Syllabus

PSALMS IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS - 17334

Last update 17-02-2014

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Hebrew Literature

Academic year: 2

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Esther Chazon

Coordinator Email: esther.chazon@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Thursday 12:15-13:15

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Esther Chazon
Course/Module description:
The course covers the various collections of biblical and non-biblical psalms from Qumran. The nature of each collection and each of the non-biblical psalms in the collections will be analyzed. Special attention will be paid to the re-use of Scripture as a tool to unlocking the meaning of the "new" psalms and hymns.

Course/Module aims:
- To examine the corpus of psalms and hymns in the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- To acquire the skills to analyze poetic compositions from the Second Temple period, their use of Scripture, and their functions.
- To acquire the ability to use the databases and bibliographical resources for in the Dead Sea Scrolls and related literature.
- To identify the features of Qumran sectarian literature and to differentiate between sectarian and non-sectarian texts.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
- To locate the scrolls in the critical editions and to use the critical editions of the Dead Sea Scrolls for study and research.
- To identify different types of variants in the biblical psalms and to differentiate them from deliberate literary changes such as linguistic updating or liturgical adaptation.
- To analyze psalms, hymns and prayers in Dead Sea Scrolls and to appraise the re-use of Scripture in the non-canonical compositions.
- To compare the psalms, hymns and prayers in Dead Sea Scrolls with later Jewish liturgy.
- To identify the distinctive sectarian terminology and ideas.
- To differentiate between sectarian compositions and non-sectarian works imported to Qumran.
- To describe the corpus of psalms and hymns in the Qumran caves.

Attendance requirements(%):
80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The students will read and interpret the psalms or hymns studied each week with the aid of the required reading and their own analysis of the biblical allusions. For certain topics, each student will be assigned his/her own reading and present it to the class as a basis for an in-class round table discussion.
Each student will present his/her original research project to the class in the form of a full lecture or brief report on a written term paper.

Course/Module Content:
1. The Thirty-Nine Psalms Scrolls from Qumran - Categories and Issues
2. The Cave 11 Psalms Scroll - Overview and the Interface between "Biblical" and "Apocryphal"
3. The Hymn to the Creator in 11QPsalmsa and the Rabbinic Benediction over the Heavenly Luminaries
4. The Apostrophe to Zion in 11QPsalmsa and Zion Songs in Literature and Liturgy
5. The List of David's Compositions in 11QPsalmsa, Its Function and the Character of the Scroll
6. Psalm 154 and the Prayer for the Welfare of King Jonathan (4Q448)
7. The Songs of the Sage and Protection against Demons (4Q510-511)
8. Laments from Qumran and Socio-Political Critique (4Q179, 4Q501)
9. The Prayer of Joseph and the Polemic against the Samaritans (4Q372)
10. The Collection of Pseudepigraphic Non-Canonical Psalms (4Q380-381)
11. The Hodayot Hymns of the Dead Sea Sect - Community Hymns
12. The Hodayot Hymns of the Dead Sea Sect - Teacher Hymns
13. Psalms, Hymns, and Prayers from Qumran in the Larger Literary Context

Required Reading:
1. The Thirty-Nine Psalms Scrolls from Qumran - Categories and Issues
2. The Cave 11 Psalms Scroll - Overview and the Interface between "Biblical" and "Apocryphal"


3. The Hymn to the Creator in 11QPsalmsa and the Rabbinic Benediction over the
4. The Apostrophe to Zion in 11QPsalm sa and Zion Songs in Literature and Liturgy
Sanders, The Psalms Scroll (DJD 4), pages 47 and 89-91.

5. The List of David's Compositions in 11QPsalm sa, Its Function and the Character of the Scroll
Sanders, The Psalms Scroll (DJD 4), 91-93.

6. Psalm 154 and the Prayer for the Welfare of King Jonathan (4Q448)
Sanders, The Psalms Scroll (DJD 4), 39 and 64-70.

7. The Songs of the Sage and Protection against Demons (4Q510-511)
Sanders, The Psalms Scroll (DJD 4), 54-55.
תפין שמע, ישראל, "הערות לשירי שבח מקומראן," תרביץ 55 (תשנ"ה) 440-442

8. Laments from Qumran and Socio-Political Critique (4Q179, 4Q501)
Dead Sea Scrolls Reader 5/Electronic Library - 4Q179 and 4Q501
Horgan, Mauyra, "A Lament over Jerusalem (4Q179)," Journal of Semitic Studies 18 (1973) 222-224. The whole article is pages 222-234. It is on the Journal's homepage.

9. The Prayer of Joseph and the Polemic against the Samaritans (4Q372)
Horgan, Mauyra, "A Lament over Jerusalem (4Q179)," Journal of Semitic Studies 18 (1973) 222-224. The whole article is pages 222-234. It is on the Journal's homepage.

10. The Collection of Pseudepigraphic Non-Canonical Psalms (4Q380-381)
Schuller, Non-Canonical Psalms, pages 21-38 and text with commentary on 4Q380 1, 4Q381 1, 15, 24, 31, 33, 69, 76-67. The final edition of 4Q380-4Q381 is in:

11-12. Hodayot of the Dead Sea Sect Community Hymns and Teacher Hymns
Hartmut Stegemann with Eileen Schuller, trans. of texts by Carol Newsom, 1QHodayota with Incorporation of 1QHodayotb and 4QHodayota-f (DJD 40; Oxford: Clarendon, 2009).
Newsom, Carol A., The Self as Symbolic Space: Constructing Identity and Community at Qumran (STDJ 52; Atlanta: SBL, 2004), chapters 5 and 6.
Additional Reading Material:
none

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 30 %
Project work 70 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
1. Active participation in at least 80% of the classes based on preparation of the assigned text and required reading for each class
2. Original research project given as a lecture in class or a written paper.