



# THE TALL EL-HAMMAM *FIELD SCHOOL*

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

29 January – 9 February 2023

VIU COURSE #: AR541

TSU COURSE #: AR547

Semester Credit Hours/Units: 3

Enrollment Deadline: 15 August 2022



The Tall el-Hammam Field School is an intensive two-week training in excavation techniques and responsibilities of square supervisors. While designed to fulfill course requirements for VIU and TSU, it is open to students from other institutions or any volunteer digger seriously interested in archaeology. The course includes training in excavation experience, classroom activities, and lectures. Successful completion of this program is a prerequisite to becoming an Assistant Square Supervisor at Tall el-Hammam.\*

## **TALL EL-HAMMAM FIELD SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS:**

**Steven Collins**, PhD (scollins@ves.edu)

Director, VIU School of Archaeology; TeHEP Director & Chief Archaeologist

**Gary A. Byers**, ThD, PhD(c) (gbyers@tsu-edu.us)

Dean, TSU College of Archaeology; TeHEP Asst. Director & Senior Archaeologist

**Carroll M. Kobs**, PhD (ckobs@sbcglobal.net)

VIU Faculty of Archaeology; TeHEP Asst. Director & Senior Archaeologist

**Phillip J. Silvia**, PhD (pjsilvia49@msn.com)

VIU Faculty of Archaeology; TeHEP Director of Scientific Analysis

### **\* Completion of the two-week Field School fulfills requirements for VIU AR651 and TSU**

**You may elect to sign up for a total of four weeks to fulfill both your first and second required Field Work courses at VIU or TSU within the same dig season. For the first two weeks, you would participate in the Field School and excavation. For the second two weeks you would be an Assistant Square Supervisor and support one of the Square Supervisors in a working square. The following dig season would allow you, if approved, to be a Square Supervisor with your own square.**

## **FIELD SCHOOL APPLICATION, DEADLINE, AND FEES**

1. To apply to the Tall el-Hammam Field School, please contact Dr Glenda Austin at 505-332-4253 or [admin@tsu-edu.us](mailto:admin@tsu-edu.us) (for further details and options).

If enrolling as a VIU or TSU student, there are no additional fees beyond the school's course tuition (and related fees) plus your TeHEP participation fee.

If enrolling as a student in another degree program elsewhere and desiring Field School credit, Dr Austin will connect you with the VIU Registrar to register for credit through the VIU School of Archaeology's transferrable to your institution upon satisfactory completion of the course. There is a \$50 Field School application fee to accompany your TeHEP application.

If not taking for credit, there is a \$50 Field School application fee to accompany your TeHEP application.

Field School application fees are fully refundable if you are not accepted.

**Deadline to apply for the Tall el-Hammam Field School is 15 August 2022.**

2. Upon acceptance in the Field School, register for the excavation project by contacting Dr Austin (see above) for payment of the TeHEP participation fee. Required of all participants, it pays for transportation, dig day lunches, and applicable fees to the Department of Antiquities for security and annual project operation fees. (See TeHEP website for refund policies.) **\*When registering for the excavation, please specify that you require the two-week Field School dig dates.**

3. All Field School participants are expected to follow the same guidelines and procedures as dig volunteers in terms of packing, hotel costs, tips, travel, and general rules.

## **PREREQUISITE UPON ACCEPTANCE AND REGISTRATION**

1. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD METHODS COURSE (VIU AR651; TSU AR657)** ó VIU or TSU students, contact your Registrar to take this required on-line course created specifically for Field School students on the Tall al-Hammam Excavation Project to gain an understanding of our methodologies, protocols, and use of forms.

If from another institution or joining the Field School on a non-credit basis, your \$50 application fee goes towards this on-line course. For links to this mandatory course, contact Carroll Kobs, Field School Director at ckobs@sbcglobal.net).

## 2. REQUIRED READING

Collins, S., C.M. Kobs, and P.J. Silvia. *Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project Field Manual*. Albuquerque: TSU Press, 2021 edition.

Joukowsky, M. *A Complete Manual of Field Archaeology: Tools and Techniques of Field Work for Archaeologists*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, latest edition.

Collins, S., G. Byers, C.M. Kobs, and K. Tarawneh. "The Tall al-Hammam Excavation Project: Season Fourteen 2019 Report: Excavation, Interpretations, & Insights." (Free. Please e-mail Carroll Kobs, Field School Director, for this report at ckobs@sbcglobal.net).

Collins, S., C.M. Kobs, and G.A. Byers with P.J. Silvia, K. Tarawneh, and A. Masadeh. "The Tall al-Hammam Excavation Project: Season Fifteen 2020 Report: Excavation, Interpretations, and Insights." (Free. Please e-mail Carroll Kobs, Field School Director, for this report at ckobs@sbcglobal.net).

