**RLGN 5337 VC01**

**Seminar on Ancient Near Eastern Backgrounds to the Old Testament: *The Dead Sea Scrolls***

**Fall 2018**

Dr. Jeff S. Anderson, Professor of Religion, Anchorage Campus

**Contact Information**: Email: [anderson@wbu.edu](mailto:anderson@wbu.edu). Text/cell 907-227-0622. (Please note that AK time is 3 hours earlier than Central Time). I’m usually available every day but Friday.

**WBU Mission Statement**: Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

**Course Description:** A critical examination of the political events, persons, as well as the cultural and religious factors, from the fourth to the first millennia B.C.E. in Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia, Canaan, and Anatolia.

A study of the discovery, origins, content, and significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the community at Qumran. Prerequisites: RLGN 1301, 1302.

**Textbooks:**

VanderKam, James, Peter Flint. *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls.* San Francisco: Harper, 2002. ISBN 978-0-068465-5

Vermes, Geza. *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. New York: Penguin, 2012. Syllabus and assignments are built on the Seventh Edition. If you use an older edition you may have trouble finding the exact chapters and page numbers. ISBN 978-0-141-19731

A good study Bible of your choice.

**Outcome Competencies**:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, religious, and social setting of the community at Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the impact of the DSS on the text and canon of the Hebrew Scriptures.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic content of the non- biblical scrolls.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the archaeological evidence present at Qumran.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Attendance: For Virtual Campus courses, the instructor can track weekly participation in just about every area of BlackBoard by using “Course Statistics.” And I do!

2. Examinations: There will be a mid term and final examination.

3. Quizzes over the Reading: There will be weekly quizzes over the reading in the texts.

4. Discussion Board: Each student will lead a discussion board forum for the rest of the class on one of the Qumran scrolls. Each discussion board leader should create a thread with an attachment (2-3 pages in length) that provides a brief summary of the scroll for that week. Then on the thread ask three questions. These questions should not only reflect the content of that particular scroll but should generate some discussion. Class members should respond to these questions and the discussion leader facilitates the discussion. Instructor will assign the discussion board topics the first week of class. Class size will dictate assignments.

5. Research Paper: Students will prepare an introduction and overview of one of the major sectarian documents of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Paper will include overview, date, setting, outline, contents, and significance for scroll studies. Research paper will be completed according to standards specified by Wayland Baptist University’s Division of Religion, which is Turabian’s 8th Edition.

This research paper is due on the Saturday of week 10, the week before finals (October 27).

***Biblical Scrolls***

The Great Isaiah Scroll (1QIsaa)

The Great Psalms Scroll (11QPsa)

***Rules:***

The Community Rule (1QS, 4Q255-264a, 5Q11)

(The Damascus Document) (4Q266-272) Geniza A, B

The War Scroll (1 QM, 4Q491-496)

***Legal Texts:***

The Temple Scroll (11QTS, 11 Q19-20)

*Miqsat Maase ha-Torah*, Sectarian Manifesto (4QMMT)

***Commentaries***

The Habakkuk Pesher (1QpHab)

The Nahum and Psalms Peshers (4Q169, 4Q171, 4Q173,

1Q16)

Thematic Commentaries (4QFlorilegium [4Q174], 4QCatena A

[4Q177],

11QMelchizedek [11Q13]

***Rewritten Scripture****:*

The Genesis Apocryphon (1QapGen, 1Q20)

***Psalms/Wisdom***

The Thanksgiving Psalms (1QH, 1Q35, 4Q427-432)

The Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice (4Q400-407, 11Q17,

Masada Frag.)

4QInstruction (1Q26, 4Q415-418a, 418c, 423)

***Cryptic Texts***

The Copper Scroll (3Q15)

**Learning Resource Center:**

The Wayland Library (Learning Resource Center) is available to all Wayland students at:  <http://library.wbu.edu>

Tutorials for accessing library resources are linked from the homepage.

**Course Grading: (final grades on a 10 percentage point scale)**

Mid Term 100 points

Final Examination 100 points

Research Paper 100 points

Discussion Board Facilitation 100 points

Quiz Grades 60 points

**Course Outline:**

**Week One: Week of August 20**

The Discovery of the Scrolls

Overview

Geographical Setting for the Scrolls

Discovery and Early Publications

Quagmire, Scandals and Scroll Wars

Liberation of the Scrolls

**Read VanderKam and Flint, chapters 1 and 18**

**Read Vermes: Introduction**

**Discussion Board Topic:** The Great Isaiah Scroll (1QIsaa) and the Great Psalm Scroll (11QPsa)

**Week Two: Week of August 27**

The Second Temple Historical Background for the Scrolls

The Maccabean Revolt and the Hasmonean Dynasty

Roman Domination of Judea

The Destruction of the Temple and the Roman Occupation of

Qumran

**Read Vermes, Chapters II and III**

**Discussion Board Topic:** The Community Rule (1QS, 4Q255-264a,

5Q11). Find these texts and read them in Vermes before

responding to the discussion board.

**Week Three: Week of September 3**

What are the Dead Sea Scrolls?

Four Kinds of Literature at Qumran

Date, Composition, Setting

Scripts used for Writing the Scrolls

The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible: (Part One)

The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Before the Scrolls

The Scriptures at Qumran: Pluriformity and the Biblical Text

Canon and Text at Qumran

**Read VanderKam and Flint: Chapters 2-4**

**Discussion Board Topic:** The Damascus Document (CD, 4Q266-272) Find these texts and read them in Vermes before responding to the discussion board.

