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Fall 2006  
T, Th, 6; SCILS 103

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### DEAD SEA SCROLLS (563:340)

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls was one of the most dramatic archaeological finds of the twentieth century. Since their discovery, in 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls have been the subject of intense study and debate, and have profoundly influenced the way in which we understand the ancient Jewish world, as well as the origins of Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism. In this class we will examine a number of the Dead Sea Scrolls, attempting to understand them within their original historical context, as well as their significance for later Jewish and Christian traditions. All readings are in English.

#### Texts:

There are three required books:

*The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English*, translated by Geza Vermes (the Penguin Classics Edition).

*The Dead Sea Scrolls Today* by James VanderKam (Grand Rapids, MI, 1994).

Both of these have been ordered at the Rutgers bookstore, though if you run into any difficulties they are both available via Amazon etc.

You will also need a full Bible (Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and New Testament). Since many students have bibles I have not ordered them via the bookstore, but if you are planning on buying one, both the Oxford Study Bible and the HarperCollins Study Bible are recommended.

In addition to these texts, the class will be using the Sakai website ([sakai.rutgers.edu](http://sakai.rutgers.edu)), where I will post additional readings for the class.

#### Course requirements:

I cannot emphasize enough that attendance and preparation are key to your success in the course. The class is built on our reading and discussing ancient texts, so being part of the classroom community is essential. A significant number of unexcused absences (more than five) will affect your grade; twelve unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. Attendance does not simply mean being physically present. You need to prepare the readings and be ready to contribute to class conversation.

Reading of primary texts (=the Dead Sea Scrolls themselves) is critical. I will provide you with preparation sheets for the primary readings and they are part of the assignment.

#### Grade:

The course grade will consist of class participation and preparedness (20%), a midterm (30%), and a final (50%).

Our final is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00-11:00 a.m., and will be held in our classroom.

**Week 1**

9/5-9/7: Class introduction; preliminary outline of historical period. Reading: Seltzer, *Jewish People, Jewish Thought* chapter 5.

**Week 2**

9/12-9/14: Historical Survey. Reading: S. Cohen, *From the Maccabees to the Mishnah*, chapter 4.

**Week 3**

9/19-9/21: The Discovery of the Scrolls. Reading: VanderKam, chapters 1, 2 (skim), 3, and 4.

**Week 4**

9/26-9/28: The Community Rule (1QS) 1.1-3.25.

**Week 5**

10/3- 10/5: The Community Rule (1QS) 4.1-6.24

**Week 6**

10/10-10/12: The Community Rule (1QS) 6.25-10.5

**Week 7**

10/17: The Damascus Document 1.1-14.20

10/19: **Midterm**

**Week 8**

10/24-10/26: Peshar Habakkuk (1QpHab) 1.1-13.2

**Week 9**

10/31-11/2: The Scrolls and the New Testament. Reading: Matthew 5.1-5.48

**Week 10**

11/8-11/9: The Scrolls and the New Testament. Reading: Matthew 6.1-7.28

**Week 11**

11/14-11/16: The Scrolls and the New Testament. Reading: Romans 1.1-3.31

**Week 12**

11/21: The Scrolls and the New Testament. Reading: Hebrews 1.1-13.25

11/23: No class, Thanksgiving.

**Week 13**

11/28-11/30: The Scrolls and Rabbinic Judaism. Reading: MMT (Some Observances of the Law) (4Q394-399).

**Week 14**

12/5-12/7: The Scrolls and Rabbinic Judaism. Reading: Songs for the Holocaust of the Sabbath (4Q400-407).

**Week 15**

12/12: Conclusion