## RECOMMENDED READING

Byers, G.A. "Tall al-Hammam in the Early Bronze Age IV: the Largest Fortified City in the Southern Levant," in E. Gallo (ed.), *Conceptualizing Urban Experiences: Tell es-Sultan and Tall al-Hammām, Early Bronze cities across the Jordan. Proceedings of a workshop held in Palermo, G. Whitaker Foundation, Villa Malfitano, June 19<sup>th</sup> 2017* (Rome «La Sapienza» Studies on the Archaeology of Palestine & Transjordan, 13). Rome: Rome «La Sapienza» Expedition to Palestine & Jordan 2019, pp. 217-232. [An offprint of this ROSAPAT 13 article is available as *Biblical Research Bulletin*, XIX.2, 2019.]

Cline, E.H. *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Collins, S. "The Geography of the Cities of the Plain." *Biblical Research Bulletin*, II.1, 2002.

Collins, S. "A Chronology for the Cities of the Plain." *Biblical Research Bulletin*, II.8, 2002.

Collins, S. "Forty Salient Points on the Geography of the Cities of the Kikkar." *Biblical Research Bulletin*, VII.1, 2007.

Collins, S. "A Response to Bryant G. Wood's Critique of Collins's Northern Sodom Theory." *Biblical Research Bulletin*, VII.7, 2007.

Collins, S. "Tall el-Hammam Is Still Sodom: Critical Data-Sets Cast Serious Doubt on E.H. Merrill's Chronological Analysis." *Biblical Research Bulletin*, VIII.1, 2013.

Collins, S. "The Tall al-Hammam City-State in the Early Bronze Age: Population and Demography, Economy and Social Organization, Trade and Connectivity," in E. Gallo (ed.), *Conceptualizing Urban Experiences: Tell es-Sultan and Tall al-Hammām, Early Bronze cities across the Jordan. Proceedings of a workshop held in Palermo, G. Whitaker Foundation, Villa Malfitano, June 19<sup>th</sup> 2017* (Rome «La Sapienza» Studies on the Archaeology of Palestine & Transjordan, 13). Rome: Rome «La Sapienza» Expedition to Palestine & Jordan 2019, pp. 155-188. [An offprint of this ROSAPAT 13 article is available as *Biblical Research Bulletin*, XIX.3, 2019.]

Collins, S. "The Early Bronze III-IV Fortifications and Gateways of Tall al-Hammam: Data, Interpretations, and Insights from Twelve Excavation Seasons," in S. Richard (ed.), *New Horizons in the study of the Early Bronze III and Early Bronze IV of the Levant*. University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns/Pennsylvania State University Press, 2020.

Collins, S., C.M. Kobs, and M.C. Luddeni. *The Tall al-Hammam Excavations, Volume One*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2015.

Kobs, C.M. "Tall al-Hammam in the Early Bronze Age: the Beginning of Urbanization," in E. Gallo (ed.), *Conceptualizing Urban Experiences: Tell es-Sultan and Tall al-Hammām, Early Bronze cities across the Jordan. Proceedings of a workshop held in Palermo, G. Whitaker Foundation, Villa Malfitano, June 19<sup>th</sup> 2017* (Rome «La Sapienza» Studies on the Archaeology of Palestine & Transjordan, 13). Rome: Rome «La Sapienza» Expedition to Palestine & Jordan 2019, pp. 189-216. [An offprint of this ROSAPAT 13 article is available as *Biblical Research Bulletin*, XIX.4, 2019.]

Mazar, A. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible*. New York: Doubleday, 1991.

Rainey, A., and S. Notley. *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2005.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The primary objective of the Tall el-Hammam Field School is to immerse students in the excavation process and procedures of supervision for an archaeological square with the ultimate goal that each participant will serve as an Assistant Square Supervisor and, ultimately, Square Supervisor.

During the Field School, students will be working together in the same square(s) with a Field School Director. Training includes introduction to excavation methodology used in Jordan and throughout the Southern Levant. Students will collect and document both pottery and objects within their excavation square, complete required daily data forms and keep a personal field journal. Additionally, students will participate in daily discussions in the field and required sessions at TeHEP headquarters to provide greater understanding of the challenges of stratigraphic analysis.

## **GRADING (FOR STUDENTS AS A REQUIRED COURSE)**

75% **Fieldwork:** includes the ability to correctly use tools, trim balks, dry sift, calculate levels, complete forms, fill out pottery and object tags, produce square top and balk drawings, and accurately record information pertaining to specific excavation features as assessed and directed by your assigned Field School Director.

