

(Anthropology 3xx): Archaeology, Heritage, and Conservation at Akko (Israel)



Course Description

This 6-credit archaeological field school at Tel Akko (Israel) integrates the multifaceted aspects of twenty-first-century archaeology by combining excavation, survey, geographic information systems (GIS), landscape archaeology, conservation, heritage studies, archaeological sciences and community outreach. Located on the Mediterranean Sea in a natural harbor, the UNESCO World Heritage site of Acre/Akko/Akka is the focus of this unique and cutting-edge archaeological field school. Throughout its history, Akko has served as a major emporium for the ancient world. During the Bronze Age (3000-1200 BC) and Iron Age (1200-500 BC) Akko appeared prominently in Egyptian, Ugaritic, Assyrian, Classical, and Biblical accounts. Known locally as Napoleon's Hill, or Tell el-Fukhar, excavations on this ancient mound, have uncovered remains of Canaanite, "Sea Peoples," Phoenician, Persian, Greek, and Hellenistic culture. During more recent times, it has entered history as the city that withstood Napoleon's two-month siege and marked the end of his campaign to conquer the Middle East. Today Akko is a major tourist destination, well-known for its picturesque and historic Ottoman period town that is constructed on the ruins of the best-preserved Crusader city in the world.

Course Requirements

Archaeological Field Methods (35%)

Students learn about field work techniques through hands-on instruction and participation. The work includes archaeological survey and testing; digging stratigraphically; recording excavation depths using levels and total stations; recording find spots; creating tags for pottery buckets, soil samples, and special finds; making photographic records; drawing balks; drafting top plans; washing pottery; and making notes from specialist pottery readings.

Akko: History, Archaeology, Conservation, and Heritage (15%)

Students learn about the city of Akko from numerous perspectives including history, archaeology, religion, culture, tourism, and city government through a series of lectures, workshops, and seminars presented by the faculty and by guest speakers, through work on-site, and through field trips to other sites and museums.

Attendance is required at all lectures, workshops, lab seminars, and field trips.

Weekly log (20%)

An informal 800-word essay, due to Prof. Sugerman (via email) each week by Sunday evening. Be sure to include:

- response to posted questions about lectures and seminars throughout the week;
- description of your excavation area and of work you did in the field including comments on all key loci and features and their stratigraphic sequence (description of the findings from the survey (if you work on the survey));
- comments on their historical and archaeological context and relationship to other architectural remains and discoveries at Akko;
- description of any work you took part in back at the dig house/lab;

Blog post (10%)

Individual Project: Publish at least one post on the Akko blog. You should discuss your plans with Jennie in advance to make sure your topic is acceptable and has not already been selected by another student.

Paper (20%)

You must meet with me about your topic no later than July 15.

Some possible paper topics:

- A Survey/GIS Report, including your GIS exercises and GIS lab work.
- Archaeological Sciences Report, including a written summary of workshops with Justin Lev-Tov (zooarchaeologist) and Melissa Rosenzweig (archaeobotanist); assistance with processing of the faunal (bone) remains and archaeobotanical sampling; processing of sediment samples and analyses (as applicable).
- Write a paper that incorporates your original research on an aspect of Akko.
- Write a research paper on an artifact, group of artifacts, or architectural feature discovered during the excavations this summer.
- Write an essay on a subject of interest to you, after discussion with me.

100% attendance is expected. If for any reason you think you will need to miss anything at all, you must tell Rachel Merhav, me, and your field supervisor in advance.

LEARNING GOALS:

Proficiencies

- *Analyze and contextualize characteristics of Akko's cultures from antiquity to the present*
- *Analyze material culture as primary sources*
- *Understand and interpret stratigraphy*
- *Interpret the impact and influence of intercultural connections*
- *Understand and use relevant archaeological terminology*

Skills

- *Learn and develop the skills of archaeological fieldwork, e.g.,*
 - Stratigraphic excavation, including field methodology and the proper use of tools
 - Determine find spots by taking elevations and horizontal measurements
 - Learn how to record find spots
 - Learn how to create tags for pottery buckets, animal bones, soil samples, and special finds
 - Assist in and understand the principles of photo records, section drawings, top plans
 - Clean and process artifacts
 - Assist in and understand the principles of pottery reading and recording

- Become familiar with architectural conservation, faunal analysis, flotation, archaeometallurgy, GIS, and cultural heritage management. *Optional: study one or more of these specialties in depth.*
- *Cognitive skills*
 - Ability to contextualize material culture in space and history, and develop an interpretative thesis
 - Evaluation of evidence and analysis of information
 - Reasoned consideration of evidence, methods, and alternative perspectives; develop ability to adapt or revise ways of thinking in response to new information and ideas
- *Communicative skills*
 - Paper: research, organization, focus, clarity, and nuance in discussion; presentation and development of written arguments
 - Video log: public speaking, development of argument, illustration of evidence, and engaging an audience
 - Participation (e.g., fieldwork, field trips, seminars, lectures, workshops): engage in discussion and debates, pose questions, and formulate analytical responses
 - Photo Diary: present and discuss material
- *Collaborative and shared inquiry skills*
 - Develop investigative skills, share observations, make collaborative contributions, and participate in open discussion to test, explore and communicate complex ideas
- *Investigative and evaluative skills*
 - Evaluate the history, context, and impact of Akko's material culture
 - Compile, interpret, and evaluate sources

