

SECOND TEMPLE JUDAISM AND THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

HIS 338/REL 338

Sample Syllabus

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An examination of the historical and religious significance of Khirbet Qumran and the literary materials recovered near the Dead Sea, including Qumran, Murabba'at, Nahal Hever, and others. The study will be situated in the religio-historical setting of the Levant from 586 BCE – 70 CE. Attention will be given to a range of issues arising from the discoveries, such as textual criticism of Jewish biblical and non-biblical writings, changing political landscapes, and religious developments in Judaism vis-à-vis Hellenism and Zoroastrianism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand the political and cultural factors which shaped Judaism, coming out of the Babylonian Exile and throughout the occupations of Greece and Rome.
2. To explore the literary developments of Judaism in light of the Library of Qumran, with special attention on legal (halakic), narrative (haggadic), and hermeneutical issues.
3. To sample the so-called Intertestamental Literature as a key to understanding the religious developments in Second Temple Judaism.
4. To study Second Temple Judaism in its richness of diverse religious expressions.
5. To understand the religious significance of the DSS as literary foreground of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), with special attention on cultic (Temple/worship) and text critical issues.
6. To understand the religious significance of the DSS as literary background of the New Testament, with special attention on messianism, use of the law, and eschatology.
7. To study the Qumran sect with its distinctive teachings and communal demands.
8. To study recent applications of technology to archaeology and ancient literary studies.

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE SCHEDULE:

4 Weeks	Cultural setting of Second Temple Judaism
1 Week	Archaeology of the DSS
9 Weeks	Historical and Religious implications of the DSS

COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

(required)

1. VanderKam, James and Peter Flint. *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Their Significance for Understanding the Bible, Judaism, Jesus, and Christianity*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2002.

2. García Martínez, Florentino. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated*. 2nd Edition. Translated by Wilfred G. E. Watson. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1996.
3. Magness, Jodi. *The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2002.
4. VanderKam, James. *An Introduction to Early Judaism*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2001.

(recommend for students of Hebrew)

5. García Martínez, Florentino and Eibert J.C. Tigchelaar. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1997 (vol. 1), 1998 (vol.2).

COURSE EVALUATION:

1. Class participation is fundamental to this course. Reading assignments will be completed in preparation for all classes. Your preparedness will be noted and will constitute **20%** of your grade.
2. Small group project based on an analysis of the Hodayot. Details will be forthcoming (**15%**).
3. Reading and summary report of 100 pages of primary material from the Second Temple period, whether by Jewish or Classical authors—2 page (single space) summary (**5%**).
4. Five quizzes will be given over reading material and class lectures (**30%**).
5. A research paper (10-15 pages) on a DSS text or topic. The findings of the paper will be presented briefly in class (**30%**). *For BRM Majors - This paper will be incorporated into your portfolio.*

Research Papers are due at 5:00 p.m. on the assigned Due Date. A penalty will be assigned to research papers turned in late as follows: 10% per day. Papers more than 5 days late will not be accepted and the student will earn a 0% score.

6. The grading scale is as follows:
 - A** 100-93%; **A-** 92-90;
 - B+** 89-87; **B** 86-83; **B-** 82-80;
 - C+** 79-77; **C** 76-73; **C-** 72-70;
 - D+** 69-67; **D** 66-63; **D-** 62-60.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Positively stated: There is a direct relationship between coming to classes faithfully and higher achievement. Come prepared, be attentive, interact and *learn!*

Negatively stated: Anyone missing more than 5 classes for any and all reasons will automatically fail. Make-up quizzes will be given in the event of serious illness, a family crisis, or other unavoidable conflicts with official functions of the University. Make-up exams will not be given except in the cases of a serious illness or a family crisis (that requires leaving the campus). Oversleeping, 'relationship issues', forgetting, work schedules, etc. do not constitute acceptable reasons for missing an exam.

POLICY FOR INTEGRITY:

Plagiarizing the content of the oral and written assignments or cheating on the examinations shall result in failure of the course.

POLICY FOR THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM:

The advantages of personal computers for academics are well known. Cornerstone intends that you will use this tool for gaining such advantages. Accordingly, the use of computers during classes should reflect the objectives of the University. No access to the internet is permitted *during class* without the express consent of the instructor. Students will also avoid games, music, movies, and any other program ('screen savers', etc.) that may be a distraction to the class. Anyone found disregarding this policy will be immediately dismissed from the classroom and will be given a zero for class participation.

DISABILITIES:

The university will make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The purpose of accommodation is to provide equal access to educational opportunities to students affected by disabilities, and the university does not intend that the standards be altered, nor that the essential elements of programs or courses be changed. Students having documented disabilities may apply for accommodations through Student Disability Services (SDS), which is part of the Cornerstone University Learning Center located in Miller Hall on the main campus.

In the event that students have questions regarding whether they are eligible for accommodations, how they might provide appropriate documentation of disabilities, or how they might handle a disagreement with a professor over questions of accommodation, the Director of Academic Support should be contacted immediately at (616) 222-1596 or via email at learningcenter@cornerstone.edu. Further information about applying for and utilizing accommodations is provided in the Student Handbook and on the university's website.

