



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Dead Sea Scrolls - 21927

Last update 23-10-2020

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Bible studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Esther Chazon

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

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday 3-4 by appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Esther Chazon

Course/Module description:

The Dead Sea Scrolls have revolutionized our understanding of Judaism and the Jewish people during the Second Temple Period, of rabbinic Judaism, and of nascent Christianity. The 1500 scrolls discovered along the western shore of the Dead Sea, 940 of them at the Qumran site, range from biblical and parabiblical texts to sectarian rules, eschatological predictions, magic texts, calendars, apocalypses, wisdom books, halachic works, hymns and prayers (sectarian and non-sectarian). Students will examine a wide selection of sectarian and originally non-sectarian works found in the Qumran library, consider their broader socio-historical contexts, and read recent scholarly literature on key issues such as the provenance of the scrolls, the literary growth of the ancient works, and the history of ideas, traditions, and Jewish prayer.

Course/Module aims:

1. Learn the Scope of the Qumran Library and of Scrolls Research
2. Acquire skills in accessing and reading Dead Sea Scrolls
3. Identify sectarian terms, ideas, and rules.
4. Identity common traditions and modes of thought shared by different Jewish groups in antiquity.

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

1. Learn the Scope of the Qumran Library and of Scrolls Research
2. Acquire skills in accessing and reading Dead Sea Scrolls
3. Identify sectarian terms, ideas, and rules.
4. Identity common traditions and modes of thought shared by different Jewish groups in antiquity.

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Class time will be spent primarily on in-depth textual study and secondarily on critical evaluation of scholarship. Assigned Scrolls texts and scholarly articles will be explained by the students in class. Short lectures by the teacher will put the texts studied into their broader cultural context.

Course/Module Content:

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1. *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Qumran Site*
 2. *Sectarian Ideology in the Community Rule*
 3. *Initiation and Communal Life in the Yahad*
 4. *The Rule of the Congregation and Women at Qumran*
 5. *The Covenant Renewal Ceremony and Ceremonies for the End of Days*
 6. *Pesharim: Sectarian Interpretation for the Present Era and End of Days*
 7. *Parabiblical Literature and Biblical Interpretation: Between Sectarian and Non-Sectarian*
 8. *From Qumran to Rabbinic Judaism and Early Christianity*

Required Reading:

1. Dimant, Devorah, *History, Ideology and Biblical Interpretation in the Dead Sea Scrolls: Collected Studies* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2014). Pages 27-56, 67-91, 238-246.
2. Lim, Timothy H. and Collins, John J., *The Oxford Handbook of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Oxford, 2010. Pages 21-45 and 151-172 (Meyers, Eric "Khirbet Qumran and its Environs" and Collins, John, "Sectarian Communities in the Dead Sea Scrolls").
3. Metso, Sarianna, *The Serekh Texts*. London : T & T Clark, 2007. Pages 7-19, 51-55.
4. Charlesworth, James H., *The Dead Sea Scrolls*. Tubingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1994. Volume 1 – Rule of the Community and Related Documents, 8-45.
5. Parry, Donald W. & Tov, Emanuel, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader, Second Edition*. Leiden, Brill: 2014. Volume 1: Pages 52-65 (4QSD), 142-147 (4QDa), 190-193 (4QDe), 226-231 (1QSa), 370-373 (4QFlor), 438-457 (4QpNah and 1QpHab); Volume 2: Pages 544-559 (4Q502).
6. ליכט, יעקב, מגילת הסרכים, ירושלים ביאליק, תשכ"ה, 54-55, 63-73, 88-93, 171-175, 181-182, 187-189, 204-211.
7. Nitzan, Bilhah, *Qumran Prayer and Religious Poetry*. Leiden: Brill, 1994. Pages 119-139, 148-167.
8. Hempel, Charlotte, *The Qumran Rule Texts in Context*, Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013. Pages 6-10, 25-45, 114-119.
9. Hempel, Charlotte, "The Earthly Nucleus of 1QSa," *Dead Sea Discoveries* 3 (1996): 253-269.
10. Baumgarten, Joseph, "The Cave 4 Versions of the Penal Code, *Journal of Jewish Studies* 43 (1992): 276-286.
11. Baumgarten, Joseph, "4Q502: Marriage or Golden Age Ritual?" *Journal of Jewish Studies* 35 (1983): 125-135.
12. Kugler, Rob and Chazon, Esther, "Women at Qumran," *Dead Sea Discoveries* 11 (2004): 167-173.

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13. Bernstein, Moshe J., "Women and Children in Legal and Liturgical Texts from Qumran," *Dead Sea Discoveries* 11 (2004): 191-211.
14. Bernstein, Moshe J., *Reading and Re-Reading Scripture at Qumran. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah* 107; Leiden: Brill, 2013.
15. Brooke, George, "The Thematic Content of 4Q252," *Jewish Quarterly Review* 85 (1994): 33-59.
16. Collins, John J., *Apocalypticism in the Dead Sea Scrolls*. London: Routledge, 1997.
17. Collins, John J., *Beyond the Qumran Community: The Sectarian Movement of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010.
18. Hempel, Charlotte, *The Damascus Texts*. Sheffield : Academic Press, 2000.
19. Nitzan, Bilhah, *Pesher Habbakuk*. Jerusalem: Bialik, 1986. (in Hebrew).

Additional Reading Material:

20. Duhaime, Jean, *The War Texts: 1QM and Related Manuscripts*. London: T&T Clark, 2004.
21. Schiffman, L., *The Eschatological Community of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (1989) 72-76.
22. Flusser, David, *Judaism and the Origins of Christianity*. Jerusalem: Magnes, 1988.
23. Chazon, Esther G., "Liturgy Before and After the Temple's Destruction: Change or Continuity? " *Was 70 CE A Watershed in Jewish History? – On Jews and Judaism before and after the Destruction of the Second Temple*, ed. D.R. Schwartz, Z. Weiss, R.A. Clements. *AJEC* 78. Leiden, Brill: 2012. Pp. 371-92.
24. Stone, Michael E., *Ancient Judaism: New Visions and Perspectives*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls – Editions of the Scrolls, Concordances and Bibliographical Tools:*
Discoveries in the Judaean Desert (DJD, the official editions in 40 volumes)
Parry, Donald W. & Tov, Emanuel, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader Parts 1-6*. Leiden, Brill: 2005, 2014.
Broshi, Magen, ed., *The Damascus Document Reconsidered*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration and Shrine of the Book, Israel Museum, 1992.
- Qimron, Elisha, *The Dead Sea Scrolls: The Hebrew Writings*. 3 volumes. Jerusalem, 2010, 2013, 2014.
- Abegg, M. with Bowley & Cook, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Concordance* (2 volumes; Leiden/Boston, 2003). &eq; electronic form in Accordance Software (Scopus library).
- Tov, E., *The Texts from the Judaean Desert – Indices and An Introduction to the Discoveries in the Judaean Desert Series (DJD 39)*.
The Orion Center Bibliography of the Dead Sea Scrolls & Associated Literature:
<http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il>.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 40 %

Participation in Tutorials 20 %

Project work 40 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: