School of Basic Jewish Studies

The Dead Sea Scrolls: An Introduction

Course no: 04-100-96

On-line, partly filmed course
(includes 10 short filmed lectures and filmed tour to khirbet Qumran)

Prof. Eyal Regev, Land of Israel Studies

Credit equals 2 annual hours (= קורס שנתי)

Summer semester, the on-line activity lasts from August 1 – September 5.
Also open students outside BIU.

The course contains 7 basic written units (comprising initial part of the course. This is a translation of the original Hebrew unit on which the current internet Hebrew course מגילות מדבר יהודה in Basic Jewish Studies is based), articles and filmed tour in kh. Qumran, and open discussions with the lecturer.

Student who take the course for credit should submit two posts in the course's on-line forums, in addition to final exam or a short final assignment (on-line).

Objective:

The course introduces a thorough and up-to-date review of the different kinds of scrolls found at Qumran, pointing to their significance for our understanding of ancient Judaism and early Christianity.
The archeology of the site at khirbet Qumran, where many assume that the so-called Dead Sea Sect or Essenes dwelt, is studied along an on-line tour.

Special attention is given to the history and ideology of the Qumran movement, and its Law in comparison to contemporary Jewish Halakhah.

Contents:

Unit 1: The Discovery of the Scrolls

On-line video film: a tour in kh. Qumran and the caves with Eyal Regev


Unit 2: The History of the Qumran Sect and the Historical Details in the Scrolls


Unit 3: The Bible at Qumran

Unit 4: The Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphal Literature Discovered at Qumran


Unit 5: The Apocryphal Psalms Discovered at Qumran


Unit 6: The Halakhah in the Qumran Scrolls


Unit 7: The Contribution of the Qumran Inhabitants to Judaism and Christianity


Texts from the scrolls will be available on-line for the assignments.

**General bibliography for the assignments:**


No requirements of previous studies

**Grade/Credit:**

Final assignment: 80%

Participation in on-line forums/discussion groups: 20%