

BBDS5302 DEAD SEA SCROLLS

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

Course Description

Research includes historical background and description of the Qumran cult and problems relating to the significance and dating of the Scrolls. Special emphasis is placed on a theological analysis of the non-biblical texts of the Dead Sea library on subjects such as God, man, and eschatology. Meaningful comparisons are sought in the Qumran view of sin, atonement, forgiveness, ethics, and messianic expectation with Jewish and Christian views of the Old and New Testaments as well as other Interbiblical literature.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Read and analyze history of the Qumran community, the discovery, history of analysis, and publication of the scroll material, and the critical internal and external issues.
2. Read available translations of the Dead Sea Scrolls and interpret the contents in light of current research in Biblical and historical studies.
3. Examine the importance of the Dead Sea Scrolls for the study of the text of the Old Testament and the historical background of the New Testament.
4. Research general and technical subjects relative to the Dead Sea Scrolls.

CORE VALUES

NOBTS Mission - The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Values Addressed

Doctrinal Integrity: Knowledge and Practice of the Word of God. This course will probe the development of a number of tenets of the Christian faith through the immediate predecessors and contemporary contexts in the development of Judaism.

Characteristic Excellence: Pursuit of God's Revelation with Diligence. This course will strive to help students develop *characteristic excellence* in the contextual understanding and skill in interpreting God's Word.

TEXTBOOKS

- Jodi Magness, *The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Eerdmans, 2002) AQDSS
James C. VanderKam. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today*, rev. edition (Eerdmans, 2010) DSST
Geza Vermes, *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English* (Penguin/Pelican, 2004) DSSE
Peter Flint, editor. *The Bible at Qumran: Text, Shape, and Interpretation.* BQT
Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls & Related Literature. (Eerdmans, 2001)
Craig Evans, *Holman Quick Source Guide to the Dead Sea Scrolls* HQS
(Broadman & Holman, 2010)

Recommended Texts:

- Lawrence H. Schiffman, *Reclaiming the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Doubleday)**
Gabriele Boccaccini, *Beyond the Essene Hypotheses* (Eerdmans)**
Hanan Eshel, *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Hasmonean State* (Eerdmans)**
J. Hayes, S. Mandel, *The Jewish People in Classical Antiquity* (Westminster/John Knox)
E. Ulrich, *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Origins of the Bible* (Eerdmans)**
F.M. Cross and Shemaryahu Talmon, eds. *Qumran and the History of the Biblical Text*
Emanuel Tov, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible* (2nd ed)(Fortress)**
P. Wise, M. Abegg, E. Cook; *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation* (Harper-San Francisco)
Florentino Martinez, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated* (Brill)
M. Abegg, P. Flint, E. Ulrich; *The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible* (Harper-San Francisco)
K. Stendahl, ed., *The Scrolls and the New Testament* (Crossroads)**
J. Fitzmyer, *The Dead Sea Scrolls and Christian Origins* (Eerdmans)**
J. Charlesworth, ed., *John and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Crossroads)**
J. Charlesworth, ed., *Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Doubleday)**
J. Charlesworth & J. Murphy-O'Connor, eds., *Paul and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Crossroads) OP**
C. Evans & P. Flint, eds. *Eschatology, Messianism, and the Dead Sea Scrolls***
Weston Fields, *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Short History* (Brill, 2006)

COURSE EVALUATION:

Evaluation at the end of the internet semester or summer term will be done on the basis of the following percentages:

			Grade Scale	
(1) Mid Term Exam	20%			
(2) Research Paper	25%		A	93-100
(3) Book Reviews (2) 10% each	20%		B	85-92
(4) Discussion Board	10%		C	78-84
(5) Final Exam	25%		D	70-78
			F	Below 70

Netiquette Statement on Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a

fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

RESEARCH PAPER

The student will complete a research paper of 15-20 pages in length, inclusive of Bibliography on a selected topic related to the Dead Sea Scrolls and the relationship to the Old and New Testaments. The paper must include references to journal articles / periodical literature in footnotes/endnotes to achieve a higher grade. The seminary web page provides access to online books and periodical literature through the NOBTS Library section of our web site.

See the EBSCO Online research section of the "Course Documents" on Blackboard for access identification and password for this site for accessing this type of material. Also note that "Google Books" also may provide access to full documents for your research.

