Introduction and Goals

The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of about 900 manuscripts that were written between the third century B.C. and the first century A.D. They bear witness to a time that was crucial both to the development of Judaism and the birth of Christianity. They also provide us with the oldest manuscripts of the Bible that we have and tell us much about the lives, hopes and dreams of the people who collected and wrote them.

At the end of this course you will:
A. Know how the Scrolls were found and why they have been called the greatest archaeological discovery of the twentieth century.
B. Be familiar with the various Jewish groups that existed at the turn of the era and how the Dead Sea Scrolls group fits in with them.
C. Understand the significance of the Scrolls for our knowledge of the text of the Bible and the development of the canon of Scripture.
D. Be aware of how the Qumran group interpreted the Bible and how this was similar to or different from other Jews and from the Christians.
E. Know how the Qumranites practiced their religion through prayer, study of the Bible and keeping the Torah.
F. Be familiar with the distinctive Messianism and eschatology of the Qumran group.

Syllabus

1. [August 25] Introduction
Read: RDSS Chap 1; CWDSS pp. 6-21.

2. [August 27] Discovery and Controversy
Read: RDSS Chap. 2; CWDSS pp. 22-35.

3. [September 1] Archaeology of Qumran
Read: RDSS Chap. 3; CWDSS pp. 168-192.

Quiz 1 available September 1-4

4. [September 3] History of the Second Temple Period
Read: RDSS Chap. 4; CWDSS pp. 36-63.
At-home Assignment 1: What Type of Religious Community Was Qumran?  
Due September 8

5. [September 8] Origins of the Qumran Community  
Read: RDSS Chap. 5; CWDSS pp. 136-139; 149-151; 204-205.

Quiz 2 available September 13-16

6. [September 10] Life of the Community  
Read: RDSS Chap. 6-7; CWDSS pp. 82-91.

At-home Assignment 2: Women in Second Temple Judaism  
Due September 15

7. [September 15] The Role of Women at Qumran  
Read: RDSS Chap. 8.

8. [September 17] Theology of the Scrolls  
Read: RDSS Chap. 9.

9. [September 22] The Bible at Qumran  
Read: RDSS Chap. 10.

10. [September 24] The Question of Canon  
Read: CWDSS pp. 160-161; 164-165.

Quiz 3 available September 21-25

11. [September 29] Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha  
Read: RDSS Chap. 11; CWDSS pp. 102-105; 122-127; 162-163.

At-home Assignment 3. How Did Ancient Jews Interpret the Bible?  
Due October

12. [October 1] Wisdom and Mysteries  
Read: RDSS Chap. 12; CWDSS pp. 140-143.

13 [October 6] The Pesharim  


At-home Assignment 4. What are the Mishnah and Talmud?  
Due October 13
15. [October 13] The Theology of Jewish Law
Read: RDSS Chap. 15.


Online Midterm Examination—Available October 15-18

17. [October 20] The Strange Case of the Temple Scroll
Read: RDSS Chap. 16; CWDSS pp. 154-160.

18. [October 22] The Law of the Sect
Read: RDSS Chap. 17; CWDSS pp. 132-133.

19. [October 27] Prayer and Ritual
Read: RDSS Chap. 18; CWDSS pp. 94-95; 133-135; 144.

Quiz 4 available October 25-28

20. [October 29] Messianism
Read: RDSS Chap. 19; CWDSS pp. 128-131; 162-163.


At-home Assignment 5: What Does it Mean to Predict the End of Times?
Due November 5

22. [November 5] Eschatology
Read: RDSS Chap. 20; CWDSS pp. 92-93

23. [November 10] Some Controversial Texts

Read: RDSS Chap. 22; CWDSS pp. 146-149.

Quiz 5 available November 10-13

25. [November 17] Jews and Gentiles
Read: RDSS Chap. 23.

26. [November 19] Jerusalem

27. [November 24] The Transition to Rabbinic Judaism
Read: RDSS Chap. 25; CWDSS pp. 192-195.
November 26—No Class. Happy Thanksgiving!

28. [December 1] The Scrolls and Christianity
Read: CWDSS pp. 200-203.

At-home Assignment 6: Can the Scrolls Help us Understand Early Christianity?

29. [December 3] Conclusion

**Required Textbooks:**
- **CWDSS** = *Complete World of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, by Philip Davies, George Brooke, and Phillip Callaway (London: Thames and Hudson, 2002).

**Recommended Textbooks:**
- **DSSB** = *The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible*, by Martin Abegg and Peter Flint (San Francisco: Harper, 2002).

