

General Information

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July 31—August 3, 8:30am—3:30pm

Course Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to deepen our experience, understanding, and communication of God's Word found in the Bible through a close study of the sites and documents of the Dead Sea. We will do this by gaining a familiarity with the sites and the texts that comprise the Dead Sea Scrolls and their value for the study of textual history of the Bible and for theological reception/interpretation of the Old Testament. This study will consider the evidence at the historical sites, the literary features and content of the texts, and the current state of scholarly inquiry.

Students will be required to demonstrate:

1. a grasp of the relevant history and academic interest in the texts of the Judean desert,
2. a familiarity with the content of the sectarian texts, and
3. a fluency in the theologies and interpretations present in the Dead Sea communities.

Course Materials

James C. VanderKam, *The Dead Seas Scrolls Today* (2nd. edition; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010)

Florentino García Martínez and Eibert J. C. Tigchelaar, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition* (2 vols.; Leiden: Brill, 1999)

Charlotte Hempel, *The Community Rules from Qumran*, (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2023)

Supplemental Readings available on the course webpage.

Course Assignments

- Class discussion and reading (50%).
- Research paper (**due date: August 25**) will treat a variety of issues brought up in the class. 3000 words (50%).

Professor: Scott Redd
 Campus: Washington
 Date: Summer 2023

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Knowledge of biblical theological study will be presented and articulated in class discussion and written assignments.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	The course is primarily concerned with the themes that arise throughout the Scriptures. Research will be approached as a means to interpretation and exhortation.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Reformed notions of the biblical interpretation and redemptive history will be thoroughly examined in this class
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Rigorous, prayerful engagement with the biblical text and theological tradition for the purpose of learning, spiritual growth and maturity is encouraged.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Study of the Scriptures will hone students' perspective on the world and their role in it.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	Study of the Scriptures provides an avenue through which faithful scholars communicate the teaching of Scripture in a way that is less bound by native culture.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Capacity to work with the Scriptures and theological tradition will enhance a student's ability to interpret and preach from Scripture.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	The topic of worship is limited to its presence in the text of the prophetic books, and the role of Scripture as a means of grace.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Minimal	Again, knowledge of the themes in biblical theology enhance knowledge of Scripture in general and ability to shepherd scripturally.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Knowledge of the prophetic books will help students develop categories for church / world involvement.