The research paper should be written in either Turabian, SBL, or APA style. In addition to the basic content of the paper, the presentation should include the following:

Cover Page	Footnotes or End Notes
Table of Contents	Selected Bibliography (at least 15 entries)

SAMPLE RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS

1. Baptism in Qumran and Christianity
2. Dualism at Qumran
3. The "Works of the Law" in the Qumran Documents
4. Spiritual Refinement in the Wilderness (Separatism)
5. The Concept of Messiah in Qumran and the New Testament
6. Hermeneutics in Qumran and the New Testament
7. The Excavation of Qumran and Ein Feshka
8. The Dating of the Dead Sea Scrolls
9. The Historical Background of the Qumran Community,, 200 B.C.-73 A.D.
10. The Identification of the Qumran sect
11. The Qumran Solar Year and the Lunar Judaic Calendar
12. Daily Life and Ritual at Qumran
13. The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Text of the Old Testament
14. The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament
15. The Communal Meal at Qumran and Christian Communion
16. The Writings of Philo, Pliny the Elder, and Josephus Concerning the Essenes
17. The Exploration and Excavation of the Dead Sea Region (excluding Qumran)
18. The Relationship of Qumran Sect to Sectarian Judaism
19. The Teacher of Righteousness and the Wicked Priest in the Dead Sea Scrolls
20. The Concept of God in the Qumran Texts

21. The Concept of Man in the Qumran Texts
22. Qumran Texts and the Teaching of Jesus
23. Qumran Texts and the Teaching of Paul
24. Qumran Texts and the Teaching of John the Baptist
25. Qumran Texts and the Teaching of the Apostle John
26. The Psalms Scroll
27. The War Scroll
28. The Damascus Document and Essene Beginnings
29. The Temple Scroll
30. The Copper Scroll
31. The Rule of the Community
32. 4QMMT
33. The Paleo-Hebrew Leviticus Scroll
34. Determinism in the Teaching and Literature of the Qumran Scrolls
35. Laws of Purity and Ritual Purification in the Dead Sea Scrolls

SUGGESTED JOURNALS FOR RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

<i>Biblical Archaeologist</i>	<i>Near Eastern Archaeology (formerly BA)</i>
<i>Revue de Qumran</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>Biblical Illustrator</i>	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>
<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>	<i>Archaeology</i>
<i>Bible Review</i>	<i>Biblical Archaeology Review</i>
<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
<i>Bulletin for Biblical Research</i>	<i>Southwest Journal of Theology</i>
<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>	
<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>	

COURSE SCHEDULE

UNIT I INTRODUCTION: DISCOVERY OF THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

In this unit, the student will:

- Read a summary of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1946-47
- Study the early accounts of the distribution of the scrolls and discovery of the cave area
- Understand the political situation in the post-World War II era and the founding of the State of Israel
- Study the stages and persons involved in the collection & purchasing of the Dead Sea Scrolls, their assessment and authentication

Read *HQS*, Part I, chs. 1-4

Read *DSST*, 1-20

Read *DSSE*, 1-12

Read *AQDSS*, 1-31

For a detailed reference work on the sequence of events related to the discovery and study of the Dead Sea Scrolls from 1946-1967, see Weston Fields, *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Short History* (Brill, 2006), or even more detailed his *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Full History* (Brill, 2009).

View YouTube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aF3z4FcZegA>

View on Blackboard, PowerPoint: “Khirbet Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls”

DISCUSSION BOARD #1

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION (see Blackboard posting)

UNIT II ARCHAEOLOGY OF KH. QUMRAN AND THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

In this unit, the student will:

- Read the accounts of the archaeological excavation of the site of Khirbet Qumran by Roland DeVaux, plus later excavations by various scholars
- Discern some of the variations on the interpretation of the buildings and other finds at the archaeological site at Khirbet Qumran
- Interrelate the excavated finds with the historical setting of the Qumran sectarians

Read *DSST*, 20-32

Read *AQDSS*, 32-104

Video clip from YouTube: “Unlocking the Dead Sea Scrolls” -- See Unit II on Blackboard

UNIT III AUTHENTICITY AND DATING OF THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

In this unit, the student will:

- Examine the steps and processes taken to authenticate the Dead Sea Scrolls after their discovery and initial distribution
- Investigate the palaeographical methods and other means for dating the scrolls
- Study the various types of literature found among the broad corpus of literature in the Dead Sea Scrolls

Read *DSST*, Dating Methods: 33-46, Survey of Manuscripts: 47-96

Read *HQS*, Part II, chs. 5-6; Part IV, chs. 11-13

View video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAi7ZDY2q4s&feature=related>

