



CENTER FOR  
HOLY LANDS STUDIES

**CHLS - STUDYING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT**  
**BIBLE LANDS STUDY TRIP: EGYPT**

May 12-21, 2025

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An onsite field-study experience of the Bible within the physical, historical, and cultural settings of the Old Testament and world of Egypt. Emphasis is placed upon the relationship between physical features of the land, stressing geographical factors affecting settlement communication in the various regions, historical, archeological, and cultural features that shaped this world, its events, and message.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To introduce students to the geography of the Egyptian world and how the geography affected the events related in the Old Testament.
2. To introduce students through onsite experiences to relevant archeological data and discoveries and how they relate to our understanding of the world of the Old Testament.
3. To understand the historical events of the biblical world and how they impacted ancient Israelite culture as reflected in the Old Testament.
4. Through an onsite learning experience, to understand the impact of ancient Israelite culture upon issues of biblical interpretation.
5. To introduce students, through onsite experiences, to the history, religions, and cultures of the Egyptian world that shaped and influenced the world in which the Kingdom of Israel developed and engaged its surrounding environs.

## **TEXTBOOKS:** Required pre-trip reading

Aling, Charles F. *Egypt and Bible History: From Earliest Times to 1000 B.C.*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2020.

Janzen, Mark D. and Stanley N. Gundry. *Five Views on the Exodus: History, Chronology, and Theological Implications*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2021.

Manley, Bill. *The Penguin Historical Atlas of Ancient Egypt*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 1996.

Stein, Jeremy. *Experience Egypt*. Springfield, MO: Salubris Press, 2024.

## **BASIC OUTLINE**

Prior to the trip, students will read through the selected Biblical texts of Genesis 37-50 and Exodus 1-15, the Aling and Janzen textbooks as well as the Center for Holy Land's Studies *Experience Egypt*. Once the students arrive in Turkey, they will participate in daily site visits and field-studies, lectures, and "hands-on" learning experiences.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Students will gain a basic introduction to the history, archaeology, and culture of the world of Ancient Egypt through the assigned pre-trip readings. Students will not need to bring their textbooks with them on the trip. Once the students arrive in Egypt, the backgrounds of geography, history, and culture will be uniquely reinforced through onsite field-studies that incorporate a multi-disciplinary approach utilizing the physical setting to place the biblical text and issues within the spatial, temporal, cultural, and spiritual settings of the Biblical eras. As part of the students in land educational experience, they will participate in a series of lectures specifically designed to take advantage of their time in land.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- Complete the pre-trip reading assignments.
  
- Write a five-page, double-spaced, reflective essay on the dating of the Biblical Exodus. For this assignment the student must choose one of the potential dates (or periods) of the Biblical Exodus and provide their reasoning for why they have come to their conclusion. Students may use counter arguments against other prominent dates and views as part of their argument for their own personal conclusion. The student must use their *Five Views of the Exodus* textbook as well as at least three other sources.
  - **Due Date: June 27, 2025**

- Write a five-page, double-spaced essay in which the student takes a singular narrative of Bible evolving the world of Egypt and explains how the culture and history give a greater understanding in how we approach and teach the narrative today. Some Examples that students can use, but are not limited to, are that of the narrative of Joseph, the reign of Shishak, Jeremiah's and Jewish people's settlement in Egypt following the fall of the Jerusalem, the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt, etc., Students should use at least 5 sources in this essay.

- **Due Date: June 27, 2025**

- Maintain a daily reflection journal (digital or hard copy) throughout the trip in which you reflect upon the teaching and experiences of each day. This will be reviewed prior to May 20, 2025

- Participate in daily field-studies and site visits (90 hours in land). See attached itinerary and calendar.

- Participate in lectures and discussion group(s) (on-site, bus, and evening) throughout the course of the trip (25 hours in land).

- Pre-Biblical Egypt
- Egypt and Biblical History
- The god's of the Egyptian World
- The Hittite-Egypt Wars and the Old Testament
- Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Egypt.
- Dating the Exodus
- "Mitsriam" – The Plural Lands of Egypt in the Old Testament
- The Pyramids of Ancient Egypt
- Joseph, the Vizer of Egypt and the Hyksos
- Akhenaten and the Introduction of the Egyptian Monotheism
- The Exodus Psalms
- The Jewish Community of Elephantine
- Alexandria and the New Testament Influence
- The Samaritans and the Elephantine Papyri
- Shishak and the making of the Kingdoms of Israel
- The Pharaohs of the Bible.
- The Ptolemies of the Intertestamental period.
- The Locations and Route of the Exodus.
- Egyptology, Archaeology and The Old Testament.