Weekday Schedule

5:00 AM	First breakfast
5:25 AM	Van departs for the site
5:30 AM	Begin excavation/survey
9:00 AM	Second breakfast
9:30 AM	Resume excavation/survey
12:30 PM	Van departs for school
1:15 PM	Lunch
3:00 PM	Specialist seminars and workshops (GIS and conservation)
4:00 PM	Pottery/bone/botanical lab
5:30 PM	Lecture (see schedule of topics below)
7:00 PM	Dinner

Weekend schedules (Friday night-Sunday) will vary according to the planned field trips.

Students who break the agreements they signed concerning their behavior in the Tel Akko program are subject to expulsion.

Week 1: Ancient Akko

Sunday July 01: Arrival

8:00 PM: Dinner

Monday July 02:

7:30 AM: Breakfast

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Lectures (Auditorium)

- Welcome and Introduction (Ann Killebrew and Tammi Schneider)
- Living in the Nautical Academy of Akko (Rachel Merhav)
- the Ancient Near East as context for the history of the Levant (Tammi Schneider)

12:00 PM: Lunch

2:00 – 5:00 PM: Free time

5:00 – 7:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium)

- Introduction to the Tel Akko Archaeology and Heritage Project (Ann E. Killebrew)
- Archaeological Excavation 101: The Basics (Nicholaus Pumphrey)
- Welcome to the Akko Nautical Academy (Reuven Wagner, Academy Director)

7:00 PM: Dinner

Tuesday July 03:

5:30 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork

Tour of Tel Akko (Michal Artzy); Site clean-up; first day of field work

4:00 – 5:30 PM: Introducing material culture (Finds processing courtyard):

- Introduction to Pottery (Martha Risser; Rachel Ben Dov; Jolanta Mlynarczyk)
- Introduction to animal bone processing (Justin Lev-Tov)

5:30 – 7:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium):

Bronze and Iron Age Palestine: Canaanites, Egyptians, Israelites, Philistines and Phoenicians (Ann E. Killebrew)

Wednesday July 04:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork

4:00 – 5:30 PM: Pottery/Bone Lab

5:30 – 6:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium):

- Introduction to Archaeobotany (Melissa Rosenzweig)
- Archaeological blogging (Jennie Munro)

8:30 PM: Fourth of July Beach Party

Thursday July 05:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork

4:00 – 6:00 PM: Pottery/Bone Lab

4:30 – 5:45 PM: GIS Lecture (Dakar Classroom):

Introduction to GIS (Jane Skinner)

6:00 PM: General Lecture (Auditorium):

Persian and Hellenistic Palestine (Martha Risser)

Friday July 06:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Excavation

4:00 – 5:00 PM: Pottery/bone Lab

5:00 – 6:15 PM: Lecture (Auditorium)

Roman and Byzantine Palestine (Martha Risser)

6:30 PM: Dinner

Saturday July 07:

7:00 AM: Breakfast
7:30 AM: Bus departs for Jerusalem
9:30 AM: Tour of Jerusalem (Gary Gilbert)
12:00 PM: Lunch
4:30 PM: Bus departs for Akko
7:00 PM: Dinner

Week 2: Medieval and Modern Akko

Sunday July 08:

7:30 AM: Breakfast: 7:30 AM
8:15 AM: Meet at north gate
8:30 – 12:30 PM: Tour of Crusader Akko (IAA Staff: Eliezer Stern and Danny Sion)
1:15 PM: Lunch
4:00 – 6:00 PM: Pottery/bone lab
4:30 – 5:45 PM: GIS Lecture (Dakar):
 Introduction (Part II) (Jane Skinner)
6:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium)
 Christianity East and West: 1st – 7th Centuries CE (Lori Anne Ferrell)
7:00 PM: Dinner

Monday July 09:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork
4:00 – 6:00 PM: Pottery/Bone Lab
6:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium):
 Islamic Foundations: 7th – 9th Centuries CE (Lori Anne Ferrell)

Tuesday July 10:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork
4:00 – 6:00 PM: Pottery/bone Lab
4:30 – 5:45 PM: GIS Lecture (Dakar):
 Rectification (Jane Skinner)
6:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium):
 Christians and Muslims: 7th Century CE to the Crusades (Lori Anne Ferrell)

Wednesday July 11:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork
4:00 – 6:00 PM: Pottery/bone Lab
6:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium):
 History of Conservation in Akko (Shelley-Anne Peleg)

Thursday July 12:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork
4:00 – 6:00 PM: Pottery/bone Lab
4:00 – 5:15 PM GIS Lecture (Dakar):
 Digitization (Jane Skinner)
6:00 – 7:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium):
 Europe's Modern Relationship to the Ancient Near East: The Age of Napoleon to the Present (Tammi Schneider)

Friday July 13:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork

3:30 – 4:00 PM: GIS Quiz

4:00 – 5:00 PM: Pottery/Bone Lab

5:00 – 6:00 PM: General Lecture (Auditorium):