UNIT IV THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND & IDENTITY OF THE QUMRAN SECTARIANS – SELF IDENTITY

In this unit, the student will:

- Study the historical background and setting of the sectarians at Khirbet Qumran by the Dead Sea
- Examine the data relative to identifying the Qumran sectarians
- Discern the relative probability of identifying the Qumran sectarians with one of the known religious and political parties of Second Temple Judaism

Read *HQS*, Part III, chs. 7-10; Part V, chs. 14-17

Read *DSST*, 97-126

Read *DSSE*, chapters II - III: 26-66, Damascus Document 127-130

DISCUSSION BOARD #2 Qumran Sectarian Identity “Discuss the relative probability of the identity of the Qumran sectarians with the Essenes as described by the historians and philosophers Flavius Josephus, Philo of Alexandria, and Pliny the Elder.” This discussion should also be based upon the archaeological findings as well the internal allusions and attestations within the scrolls themselves.

UNIT V LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY AT KHIRBET QUMRAN

In this unit, the student will:

- Examine the daily life activities of the Qumran sectarians
- Study the lifestyle philosophy of the Qumran sectarians
- Investigate the steps and process of becoming a member of the Qumran sect

Read *DSSE*, 97-156 "Community Rule" and "Damascus Document"

Read *DSSE*, 220-239 Various Laws and Ideologies

DISCUSSION BOARD # 3 Discuss the role of the Sabbath at Qumran, with its various regulations cited in the Community Rule and the Damascus Document, and compare these with the statements by Jesus in the Gospels regarding the role of the Sabbath in Jewish life.

UNIT VI RELIGIOUS LIFE AT KHIRBET QUMRAN

In this unit, the student will:

- Examine the theological foundations and presuppositions of the Qumran sectarians
- Assess dualistic philosophy of the Qumran sectarians
- Assess the deterministic theology of the sect

Read *DSSE*, 67-90 "The Religious Ideas of the Community"

Read *HQS*, Part VI, chs 18-21

Read *DSST*, 137-156 "Sketch of Qumran Thought"

Read *AQDSS*, 105-162

View YouTube documentary from National Geographic

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFPH8BY0miE>

MID-TERM EXAM DUE MARCH 31

The MidTerm Exam should be taken after completing all of the assignments in Units I through VI. The deadline for taking the MidTerm Exam is MARCH 31.

UNIT VII MESSIANISM & MESSIANIC HOPE IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

In this unit, the student will:

- Examine the eschatological vantage point of the Qumran sectarians
- Read texts highlighting the personages of messianic hope
- Discern issues relative to varied interpretive viewpoints of single and multiple messianic figures in the scrolls

Read *DSSE*, "Messianic Rule, War Scroll," 157-189;

"Apocalyptic Works," 387-394

Read *DSST*, 215-226 "Eschatology"

Read *HQS*, Part VIII, chs. 26-27

DISCUSSION BOARD #4 : Did the Qumran sectarians hold to a singular concept of Messiah or multiple messianic figures? Include references to Biblical and sectarian literature in support of your viewpoint. How does this inform our understanding of Jesus as Messiah as presented in the New Testament?

UNIT VIII THE FUTURE TEMPLE & THE TEMPLE SCROLL

In this unit, the student will:

- Examine the Qumran sectarian view of the Second Temple and its leadership
- Investigate the literary character of the Temple Scroll
- Discern the eschatological perspective of the Temple Scroll

Read *DSSE* 190-219 "Temple Scroll"

UNIT IX THE TEXT OF THE BIBLE IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

In this unit, the student will:

- Assess the representation of the Biblical texts at Qumran, which books & how many copies
- Examine the palaeography of the Biblical texts at Qumran
- Assess the orthography (spelling practices) represented in the various Qumran scrolls
- Begin to evaluate the status of the Biblical canon at Qumran
- Understand the contribution of the Dead Sea Scrolls to our knowledge of the history of the Biblical text

Read: *HQS, Part VII*, chs. 22-24

Read: *DSST*, 157-197

Book Review: Review one of the following books:

E. Ulrich, *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Origins of the Bible* (Eerdmans)**

F.M. Cross and Shemaryahu Talmon, eds. *Qumran and the History of the Biblical Text***

Emanuel Tov, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible* (2nd ed)(Fortress)**

DISCUSSION BOARD #5 In light of your study of nature and status of the Biblical text at Qumran, what do you understand to be the meaning of the statement of Jesus in Matthew 5:17-18?

