

Date: __14/6/26

Syllabus - Teaching Program for the Course

Course name

The Dead Sea Scrolls: An Introduction

Lecturer Name Prof. Eyal Regev

| Department Name

Department of the Land of Israel Studies / **Olamot: School of Jewish
Studies Israeli Culture**

Course No | **16-286 / 04-100-96**

Course Type: Lecture – fully on-line
Scope of credits: __4 credits (= 2 semesters course)__
Year of study: 2026__
Semester: __Summer_
Lecturer Email: __eyal.regev@biu.ac.il__



Course description and learning goals

Course Abstract

This is a fully online course (all materials and assignments are in the Lamda) + 2 zoom meetings (planned to be recorded) at the beginning and the end of the course. The final exam (multi-choice) is also on-line (Tomex).

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.

Learning objectives

Knowledge

1. Learners will describe _the contents of the most important scrolls_____
2. Learners will define ___the ideology, religious beliefs and social practices_____
3. Learners will write __forums in which they discuss the positions and characteristics of certain scroll or specific passages within them__

Skills

1. Learners will analyze __ancient Jewish and sectarian beliefs
2. Learners will evaluate __ the relationship between the Qumran sectarians and other "main stream" Jews in the Second Temple period

Values

The authenticity of ancient Jewish religious writings will be evaluated in light of historical criticism. The radical ideas of the Qumran sectarians will be assessed following comparison to the Pharisees and current models of sectarianism.



Active learning – lessons plan:([expand](#))

The course contains 7 basic written units comprising initial part of the course (each unit equals approximately the contents of two classes). Each unit contains articles and films. There is also a filmed tour in kh. Qumran. See details below.

The active learning is based on students' participation in and open discussions groups and forums.

Unit No.	Topic	Active learning	Required reading	Assessment
	Zoon introductory meeting	Workshop on the Community Rule		
1	The Discovery of the Scrolls		Filmed tour to Kh. Qumran	
2	The History of the Qumran Sect and the Historical Details in the Scrolls	Discussion group		forum
3	The Bible at Qumran			
4	The Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphal Literature Discovered at Qumran			
5	The Apocryphal Psalms Discovered at Qumran	Discussion group		forum
6	The <i>Halakhah</i> in the Qumran Scrolls	Discussion group		forum

7	The Contribution of the Qumran Inhabitants to Judaism and Christianity	Discussion group		forum
	Concluding films			Creating a joint directory of terms from the scrolls
	Zoom concluding meeting and preparations for the exam			

* There may be changes in the syllabus depending on learning progress and effectiveness



Final grade

Final exam 80%

Participation in discussion groups/forums 20%

Bonus: adding terms from the scrolls to a joint directory



Course requirements

Final exam and Participation in discussion groups/forums



Prerequisites

None

Bibliography: Up-to-date reading, viewing, and listening content items



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.

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

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.

Schiffman, L.H. "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the History of Judaism," *Near Eastern Archaeology* 63.3 (2000): 155-159.

Fims of units 1-2, 4-7 and concluding films.

For other recommended bibliography, see below the full syllabus.

Full bibliography (obligatory and recommended)

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

Article: Najman, H. "Reconsidering Jubilees: Prophecy and Exemplarity," in *Past Renewals: Interpretative Authority, Renewed Revelation, and the Quest for Perfection in Jewish Antiquity*, Leiden 2010, pp. 189-205.

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.

Schiffman, L.H. "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the History of Judaism," *Near Eastern Archaeology* 63.3 (2000): 155-159.

Stuckenbruck, L. "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament," in N. David and A. Lange (eds.), *Qumran and the Bible: Studying the Jewish Scriptures in Light of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, Leuven 2010, pp. 131-170.

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

General bibliography (not available in the course's on-line site):

[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.