

The Temple and the Scrolls: Second Temple Judaism

REL/JSP 307

Fall 2012

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:50

Shaffer Art Building 121

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 and by appointment

Purpose

The purpose of this class is to study the period of Judaism known as the “Second Temple” era, named after the temple in Jerusalem that existed from 515 B.C.E. to 70 C.E. During this time, Judaism took many divergent forms, including that of the temple priests, the Pharisaic precursors to Rabbinic Judaism, apocalyptic and ascetic groups, and the Jesus movement. It is thus a vital era for the understanding of both contemporary Judaism and Christianity. The class will approach this material by focusing on two aspects of this era: the temple itself, and the texts known as the “Dead Sea Scrolls”.

Goals

By the end of this course, students should:

- Have knowledge of the literary sources of this era of formative Judaism
- Understand how these sources are used for the reconstruction of ancient history
- Understand the complexity of Jewish thought for the time period
- Understand how religious opinions, practices and institutions were related to the pressing political and social circumstances of the time

Required Texts: (available at the campus bookstore in Schine Student Center):

1. Lawrence Schiffman. *Texts and Traditions: A Source Reader for the Study of Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism* (KTAV, 1998)

2. James C. VanderKam, *An Introduction to Early Judaism* (Eerdmans, 2001).

All other readings are taken from the Bible or are posted on Blackboard. You may want to purchase either *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (New Revised Standard Version), which is available at the bookstore, or another version of the Hebrew Bible such as *The Jewish Study Bible* (Tanakh/New Jewish Publication Society Version)

Class Requirements:

- 1. Prepared participation in class sessions (10%).** Come to class having read the assignments and prepared to discuss them. **More than two unexcused absences will result in failure for this requirement.**
- 2. A class presentation and short paper on one of the Dead Sea Scrolls (20%). Presentations will be on Tuesday, 11/13.** Directions will be handed out and discussed in class.
- 3. Two tests (20% each): The first is on October 2nd and the second is on October 30th.**
- 4. A final exam (30%) on December 13th,** which is during the **exam period.**

Disability: If you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) located at 804 University Avenue, Room 309, at <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented disabilities “Accommodation Authorization Letters” as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

Plagiarism: The University makes the following statement about plagiarism:

“Syracuse University sets high standards for academic integrity. Those standards are supported and enforced by students, including those who serve as academic integrity hearing panel members and hearing officers. The presumptive sanction for a first offense is course failure, accompanied by the transcript notation “Violation of the Academic Integrity Policy.” The standard sanction for a first offense by graduate students is suspension or expulsion. Students should review the Office of Academic Integrity online resource “[Twenty Questions and Answers About the Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy](#)” and confer with instructors about course-specific citation methods, permitted collaboration (if any), and rules for examinations. [The Policy](#) also governs the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. Additional guidance for students can be found in the Office of Academic Integrity resource: “[What does academic integrity mean?](#)”

Plagiarizing in this class will result in failure and will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. You may, and are encouraged to, study with fellow classmates, but all written materials must be your own work. For further information, see the links below and consult with the instructor.

Class Topics and Assignments:

Please note that you may miss classes and tests for religious observance provided you give notification by September 9, 2012. You may do so online through MySlice/Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances. SU's policy can be found at http://supolicies.syr.edu/studs/religious_observance.htm

T. 8/28 Introduction to the Course and the Era

Th. 8/30 First Temple in Jerusalem

Bible: Review the Story of Israel as given in Nehemiah 9. Read 1 Samuel 4-6, 2 Samuel 6; 1 Kings 5:15-6:38; 7:45-8:64; 12:1-33.

T. 9/4 The Fall of the First Temple and Exile

Bible: 2 Kings 16-20, 25; Leviticus 26; Ezekiel 11; Lamentations 2

Th. 9/6 Idealizing the Temple

Bible: Ezekiel 40; 46; Exodus 25-26; 40; Leviticus 8-9

T. 9/11 Building the Second Temple

VanderKam: 175-85, 193-211; **Schiffman:** 93-96

Th. 9/13 The Temple Community

VanderKam: 1-11; **Schiffman** 65-73 **Bible:** Isaiah 44:24-45:8

T. 9/18 High priests and kings

VanderKam: 11-32; **Schiffman** 151-169, 240-247

Th. 9/20 Other Temples

VanderKam: 147-150; **Schiffman:** 73-79; 130-33; 180-82

T. 9/25 Synagogues

VanderKam: 211-13; **Schiffman** 472-74

Th. 9/27 Second Temple Destroyed

VanderKam: 41-49, 166-173; **Schiffman:** 429-439, 457-471

T. 10/2 **TEST #1**

Th. 10/4 Torah

Bible: Deuteronomy 5-6, 30-31; **Schiffman:** 29-39

T. 10/9 Prophets

Schiffman: 50-59; 109-117

Th. 10/11 Wisdom

Schiffman: 59-64, 330-335

T. 10/16 Apocalyptic

Bible: Daniel 7, 12; **Schiffman** 340-341, 359-61, 365-66; **VanderKam** 102-115

Th. 10/18 Jubilees

VanderKam 94-100; **Schiffman** 342-54

T. 10/23 Parties in Second Temple Judaism
Schiffman: 231-34, 266-75; **VanderKam** 186-90

Th. 10/25 Philo and Josephus
VanderKam: 138-146; **Schiffman** 203-206, 220-230, 479-486

T. 10/30 TEST #2

Th. 11/1 The Dead Sea Scrolls: Discovery and Controversy
Blackboard: VanderKam, “Discovery”

T. 11/6 The Dead Sea Scrolls: Essenes and others
VanderKam: 150-66, 191-93, **Schiffman:** 275-300

Th. 11/8 The Dead Sea Scrolls: Theological and Ritual Perspectives
Schiffman: 354-366

T. 11/13 Dead Sea Scrolls: Class Presentations and Biblical Texts

Th. 11/15 Scripture and Canon
Schiffman: 117-120; 306-308

T. 11/20 Thanksgiving Break

Th. 11/22 Thanksgiving Break

T. 11/27 The Jesus Movement I

Bible: Mark 1-16; Matthew 1-6

Th. 11/29 The Jesus Movement II

Bible: Acts 1-4, 9-10, 15:1-35; Galatians 1-2; **Schiffman:** 421-27

T. 12/4 From the Pharisees to Rabbinic Judaism

Schiffman: 503-522

Th. 12/6 Conclusions

FINAL EXAM THURSDAY 12/13 3-5 pm