



# The Dead Sea Scrolls

HIST 3910-002 Spring 2017

*(Open to all majors)*

Prof. Bradley J. Parker

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## Course Description

The Dead Sea Scrolls are one of the most important, and enigmatic, discoveries of the last century. Containing some of the oldest known surviving copies of parts of the Hebrew Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls are of great historical, religious and linguistic significance. This one-day one-unit course explores the Dead Sea Scrolls and their archaeological and historical context. It meets on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 4:00pm. The class will consist of three 50-minute lectures and a discussion of a short student project. The first lecture focuses on the intricate story of the discovery of the scrolls. The second lecture concentrates on the archaeological context of the scrolls and the associated site of Qumran. The third lecture is an explanation of the historical context within which the Dead Sea Scrolls were written. The lectures will be followed by a short discussion of an artifact-based project that students will be required to undertake to receive credit for the class.

## Lecture Schedule

### **Part 1 (12:00-12:50):**

The Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls

### **Part 2 (1:00 to 1:50):**

The Archaeological Context of the Dead Sea Scrolls

### **Part 3 (2:00 to 2:50):**

The Historical Context of the Dead Sea Scrolls

### **Part 4 (3:00 to 3:50)**

Discussion of Student Projects

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students will gain an intimate knowledge of the archaeological and historical context of the Dead Sea Scrolls. They will also learn the basics of “artifact analysis” which they will later use to compose a short paper about a particular artifact of the student’s choosing.

### **Requirements**

To receive credit, students are required to attend to class and write a short (5 pgs. 1.5 spaced) paper on an artifact-based student project that students will undertake in the week following the class. The paper will be due via email one week after the class is concluded (Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>). Only students who attend the class and turn in the paper will receive credit. The paper should be sent directly to me at [Bradley.J.Parker@utah.edu](mailto:Bradley.J.Parker@utah.edu)

### **Attendance**

Students are required to attend.

### **Readings**

There are two books that are recommended reading and/or reference for this class. They are:

*The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation*  
Michael O. Wise, Martin G. Abegg, Edward M. Cook

*The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls*  
By Jodi Magness

### **Equal Access**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

### **Office Hours**

My office hours are:  
10:00 to 11:00 Mondays and Wednesdays in CTIHB 213, or by appointment.

### **Grading**

Attendance: 75%  
Paper = 25%