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Second Temple Judaism and the DSS – Spring 2009

Dr. Douglas Mohrmann

IEJ = *An Introduction to Early Judaism*, by J. VanderKam

MDSS = *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, by J. VanderKam and P. Flint

DSST = *The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated*, by F. García Martínez

AQDSS = *The Archaeology of Qumran and the DSS*, by Jodi Magness

DATE	CLASS TOPICS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
1/20 -1	Introduction <i>I. History/Religion of the Levant in the Persian Period</i> A. Introduction	IEJ 1-10	
1/22	B. Persian Politics - the Achemenid Age		
1/27 – 2	C. Persian Religion–Zoroastrianism D. Conclusions and Comparisons	IEJ 53-87; 133-137; 147-150; 211-213 DSST 1-32 (<i>IQS</i>); 288-92	
1/29	(cont.)		
2/3 – 3	<i>II. History/Religion of the Levant in the Hellenistic Period</i> A. Introduction B. Greek and Roman Politics, Economics and more	IEJ 11-52; 138-146	
2/5	C. A Cultural Invasion – Hellenism	DSST 33-74 (<i>CD</i> -“The Damascus Document”) 93-125 (<i>IQM</i>)	
2/10 – 4	<i>III. Jewish religion and texts in the Second Temple Period</i> A. Introduction B. Politics and Economics of Palestine: Hasmonaean, Herodian, and Roman leadership C. Canonical Writings	IEJ 88-133; 166-174; 213-217 DSST 303-316	
2/12	D. Other Jewish Writings: Palestinian and Diaspora QUIZ #1	MDSS 87-153; 209-238	
2/17 – 5	<i>IV. The Qumran Sect and Second Temple Judaism</i> A. Introduction B. Jewish Sects	IEJ 175-210 MDSS 239-310	Research Paper assigned

	C. The Essenes and Qumran Sectarian Literature		
2/19	D. <i>Video</i> : Lecture by Prof. James Vanderkam: ‘The Qumran Sect and Ancient Jewish Religion’ E. Reflections on VanderKam	DSST 75-92 (4QMMT /“Halakhic Texts”); 126-129; 138-40	
2/24 – 6	V. <i>Archaeology and Qumran</i> A. Introduction to the discovery of the DSS and the site of Qumran B. <i>Video</i> : Lecture by Prof. Bastian Van Elderen ‘Archaeology and the DSS’ C. Reflections on Van Elderen	AQDSS 1-18, 32-162	
2/26	D. Chronology of the Archaeology E. Present State of the Discussion	MDSS 1-33; 55-86 DSST 459-464 (3QCopper Scroll)	
3/3 – 7	<u>QUIZ #2</u> VI. <i>The Dead Sea Scrolls</i> A. Introduction and overview B. Ancient Readings of the Hebrew Bible. 1. Pesharim 2. Targums 3. Others	DSST 141-216; 136 - 138 (4QFlorilegium, 4QTestimonia)	
3/5	C. <i>Video</i> : Lecture by Prof. Schiffman: ‘The Library of Qumran’ D. Reflections and Schiffman		
3/10-3/15	<i>Spring Break</i>		
3/17 – 8	E. Para-biblical Texts 1. Reworked Torah 2. Jubilees	MDSS 182-208 DSST 217-288; 292-300	
3/19	3. Enochic Traditions 4. Testaments 5. “Proto-Esther”		
3/24 – 9	<u>QUIZ #3</u> F. Poetic Texts 1. The Hodayot	DSST 301-302; 317-378 (1QH)	Small Group Project assigned
3/26	2. Apocryphal Psalms 3. Other Texts	DSST 399-405	
3/31 – 10	G. <i>Video</i> : Lectures by Dr. Martin Abegg: The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Hebrew Bible H. Reflections on Abegg	MDSS 154-181	
4/2	I. The Emerging Picture of the Relationship between the DSS and the Hebrew Bible		
4/7 - 11	J. Wisdom Texts	DSST 379-398	

4/9	K. Liturgical Texts L. Matters of Calendar	DSST 405-443	
4/14 – 12	***Small Group Presentations on the <i>Hodayot</i> ***		
4/16	(cont.)		Research Papers are Due
4/21 – 13	<u>QUIZ #4</u> <i>VI. The conclusion of the Second Temple Period</i> A. Introduction B. <i>Video</i> : Lecture by Prof. Joseph Fitzmyer: ‘The Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament’ C. Reflection on Fitzmyer	DSST 443-458	
4/23	D. The DSS and Jesus E. The DSS and the Gospels	MDSS 311-345	
4/28 – 14	<i>F. THE DSS AND PAUL</i> G. The DSS and Hebrews H. <i>Video</i> : Lecture by Prof. Peter Flint ‘The DSS and Revelation’ I. Reflection on Flint	MDSS 346-380	
4/30	J. The DSS and Rabbinic Judaism <u>QUIZ #5</u> (Take-home)	DSST 129-135	
5/4-8	<i>FINAL EXAMS: DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED</i>		Take home Quiz is Due