Archaeology and Political Economy in the east Mediterranean (Michael Sugerman)

Dinner: 6:30 PM

Week 3: The Preservation of Akko's Past and Present

Saturday July 14:

7:30 AM: Breakfast

9:45 AM: Tour of the Ottoman City of Akko (departure from the north gate)

Lunch: Sandwiches and fruit available throughout the day in the coffee room

4:00 – 5:30 PM: Optional Pottery/Bone Lab

5:30 PM: Dinner

Sunday July 15:

7:30 AM: Breakfast

8:15 AM: Meet at north gate

8:30 – 1:00 PM: Conservation tour of Akko (Shelley-Anne Peleg and Tsili Giladi)

1:15 PM: Lunch

4:00 – 6:00 PM: Pottery/bone lab

6:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium):

Heritage Values in Acre: Tangible and Intangible (Shelley-Anne Peleg)

7:00 PM: Dinner

Monday July 16:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork

4:00 – 6:00 PM: Pottery Lab

4:30 – 5:45: GIS Lecture (Dakar):

Managing Archaeological Data (Jane Skinner)

6:00 – 7:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium):

The Jewish Communities of Akko (Gary Gilbert)

Tuesday July 17:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork

3:30 – 4:45 PM: (optional) Archaeometalurgy lab with Naama Yahalom Mack

4:00 – 6:00 PM: Pottery Lab

5:00 – 6:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium)

Archaeometalurgy (Naama Yahalom Mack)

Geoarchaeology - Taking the Archaeological Toolkit Beyond the Visible (David Friesen)

Wednesday July 18:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork

4:00 – 6:00 PM: Pottery/bone lab

4:30 – 5:45 PM: GIS Lecture (Dakar):

Creating and Manipulating Elevation Data and Distributional Analysis (Jane Skinner)

6:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium):

Archaeological Survey and 3D Documentation at Tel Akko (Jamie Quartermaine)

Thursday July 19:

5:25 – 12:30: Fieldwork

4:00 – 5:30 PM: Pottery/bone lab

5:30 – 7:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium)

Community Archaeology at Tel Akko (Evan Taylor and Ann E. Killebrew)

Friday July 20:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork

4:00 – 5:15 PM: Pottery/bone lab

5:15 – 6:15 PM: Lecture (Auditorium)

Archaeology of Maritime and Inter-regional contact (Michael Sugerman)

Saturday July 21:

7:30 AM: Breakfast

8:30 AM: Tour of sites in the Galilee (Gary Gilbert)

12:00 PM: Lunch

6:00 PM: Dinner

Week 4: Akko's Heritage: Past, Present and Future:

Sunday July 22:

7:30 AM: Breakfast

8:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Tour of Akko Prison and other historical Jewish sites in Akko

1:15 PM: Lunch

4:00 – 6:00 PM: Pottery/bone lab

4:00 – 6:00 PM: GIS Lab/Workshop

Final Discussion and lab time

6:00 – 7:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium)

Israeli Nationalism and the Development of the Ideology of a Jewish State (Gary Gilbert)

7:00 PM: Dinner

Monday July 23:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork

4:00 – 6:00 PM: Pottery/bone lab

6:00 – 7:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium):

Development vs. Conservation: Case Studies (Ram Schoeff)

Tuesday July 24:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork (optional: conservation documentation (David Zell))

4:00 – 5:00 PM Lecture (Auditorium)

Management of Heritage in Israel (Raanan Kislev)

5:00 – 7:00 PM: Pottery/bone lab

Wednesday July 25:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Fieldwork (optional: conservation documentation (David Zell))

4:00 – 5:00 PM: Pottery/bone lab

5:00 – 7:00 PM: Lecture (Auditorium):

To Whom Does Akko Belong? (Shelley-Anne Peleg, IAA and community leaders)

Thursday July 26:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Closing the excavation site

4:00 – 5:30 PM: Pottery/bone lab

6:00 PM (Departure Time): Final Dinner at Uri Buri

Friday July 27:

5:25 – 12:30 PM: Closing the excavation site

3:00 – 5:00 PM: Pottery/bone lab

5:00 - 6:15 PM: Lecture (Auditorium):

 This Season's Results (Staff)

Saturday July 25: Student Departures

Project faculty/staff:

Michal Artzy, Maritime Archaeology, University of Haifa

Lori Anne Ferrell, Early Modern Studies, Claremont Graduate University

Gary Gilbert, Religious Studies, Claremont McKenna College

Ann Killebrew, Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies, Pennsylvania State University

Nicholaus Pumphrey, Religious Studies, Baker College

Jamie Quartermaine, Oxford Archaeology Ltd.

Martha Risser, Classics, Trinity College

Melissa Rosenzweig, Anthropology, Miami University of Ohio

Tammi Schneider, Religion, Claremont Graduate University

Jane Skinner, Peabody Museum, Yale University

Michael Sugerman, Anthropology, Binghamton University

Some lectures and field trips are presented/guided by representatives of local communities, members of local institutional faculties, and the Israel Antiquities Authority.