

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Hebrew Bible at Qumran: Text Rewriting and Interpretation - 21115

Last update 04-09-2023

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Bible

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Michael Segal

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Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday 1300 - 1400

Teaching Staff:

Prof Michael Segal

Course/Module description:

The contribution of the Dead Sea Scrolls towards understanding the nature of the Bible in the eyes of its early tradents and interpreters, including:

- (a) Biblical text – a comparison between the Qumran biblical scrolls and other textual witnesses (Masoretic text; Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint) in order to identify what they have in common and what is unique, and the textual variety in Antiquity; evidence in the biblical manuscripts for the process of literary development of the books;*
- (b) Rewritten Bible – analysis of compositions that rewrite the biblical text, such as the Genesis Apocryphon, Jubilees, and the Temple Scroll; what are the characteristics of these different works, and what can we learn about their authoritative status in Antiquity?*
- (c) Biblical interpretation – readings of explicitly exegetical compositions from Qumran in order to assess their character and their interpretive principles.*

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Analyze Qumranic biblical and exegetical compositions/scrolls according to the philological-textual method.

Discuss comprehensively Qumran texts and the exegetical issues that arise when reading them.

Interpret verses and passages with the assistance of previous exegetes.

Assess the advantages and disadvantages of specific interpretations/interpreters.

Formulate clearly these conclusions in oral and written form.

Attendance requirements(%):

85

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

Composition/Scrolls to be discussed (tentative list):

(A) *Biblical Text*

- 4QGen-b
- 4QGen-g
- 4Qpaleo-Exod-m
- 4QExod-d
- 4QLev-d
- 11Qpaleo-Lev-a
- 4QNum-b
- 4QDeut-j
- 4QDeut-n
- 4QDeut-q
- 4QJosh-a
- 4QJudg-a
- 4QSam-a
- 1QIsa-a
- 4QJer-b,d
- 11QPsalms-a

(B) *Rewritten Bible*

- 1Q20: *Genesis Apocryphon*
- 1Q22: *Divrei Moshe*
- 4Q158, 364-367: *(Reworked) Pentateuch*
- 4Q216-228: *Jubilees/Pseudo-Jubilees*
- 11Q19-20: *Temple Scroll*
- 4Q243-246: *Pseudo-Daniel*

(C) *Biblical Interpretation*

- 4Q252: *Commentary on Genesis A*
- 4Q369: *Prayer of Enosh?*
- 4Q370: *Admontion Based on the Flood*
- 4Q371-373: *Apocryphon of Joseph*
- 4Q378-379, Mas 11: *Apocryphon of Joshua*
- 4Q383-390: *Apocryphon of Jeremiah*
- 4Q385 et al.: *Pseudo-Ezekiel*
- 4Q422: *Paraphrase of Genesis and Exodus*
- 4Q464: *Exposition on the Patriarchs*
- "New" psalms in 11QPsalms
- *Pesharim*

Required Reading:

ע' טוב, ביקורת נוסח המקרא (מהדורה שלישית, גרסת PDF).
ש' טלמון, "תנ"ך, נוסח", אנציקלופדיה מקראית ח: 621-641.
צ' טלשיר, "המגילות המקראיות ממדבר יהודה", בתוך: מגילות מקראיות: מבואות ומחקרים (עורך מ' קיסטר; ירושלים, יד בן-צבי, תשס"ט), עמ' 109-141.
י' קוטשר, הלשון והרקע הלשוני של מגילת ישעיהו השלמה ממגילות ים המלח (ירושלים, תשי"ט)

F. M. Cross and S. Talmon (eds.), Qumran and the History of the Biblical Text (Cambridge, Mass./ London, 1976)
M. J. Mulder (ed.), Mikra: Text, Translation, Reading and Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity (Compendia Rerum Iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum 2/1; Assen-Maastricht/Philadelphia, 1988)
A. Rofé, "The Nomistic Correction in Biblical Manuscripts and its Occurrence in 4QSam^a," RevQ 14 (1989) 247-254
M. Segal, "The Text of the Hebrew Bible in Light of the Dead Sea Scrolls," Materia Judaica 12/1-2 (2007) 5-20
E. Tov, Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible (3rd rev. ed.; Minneapolis, 2012)
E.C. Ulrich, The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Origins of the Bible (Grand Rapids, Mich., 1999).

Additional readings will be assigned based upon the specific scrolls/topics being addressed.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 100 %

Additional information: