

August, 2024



The Department of the Land of Israel Studies

School of Basic Jewish Studies

The Dead Sea Scrolls: An Introduction

On-line, partly filmed course

(includes 10 short filmed lectures and filmed tour to khirbet Qumran)

Course no: Land of Israel and Archaeology (קורס כללי) 16-286

Basic Jewish Studies (לימודי יסוד ביהדות) 04-100-96

Prof. Eyal Regev, Land of Israel Studies

Credit equals 2 annual hours (= קורס שנתי)

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 (on-line forums).

Students who take the course for credit should submit two posts in the course's on-line forums, in addition to final exam (on-line, in Tomex, multi-choice test).

The course will include 1 or 2 zoom meetings, for orientation and conclusion/preparation to the final exam. These meeting will be recorded for those who cannot attend them.

Some of the articles in the following units are relevant only for the on-line forums (if one chooses to enroll in them) or general knowledge, and are not required for the finale exam.

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

Article: Regev, E. "The Archaeology of Sectarianism: Ritual, Resistance and Hierarchy in Kh. Qumran," *Revue de Qumran* 24/94 (2009), pp. 175-214.

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

Article: Regev, E. "Abominated Temple and A Holy Community: The Formation of the Concepts of Purity and Impurity in Qumran", *Dead Sea Discoveries* 10.2 (2003), pp. 243-278.

Unit 3: The Bible at Qumran

Unit 4: The Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphal Literature Discovered at Qumran

Unit 5: The Apocryphal Psalms Discovered at Qumran

Article: Regev, E. "Sin, Atonement and Israelite Identity in the Words of the Luminaries in Relation to 1 Enoch's Animal Apocalypse," *Hebrew Union College Annual* 84-85 (2013-14), pp. 1-24.

Unit 6: The *Halakhah* in the Qumran Scrolls

Article: Regev, E. "Chercher les femmes: Were the *yahad* Celibates?" *Dead Sea Discoveries* 15.2 (2008), pp. 253-284.

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

Articles: Regev, E. "Temple and Righteousness in Qumran and Early Christianity: Tracing the Social Differences between the Two Movements", in Daniel R. Schwartz and Ruth A. Clements (eds.), *Text, Thought, and Practice in Qumran and Early Christianity. Proceedings of the Ninth International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature, January 11-13, 2004. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah.* (Leiden: Brill 2009), pp. 87-112.

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

General bibliography for broadening the perspective (optional):

Collins, J.J. *Beyond the Qumran Community: The Sectarian Movement of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.

García Martínez, F. and Tigchelaar, J.C. *The Dead Sea Scroll Study Edition*, 2 vols. Leiden, Grand Rapids and Cambridge 2000.

Eshel, H. *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Hasmonean State*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.

Regev, E. *Sectarianism in Qumran: A Cross-Cultural Perspective*, Religion and Society Series 45, Berlin, Walter de Gruyter 2007.

No requirements of previous studies

Grade/Credit:

Final exam: 80%

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