UNIT X QUMRAN HERMENEUTICS: BIBLE INTERPRETATION IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

In this Unit the student will:

- Examine the nature of Biblical Interpretation evidenced in the Qumran literature
- Investigate the use of the Bible in the sectarian literature of the Dead Sea Scrolls
- Assess the methodology of interpretation utilized in the Biblical commentaries at Qumran

Read the following article: "Rhetoric and Hermeneutics in Miqsat Ma`ase ha-Torah (4QMMT): The Case of the Blessings and Curses" by Steven D. Fraade (Yale University)

<http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=5&hid=125&sid=e0d0cff2-8c2b-405b-a7b9-041747896055%40sessionmgr110>

BOOK REVIEW #2

Choose from the books marked with a double asterisk ** for the 2nd book review.

UNIT XI THE RABBIS, NEW TESTAMENT, & QUMRAN INTERPRETATION

In this unit, the student will:

- Compare the Hermeneutical principles of Qumran with that of emerging rabbinical Judaism
- Compare the Hermeneutical principles of Qumran with those of the New Testament
- Investigate New Testament examples of 1st century hermeneutical methods

See handout on the interpretive methodologies of Hillel and Rabbi Ishmael.

Read the following articles via the seminary online library research on EBSCO:

"Hermeneutical Systems of Hillel and the Tannaim: A Fresh Look" by W. SIBLEY TOWNER

Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia

<http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=4&hid=125&sid=e0d0cff2-8c2b-405b-a7b9-041747896055%40sessionmgr110>

"4QMMT, RABBI ISHMAEL, AND THE ORIGINS OF LEGAL MIDRASH" by AZZAN YADIN

Rutgers University

<http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=5&hid=125&sid=e0d0cff2-8c2b-405b-a7b9-041747896055%40sessionmgr110>

See Lecture by Lawrence Schiffman at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92hyhBXLWE&feature=related>

DISCUSSION BOARD #6 In light of your study of nature and status of the Biblical text at Qumran, what do you understand to be the meaning of the statement of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

UNIT XII JESUS, THE EARLY CHURCH, AND THE QUMRAN SECTARIANS

In this unit, the student will:

- Compare daily practices of Qumran and the Early Church
- Compare teachings of Jesus and those of Qumran sectarians
- Compare the life of Jesus with the Teacher of Righteousness

Read DSST, 197-215

See Handouts noted in Blackboard Unit XII

View 3 videos on the relationship between Dead Sea Scrolls and the Early Church

DISCUSSION BOARD #7 Compare Jesus teaching on interpersonal relationships in the world and the teaching of the Qumran sectarians on its relationship to the world.

UNIT XIII JOHN THE BAPTIST AND THE QUMRAN SECTARIANS

In this unit the student will:

- Probe the life of John the Baptist as revealed in the Gospels of the New Testament
- Compare the New Testament passages about John the Baptist with materials from the Dead Sea Scrolls
- Examine the lives of John's parents Zacharias and Elizabeth against the backdrop of sectarian Judaism

Reading Assignments

Read *DSST*, 206-210

Read *HQS*, Part VIII, ch. 25

DISCUSSION BOARD #8 Discuss the plausibility of John the Baptist having been a member of the Qumran sect for a period of time prior to his public ministry that is described in John 1 and other NT texts.

View YouTube video clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwWmNT2a7H0>

Read also:

<http://ferrelljenkins.wordpress.com/2008/08/17/was-john-the-baptist-a-member-of-the-dead-sea-sect/>

UNIT XIV THE APOSTLES JOHN & PAUL AND THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

In this unit the student will:

- Examine the theology of John the Apostle in relation to the teachings in the Dead Sea Scrolls
- Compare the teachings of the Apostle Paul with that of the Qumran sectarians
- Examine the relative theological determinism of Qumran sectarians with that of the Apostle Paul

Read *HQS*, Part IX, chs. 28-31

Read 2 journal articles each (2 John, 2 Paul) or chapters in books on the relationship between the teaching of John and Paul and that of the Qumran sectarians

RESEARCH PAPER DUE ---

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Boccaccini, Gabriele. *Beyond the Essene Hypothesis: the Parting of the Ways Between Qumran and Enochic Judaism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
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- Bruce, F.F. *Biblical Exegesis in the Qumran Texts*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959.
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- Charlesworth, James H, with R.E. Brown and J.L. Price, eds. *John and Qumran*. London: Geoffrey Chapman, 1972.
- Charlesworth, J.H., ed.. *The Dead Sea Scrolls*. Vol. 1, Rule of the Community and Related Documents. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1993.

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