**Grading:**
- 5 Quizzes 20%
- Midterm 10%
- Final 10%
- 6 At-home Assignments (2-3 pages each) 60%

**At-home Assignments:** There will be six class days throughout the semester when assignments you will prepare at home. These assignments will ask you to explore in more details issues related to the course. Usually you will read some articles or watch videos on the internet. At other times, you might be asked to read certain Dead Sea Scrolls texts and then analyze them. After you do this investigative work, you will write a short paper summarizing the results of your findings. These papers should be 2-3 pages in length. If you make quotations in these papers, you should cite your sources, but if you are only summarizing information, you don’t need citations. These at-home assignments will usually be due on Mondays or Tuesdays in a drop-box on Canvas.

**Academic Honesty:** Each student is expected to do his or her own work. It is absolutely unacceptable to submit someone else’s work as your own. This is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade (F) for the assignment and possible disciplinary action. Thus, when in the course of writing your paper you quote or paraphrase an idea found in one of your sources you must give credit to the original author (usually by means of a footnote).

**Academic Conduct:** Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly
demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Examinations: Both midterm and final examinations may be a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching and essay questions. The final examination is not cumulative—it covers only material from the second half of the semester.

Attendance: An absolutely essential part of the course! Although not computed in your final grade, some material will inevitably be covered in class that is not to be found in the textbook so that each absence negatively affects your ability to do well on the tests. So please come, ask questions, and learn.

Syllabus Note on Internet Use in Research: You may cite from the internet in your papers, but you must be discerning. Anyone can post “information” on the internet, and thus some of what is there is inaccurate, incomplete, and sometimes even blatantly untrue. As in print collections in libraries, only scholarly articles on the internet are acceptable as sources for research papers.

Internet articles should ideally have authors. Some will list individual authors; others will list institutions as sources. The credibility of the information depends on the credibility of the source. Acceptable sources include individual scholars with academic credentials, educational institutions (e.g., Institute of Reformation History, Princeton University), publicly supported national or international institutions (e.g. the World Health Organization or the National Institutes of Health) or other well known institutions with credible reputations (e.g. the World Council of Churches, the Childrens’ Defense Fund). Most educational institutions have addresses which end with the letters “edu.” You must use your judgment since many reputable institutions may not be well known by most students. Also, sometimes websites may list a university as the place from which the material emanates, but which does not sponsor or in any way support the information on that site. (You could set up a website that lists FIU as its origin, and purports that the Pope died last month and was replaced by a ringer!).

There will be some internet sources the reliability of which will be difficult to assess. Sometimes you must judge by the tone and range of an article. If it reads like a magazine or newspaper article and cites none of the sources it used, it is not scholarly. You should ask whether the article demonstrates balance: Does it attempt to tell all sides of the story? Does it ask critical questions of the material it covers? How well does its treatment accord with other treatments of the same material you have found? If you would really like to cite an internet article but have doubts about its acceptability, look up the institution or the author on the internet or in the library. Has the author or institution published other works? Have those been reviewed or cited by other scholars?

When you cite from the internet, you must list the entire address on the web where you found the information and the date you accessed it.
The following are some bibliographic entries:

Musa, Edward, “The Art of the Maya.”

Zarabozo, Jamaal, “Is Family Planning Allowed in Islam?”
http://www.albany.edu/~ha4934/famplan.html. 4/21/20.

**Zoom classes:** We will hold our classes by Zoom. Please note the passcode that you will need to enter. Here are the details:

Erik Larson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic:** REL3209 U01 RLG5284 U01 1208  
**Time:** Aug 25, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Every week on Tue, Thu, until Dec 3, 2020, 30 occurrence(s)  
Aug 25, 2020 11:00 AM  
Aug 27, 2020 11:00 AM  
Sep 1, 2020 11:00 AM  
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Dec 3, 2020 11:00 AM
Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. Weekly:
https://fiu.zoom.us/meeting/tJUpduqorj0tGNaOOIcOthQuG3vGxoS70DRT/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCpqjopGtSTtxuFRowcBoj4b_TziCFajY1cszDMAA9HajLjEbFUFapw14-A

Join Zoom Meeting
https://fiu.zoom.us/j/91413006722?pwd=bXFkWGxWQTfpUzM0YVVVRHQ2TkZIZ309

Meeting ID: 914 1300 6722
Passcode: 7n703w
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,91413006722# US (Chicago)
+16468769923,,91413006722# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
Meeting ID: 914 1300 6722
Find your local number: https://fiu.zoom.us/u/adUrQmv31T

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162.255.37.11 (US West)
162.255.36.11 (US East)
115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)
115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)
213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)
213.244.140.110 (Germany)
103.122.166.55 (Australia)
209.9.211.110 (Hong Kong SAR)
64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
69.174.57.160 (Canada)
207.226.132.110 (Japan)
Meeting ID: 914 1300 6722
Passcode: 116039