## GRADING PROCEDURE

- 5-page on the Biblical Exodus (25 Points)
- 5-page paper on a Singular Biblical Narrative of Egypt (25 Points)
- Daily Reflection Journaling (15 Points)
- Participation in field studies and evening lectures (35 Points)

100-90 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

59-0 F

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. *Readings from the Ancient Near East: Primary Sources for Old Testament Study*. Grand rapids, MI: Baker Academica, 2002.

Arnold, Dieter. *The Monuments of Egypt: An A-Z Companion to Ancient Egyptian Architecture*. Cairo, Egypt; The American University of Cairo Press, 2009.

Assmann, Jan. *Moses the Egyptian: The Memory of Egypt in Western Monotheism*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997.

Atiya, Farid. *Pyramids of the Fourth Dynasty*. Cairo, Egypt; Farid, Atiya Press, 2004.

Baines, John and Jaromir Malek. *Atlas of Ancient Egypt*. New York, NY: Equinox Books, 1988.

Bietzel, Barry J. *Lexham Geographic Commentary: On the Pentateuch*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2023.

Breasted, James Henrey. *A History of Egypt: From the Earliest Times to the Persian Conquest*. Monee, IL: Scribner's and Son Press, 2017.

Budge, E.A. Wallis. *The Egyptian Book of the Dead: The Complete Papyrus of Ani*. New York, NY: Clydesdale Press, 2016.

DeVries, LaMoine F. *Cities of the Biblical World*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1997.

Dodson, Aidan and Dyan Hilton. *The Complete Royal Families of Ancient Egypt*. Cairo, Egypt; The American University of Cairo Press, 2004

Drower, Margaret. *Flinders Pirie: A Life in Archaeology*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1995.

El-Shahawy, Abeer. *The Pocket Book on the Egyptian Museum of Cairo*. Cairo, Egypt: Farad,Atiya Press, 2010.

- Emanuel, David. *From Bards To Biblical Exegetes: A Close Reading of the Analysis of Selected Exodus Psalms*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2012.
- Feiler, Bruce. *Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses*. New York, NY: William Morrow, 2001.
- Freud, Sigmund. *Moses and Monotheism*. New York, NY: Random House, 1939.
- Gardiner, Alan. *Egypt of the Pharaohs*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1961.
- Hallo, William W. and K. Lawson Younger. *The Context of Scripture: Canonical Compositions from the Biblical World*. New York, NY: Brill Publishing, 1997.
- Hawass, Zahi. *Highlights of the Egyptian Museum*. Cairo, Egypt; The American University of Cairo Press, 2010.
- Johnson, Kevin, L. and Bill Petty. *The Names of the Kings of Egypt: The Serekhs and Cartouches of Egypt's Pharaohs, along with Selected Queens*. Littleton, CO: Museum Tours Press, 2012.
- Kitchen, K. A. *The Third Intermediate Period in Egypt (1100-650BC)*. Oxford, UK: Aris and Phillips, 1986.
- Matthews, Victor and Don C. Benjamin. *Old Testament Parallels: Laws and Stories from the Ancient Near East*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997.
- Petrie, W.M. Flinders. *Hyksos and Israelite Culture*. Monee, IL: Scribner's and Son Press, 2024.
- Petrie, W.M. Flinders. *Seventy Years in Archaeology*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1931.
- Pheiffer, Charles. *Egypt and the Exodus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1964.
- Price, Randall and H. Wayne House. *The Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology: A Book by Book Guide to Archaeological Discoveries Related to the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 2017.
- Pritchard, James B. *The Ancient Near East: An anthology of Texts and Pictures*. Princeton, NJ: 1958.
- Ridley, Ronald, T. *Akhenaten: A Historian's View*. Cairo, Egypt; The American University of Cairo Press, 2019.
- Robinson, James M. *The Nag Hammadi Library*. New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1988.
- Romer, John. *Valley of the Kings*. Edison, NJ: Castle Books, 2003.
- Sasson, Jack. *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994.

Strudwick, Nigel and Helen Strudwick. *Thebes in Egypt: A Guide to the Tombs and Temples of Ancient Luxor*. Ithica, NY: Cornell University Press, 1999.

Wilkenson, Richard H. *The Complete Temples of Ancient Egypt*. New York, NY: Thames and Hudson, 2000.

Wilson, John A. *The Culture of Ancient Egypt*. Chicago, IL: Chicago University Press, 1956.

Winter, Burce W., *Philo and Paul Among the Sophists: Alexandrian and Corinthian Responses to a Julio-Claudian Movement*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2002.

Yerushalmi, Yosef Hayim. *Freud's Moses: Judaism Terminable and Interminable*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1991.

Yonge, C.D. *The Works of Philo*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1993.

#### SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Jeremy Stein, Director for the Center for Holy Lands Studies - October 2024