



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

BBDS5302 DEAD SEA SCROLLS SUMMER 2020

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Seminary Mission Statement:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership.

Curriculum Competencies The core value focus for the 2019-20 academic year is Spiritual Vitality: Maintaining a close relationship to Jesus Christ through all life endeavors. We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Servant Leadership, and Spiritual and Character Formation

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 upon 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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of the study of the Dead Sea scrolls in this course the student will:

1. Understand the nature and content of the materials of the Dead Sea Scrolls.
2. Read and analyze history of the Qumran community, the discovery and history of analysis and publication of the scroll material, and the critical internal and external issues.
3. Read available translations of the Dead Sea Scrolls and interpret the contents in light of current research in Biblical and historical studies.
4. Value the importance of the Dead Sea Scrolls for the study of the text of the Old Testament and the historical and theological background of the New Testament.
5. Enable the student to evaluate materials written on the Dead Sea Scrolls in journal articles, internet sites, and other media venues.

TEXTBOOKS

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

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****

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 of the basis of the following percentages:

(1) Mid Term Exam	20%	Grade Scale	
(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

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. **DUE DATE JULY 31, 2020**

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

Other topics may be chosen in consultation with the professor.

1. Baptism in Qumran and Christianity
2. Dualism at Qumran in the Context of Jewish and Greco-Roman Worlds
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</i> (formerly <i>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>Archaeology Odyssey</i>	
<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>	
<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>	

BOOK REVIEWS

Choose two books for the written Book Reviews from the recommended books or bibliography for this assignment. The book review should be 5-6 pages in length, double-spaced, and include the following elements:

Author Information (about 2 paragraphs)

Statement of the Thesis of the Book (w/brief discussion)\ - about 2 paragraphs)

Summary and Critique of the Contents (usually chapter by chapter or section by section)

Concluding Evaluation/Recommendation

Two Book Reviews – Due Dates June 20 and July 18

COURSE SCHEDULE SUMMER 2020

WEEK I JUNE 1 – 7

UNIT I INTRODUCTION: THE 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: SEE BLACKBOARD

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

DISCUSSION BOARD #1

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION (see Blackboard posting)

WEEK II JUNE 8 -14

UNIT II 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: Blackboard

WEEK II (CONT.)

UNIT III ARCHAEOLOGY OF KHIRBET 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 III on Blackboard

WEEK III JUNE 15-21

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

Read *DSSHs*

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.

WEEK IV JUNE 22-28

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.

Book review #1 Due June 20

WEEK IV JUNE 22--28

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

WEEK V JUNE 29—JULY 5

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 sectarians 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"

WEEK VI JULY 6--12

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>

WEEK VII

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

WEEK VII JULY 13—19

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.

WEEK VIII JULY 20-26

UNIT XIII JOHN THE BAPTIST AND THE QUMRAN SECT

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

Read C. Evans & P. Flint, eds. *Eschatology, Messianism, and the Dead Sea Scrolls*

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: [BLACKBOARD](#)

Read also:

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

BOOK REVIEW #2 Due Date July 18

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

WEEK VIII JULY 20—27

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 on John, 2 on Paul) or chapters in books on the relationship between the teaching of John and Paul and that of the Qumran sectarians

WEEK IX JULY 27-31

RESEARCH PAPER >> DUE JULY 31

FINAL EXAM – ESSAYS >> DUE JULY 31

NOTE: BLACKBOARD WILL CLOSE TO STUDENT ACCESS AT MIDNIGHT

ON JULY 31. PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY THAT DATE AND TIME.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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