10% **Special Sessions:** attendance at any weekly Field School meetings and all other lectures offered.

15% **Field Journal:** keep a daily activity journal of their two weeks of Field School. Journals must include a daily sketch and summary of daily activities specific to your square, with observations of stratigraphy and significance of specific finds. Each student's journal and paperwork will be returned at the end of the course.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE – SEASON SIXTEEN (2023)**

**Saturday, 28 January 4:00pm:** orientation for Field School participants in the TeHEP headquarters meeting room (TBA).

### **Sundays through Thursdays:**

**6am:** breakfast in the hotel restaurant ARE WE CERTAIN OF THESE TIMES YET?

**7am:** bus departs for Tall el-Hammam (approx. 35-minute drive)

**7:20am:** site arrival; load truck with tools; excavation begins

**11:45am:** lunch

**12:15pm:** excavation

**3:00pm:** work ends; load and unload truck; back to hotel

**3:15pm:** wash pottery at hotel excepting

**6pm:** Dinner in hotel restaurant

**Mondays 5pm:** lecture, group discussions

**Tuesdays following excavation and immediately upon arrival at Hotel:** pottery sorting/reading

**Wednesdays 5pm:** lecture, group discussions

{**Friday, 3 February:** turn in Daily Journals, Drawings, and all Forms. Returned by Sunday, 5 February}.

{**Wednesday, 8 February:** turn in Daily Journals., Drawings, and all Forms. Returned by Thursday, 9 February}.

## EQUIPMENT LIST

### OPTIONAL:

While TeHEP provides all tools, for Volunteers, Field School participants should have their own kit. These *optional* items would include:

1. Marshalltown pointing trowel (4 or 5 inch) from marshalltown.com (about \$16 each; dura-soft handle is best but can be wooden)
2. Ingalls 40mm patiche (handpick) from patiche.com (about \$64)
3. Munsell Soil Color Book (about \$175)

### MANDATORY:

1. Field Journal: ruled, about 7x10 inches in size
2. Mechanical #7 pencils, extra #7 lead, and an eraser
3. See-thru ruler, 10x12ö x 10ths increments + metric, made by ART ALTERNATIVES
4. Personal backpack for the field
5. A good pair of well-fitting leather work gloves
6. A good pair of sturdy shoes such as Keen or Merrell close-toed shoes/boots ó high top or regular.

## ARRIVAL DATE AND FIELD SCHOOL ORIENTATION

Field School students are expected to arrive for check-in at the Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project hotel headquarters by Saturday, 28 January 2023 in time for the 4pm Field School orientation before dinner. Arrival Friday evening is recommended to combat time change and jet lag. For all details about travel, accommodations, and packing lists, please refer to the dig website at [tallelhammam.com](http://tallelhammam.com) or contact Glenda Austin 505-332-4253.

Note: if you bring your own trowel and/or patiche (handpick), they must be packed in checked luggage only. Also, **PACK MANDATORY ITEMS ó ONE SET OF DIG CLOTHES, DIG SHOES, BACKPACK, LEATHER DIG GLOVES ó IN CARRY-ON LUGGAGE IF LUGGAGE IS DELAYED.** You may not go into the field without these items.



## **FIELD TRIPS\* (Optional) SEASON 16 (2023)**

**Friday, 3 February:** Petra (approximately 50 JOD)

**Saturday, 4 February:** Umm ar-Rasas, Madaba, Madaba Archaeological Park, and Mount Nebo (approx. 11 JOD)

**Friday, 10 February:** Jerash and Ajloun Castle (approx. 13 JOD)

**Saturday, 11 February:** tentative Pella tour by Dr. Stephen Bourke, director, Abu al-Kharaz, and Qasr Amra (approx. 3 JOD)

\*Note: if you sign up for additional weeks, please check the dig website ([tallelhammam.com](http://tallelhammam.com)) for other offered Field Trips.

## **INTRODUCTION OF TALL EL-HAMMAM AND THE EXCAVATION PROJECT**

### ***The Location of Tall el-Hammam***

Tall el-Hammam is located in the S Jordan Valley approximately 12.6km NE of the Dead Sea and 11.7km E of the Jordan River in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (GPS longitude 35.67141; latitude 31.83965). The site presents a formidable footprint, measuring approximately 26 hectares (62 acres) inside massive fortifications encompassing both an upper and a lower tall, and sprawling beyond its fortifications to more than 70ha (160 acres) wadi to wadi. Called ðone of the largest ancient ruins in the Jordan Valleyö (C. Ji and J.K.Lee 2002. ðThe Survey in the Regions of Iraq al-Amir and Wadi al-Kafrayn, 2000.ö *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 46:179-195), Tall el-Hammam was the principal and dominating power in the region during most of her prolonged existence. As the urban core of one of the S Levant's largest city-states during the Bronze Age, Tall el-Hammam also existed as a substantial store-city in the region during Iron Age 2.