**Week Four: Week of September 10**

The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible (Part Two)

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha and the Scrolls

The Pesher as Early Scriptural Commentary

Biblical Interpretation and Reinterpretation at Qumran

**Read VanderKam and Flint: Chapters 5-7**

**Discussion Board Topic:** The Habakkuk Pesher (1QpHab), Apocryphal Psalms (page 307-318) and Song for the Holocaust of the Sabbath (page 329-339). Find and read in Vermes before responding to the discussion board.

**Week Five: Week of September 17**

Mid Term Examination, No additional Assignments

**Week Six: Week of September 24**

The Non-Biblical Scrolls at Qumran

Legal Texts

Rules

Commentaries

Rewritten Scriptures

Calendars

Poetic Texts

Wisdom Texts

Apocalyptic Texts

**Read VanderKam and Flint: Chapters 8-9**

**Discussion Board Topic:** The Temple Scroll (11QTS, 11 Q19-20), Genesis Apocryphon (1QapGen, 1Q20). Find these texts and read them in Vermes before responding to the discussion board.

**Week Seven: Week of October 1**

The Community at Qumran

Archaeology and Qumran

The Pesharim and Qumran History

The Case for the Essene Hypothesis

The Groningen Hypothesis.

Essenism and Qumran: The Work of Gabriele Boccaccini

Sadducees and Qumran: The Work of Lawrence Schiffman

**Read VanderKam and Flint: Chapters 10 and 13.**

**Read Vermes: The Community Rule (97-117).**

**Discussion Board Topic:** *Miqsat Maase ha-Torah*, Sectarian

Manifesto (4QMMT), Thanksgiving Hymns (1QH, 1Q36, 4Q427-32) Find and read them in Vermes before responding to the discussion board.

**Week Eight: Week of October 8**

Community Life in the Community Rule and the Damascus

Document

Initiation Rites

Ritual Purity

Table Fellowship

Community Leadership and the Teacher of Righteousness

Women and Marriage

Sociology, Theology and the Scrolls

The Nature of God

Worship and the *Yahad.*

Prayer and Ritual

Calendar

**Read VanderKam and Flint: Chapters 11-12**

**Read Vermes, Chapter IV**

**Discussion Board Topic:** The Copper Scroll (3Q15), 4QInstruction

(4Q415-418). Find and read in Vermes before responding to the discussion board.

**Week Nine: Week of October 15**

The Dead Sea Scrolls, the New Testament and the Early Christian Church

Language of the DSS and the New Testament

Characters

Practices of Community

Eschatology

**Read VanderKam and Flint: Chapters 14-17**

**Discussion Board Topic:** The War Scroll (1 QM, 4Q491-496). Find

and read in Vermes before responding to the discussion board.

**Week Ten: Week of October 22:** Research Papers Due October 27

No homework

**Week Eleven: Week of October 29:** Final Exam

**Disability Statement:**  In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.”

**Grade Appeals:**

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

**Student Responsibilities:** Students are responsible for reading, understanding, obeying, and respecting all academic policies, with added emphasis being placed upon academic progress policies, appearing in the Wayland Baptist University Academic Catalog applicable to their curriculum and/or program of study.

**Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**: Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

**Bibliography:**

Anderson, Jeff. *The Internal Diversification of Second Temple Judaism.* Lanham: University Press of America, 2002.

Boccaccini, Gabriele. *Beyond the Essene Hypothesis: The Parting of the Ways Between Qumran and Enochic Judaism.* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans1998.

Charlesworth, James H. *The Pesharim and Qumran History: Chaos or Consensus?* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2002.

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

Lim, Timothy H. *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

García Martínez and Eibert J.C. Tigchelaar, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition*. 2 Vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Magness, Jodi. *The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2002.

Schiffman, Lawrence H. *Reclaiming the Dead Sea Scrolls: Their True Meaning for Judaism and Christianity*. New York: Doubleday, 1994.

Schiffman, Lawrence H. and James C. VanderKam. *Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. 2 Vols. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Schuller, Eileen M. *The Dead Sea Scrolls: What Have We Learned?* Louisville: Westminster, 2006.

Talmon, Shemaryahu. *The World of Qumran from Within*. Leiden: Brill, 1989.

Tov, Emanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

Ulrich, Eugene. *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Origins of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1999.

VanderKam, James, Peter Flint. *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. San Francisco: Harper, 2002.

VanderKam, James. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today*. Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans, 2010.

Vermes, Geza. *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. New York: Penguin, 1997.

Wise, Michael, Martin Abegg, Jr., and Edward Cook. *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1996.

**Academic Internet Sites:**

Biblical Archaeology Review <http://www.bib-arch.org>

Digital Dead Sea Scrolls Project

<http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/project>

Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library

<http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/?locale=en_US>

Flint, Peter. <http://www.deadseascrolls.org>

Israel Antiquities Authority: <http://www.antiquities.org.il/modules_eng.aspx?menu=10>

Library of Congress and the DSS <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/scrolls/toc.html>

Orion Center for the Study of the DSS <http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/>

Shrine of the Book <http://www.imj.org.il/eng/shrine/>