives		
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
ARCH 317 & ARCH 333	Studies in Biblical Lands and Historical Geography	
ARCH 334 & ARCH 367	Historical Geography and Jerusalem, the Holy City	
or ARCH 369	Religions of Israel and the Near East	
GPS 306	Physical Settings of the Bible	
GPS 307	Archaeology of Jerusalem I	
GPS 311	History of Ancient Israel	
GPS 318	Biblical Archaeology I	
GPS 324	Cultural Backgrounds of the Bible	
GPS 325	Biblical Archaeology II	
GPS 326	History of the Second Temple Period	
GPS 327	Hermeneutics of Old Testament Texts in Jewish and Christian Tradition	
GPS 328	Parable of Jesus and Rabbinic Meshalim	
GPS 329	Archaeology of Jerusalem II	

Capstone		
ARCH 412	Advanced Archaeological Study ¹	
ARCH 494	Senior Seminar	

Interdisciplinary Emphasis		
Select six credits of 300-level courses ²		6

Field Experience		
Select one of the following, field experience involves excavation, interpretation, and studies in related regional archaeology:		4
ARCH 325	Archaeological Field Work	
ARCH 326	Archaeological Field Work: Tel Shimron, Israel	
ARCH 327	Archaeological Science	

¹ Prerequisite:

- ARCH 211 Old Testament Archaeology or ARCH 213 New Testament Archaeology, and
- ARCH 365 Statecraft and International Relations in the Ancient Near East,
- ARCH 366 Archaeology of Biblical Lands.

² Six hours in a single interdisciplinary emphasis (300-level courses from either Anthropology, Sociology, Classical Languages, Geology, or Biblical Studies).