

BSBB9401 DEAD SEA SCROLLS

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NOBTS

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NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT

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.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “characteristic academic excellence” being especially highlighted in this course.

NOBTS has seven basic competencies guiding our degree programs. The student will develop skills in Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses primarily the competency of “Biblical Exposition” competency by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately through a better understanding of its historical and theological context.

During the Academic Year 2018-19, the focal competency will be Doctrinal Integrity..

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 STUDENT OBJECTIVES

As a result of research, presentation of finds, and class interaction in this seminar, 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. Examine 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:

Jody Magness, *The Archaeology of Qumran And the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Eerdmans, 2002.
Hanan Eshel, *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Hasmonean State* (Eerdmans)
Joseph Fitzmyer, *A Guide to the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature* (Eerdmans)
James C. VanderKam. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today* (Eerdmans)
J.C. Vanderkam & Peter Flint, *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Harper Collins)
Lawrence H. Schiffman, *Reclaiming the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Doubleday)
Peter Flint, ed. *The Bible at Qumran: Text, Shape, and Interpretation* (Eerdmans, 2001)
E. Ulrich, *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Origins of the Bible* (Eerdmans)
Emanuel Tov, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible* (latest ed)(Fortress)
M. Abegg, P. Flint, E. Ulrich; *The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible* (Harper-San Francisco)

CHOOSE ONE OF THESE TRANSLATIONS:

Geza Vermes, *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English* (Penguin/Pelican)
P. Wise, M. Abegg, E. Cook; *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation* (Harper-San Francisco)

OTHER OPTIONAL TEXTS:

J. Fitzmyer, *The Dead Sea Scrolls and Christian Origins* (Eerdmans)
J. Hayes, S. Mandel, *The Jewish People in Classical Antiquity* (Westminster/John Knox)
K. Stendahl, ed., *The Scrolls and the New Testament* (Crossroads)
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*

EVALUATION:

Evaluation at the end of the semester will be done on the basis of the following:

Class Participation	15%
Book Reviews	25%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Research Presentations	50%

COURSE SCHEDULE

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

August 23 **Seminar Introduction, Archaeology, and Identity**
General Background & Current Status of Research
Read James Vanderkam, *Dead Sea Scrolls Today*

Archaeology and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Reviews: J. Magness, *Archaeology of Qumran & the Dead Sea Scrolls*

Y. Hirschfeld, *Qumran in Context: Reassessing the Arch. Evidence*

H. Eshel, *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Hasmonean State*

September 13 **Identity of the Qumran Sectarians –**
Review: Gabriele Boccaccini, *Beyond the Essene Hypothesis* **Skipper**
Self Identity
Perspectives of Historians (Josephus, Philo, Pliny the Elder)
Jewish Priests (Norman Golb)
Pharisees
Proto-Sadducees (L. Schiffman)
Essenes (G. Vermes, et al)
Varia (R. Eisenman / B. Thiering)

II. THE PHILOSOPHY & THEOLOGY OF THE SECT

September 20 **Guiding Principles:** Eschatology and Messianic Expectation, Dualism, Apocalypticism
and the War Scroll

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

J.J. Collins. *The Scepter and the Star: The Messiahs*
of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Other Ancient Literature

One Messiah

Two Messiahs

October (4??) 11** **Life in the Covenant Community**
Reviews: L. Schiffman, *Sectarian Law in the DDS*
Maier, *The Temple Scroll*
Y. Yadin, *The Temple Scroll*
J. Magness, *Stone & Dung, Oil & Spit: Daily Life....*
Baumgarten, *Studies in Qumran Law*
Qimron & Strugnell, *DJD 10: 4QMMT*
ARC Leaney, *The Rule of Qumran and Its Meaning* ()

III. QUMRAN: BIBLICAL & SECTARIAN TEXTS & INTERPRETATION

October 25 **Qumran Hermeneutics:** Biblical and Non-biblical

Hillel's Hermeneutics ()

Reviews: F. F. Bruce, *Biblical Exegesis at Qumran* ()

D. Patte, *Early Jewish Hermeneutic in Palestine* ()

M. Fishbane, *Biblical Interpretation in Early Israel* ()

John J. Collins, *Apocalyptic Imagination* ()

James Parker, *War Scroll* ()

November 8 **Textual Criticism & the Old Testament** Biblical Texts at Qumran and Dead Sea Scrolls

Emanuel Tov, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible* ()

Peter Flint, ed. *The Bible at Qumran: Text, Shape, and Interpretation* ()

Cross & Talmon, *Qumran and the History of the Biblical Text* ()

J. de Waard, *A Comparative Study of the Old Testament Text in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament* ()

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

Septuagint and OT Text Criticism

Translation & Interpretation --Habakkuk & Nahum Commentaries

– Samuel and Jeremiah Texts

--Manual of Discipline & Temple Scroll

-- Hymns and Collections

IV. TECHNICAL RESEARCH PAPERS

November 29

December 13

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

DSS Official Publication

Discoveries in the Judean Desert (DJD). 1-39 (44) vols. Oxford University Press

Books

Abegg, M.G., Jr., P. W. Flint, and E. Ulrich. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible*. New York: HarperSan Francisco, 1999.

Albright, William F. *The Scrolls and Christianity*. London, Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1969.

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- _____. *The Dead Sea Scrolls*. Vol. 2, Damascus Document, War Scroll, and Related Documents. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1995.
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