Not only was Tall el-Hammam's size and presence impactful, but her physical location was strategic. She sat along a major crossroads of ancient trade routes with abundant water sources, located between two important perennial streams (the Wadi Kufrayn/Kefrein and Wadi Rawda), with many natural springs in the immediate vicinity. Such springs on the lower tall are still in use today. Textual/geographical and archaeological evidence support Tall el-Hammam as the site of the infamous biblical city, Sodom.

### ***The Excavations at Tall el-Hammam***

Initial archaeological probes were undertaken for about two weeks in 1990 by Kay Prag (K. Prag 1993. ðThe Excavations at Tell Iktanu and Tell al Hammam, 1989 and 1990.ö *Syria* 70; 269-273) on the far W extremity of Tall el-Hammam's Lower Tall in conjunction with her excavations at nearby Tall Iktanu. Her discoveries at Tall el-Hammam confirmed the presence of EBA, IBA, and MBA occupation. A few years after TeHEP began, Director Steven Collins brought Prof Prag back to the site and S Jordan Valley during which time they revisited and consulted on the exciting archaeological history of the region, and Talls el-Hammam and Iktanu in particular.

The Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, now entering its 16<sup>th</sup> season, is a joint venture between Veritas International University and Trinity Southwest University under the auspices of the Jordan Department of Antiquities. Commencing in December 2005, the project has continued every winter since then, and has provided a wealth of information regarding the cultural history of the Middle Ghor in antiquity.

### ***Lower Tall Stratigraphy***

Excavations on the lower tall have demonstrated continuous occupation for over 2,500 years, beginning with late Chalcolithic Period broad-room houses.

The Early Bronze Age saw the construction of significant fortifications, as well as domestic and monumental architecture through EB1, EB2, and EB3, with a well-documented earthquake and immediate rebuilding of city defenses and refurbishing of domestic structures at the EB2-EB3 transition. Evidence also indicates that Tall el-Hammam was one of the largest fortified urban centers throughout the EBA ð a true city-state with many satellites ð and was the only fortified urban center (city-state) in the S Levant during the Intermediate Bronze Age (EB4).

Tall el-Hammam's Middle Bronze Age city wall and rampart defenses can be traced around most of the Lower Tall. Its unique gate complex included a pillared gatehouse (reminiscent of Middle Minoan palatial halls), as well as large and small towers creating a formidable city entrance. This stratum of the city as well as its surrounding satellite towns ended in a violent cataclysm of biblical proportions, lending credibility to its identification with the MBA city of Sodom in the days of Abrah[am].

Later periods on the lower tall are represented by an isolated IA2 structure and a large Roman bathhouse (*hammam*). Apparently reused during the Byzantine, Ayyubid, and Mameluke Periods, the bathhouse had an Islamic dedicatory inscription on one of its exterior walls along with Byzantine and Islamic pottery.

### *Upper Tall Stratigraphy*

The earliest occupation identified to date on the upper tall is the Middle Bronze Age, where a large palace complex is being excavated on the acropolis. The palace sits inside the massive mudbrick rampart and upper defensive wall with towers that encircles the entire upper city, giving the upper tall its current shape. The exterior palace complex walls are 2.2m thick, separating it from the rest of the upper city. Here, dramatic evidence for the powerful destruction of the Middle Bronze Age city of Sodom has been, and continues, to be exposed. The upper city defenses have been excavated in several locations, as well as what appears to be a domestic area.

After the Middle Bronze Age destruction, the site, and even the associated valley floor, lay abandoned for about 700 years. However, for a brief moment during the Late Bronze Age, specifically LB2a (14<sup>th</sup> c. BCE), a free-standing, multi-room structure (with no associated settlement), likely served as a tariff or customs house for collecting tolls from passing travelers and caravans. Bronze scale pans were among the many artifacts found in the building. This occupation has been associated with Abel Shittim in the days of Moses and Joshua.

Four phases of a fortified Iron Age 2 store-city appear to be confined to the upper tall. Architecture from these strata include the principal IA2 gateway, a large warehouse for storage, a palatial residence, and hundreds of silos around the slopes of the upper tall and inside the town wall.

Note: Your mandatory reading of the Season 14 (2019) and Season 15 (2020) Reports will provide more detailed accounts.

