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OT 710 Text and Canon of the Old Testament

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TEXT AND CANON OF THE OLD TESTAMENT OT710
COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring, 1999
Instructor: J. N. Oswalt

I. Course Goals

- A. To acquaint students with the nature of the Qumran community and with the circumstances of its rediscovery.
- B. To acquaint students with the general content of the non-Biblical writing at Qumran.
- C. To provide students with experience in the theory and practice of text-criticism as it is applied to Old Testament materials, especially in the light of Qumran.
- D. To enable students to gain first-hand knowledge of the contributions of the Qumran scrolls to present theories of the development of Hebrew text.
- E. To acquaint students with current theories of the process of canonization of the Old Testament, especially as this relates to what is currently known as canonical criticism.
- F. To strengthen the student's grasp upon Hebrew (and the Greek of the Septuagint).

II. Plan for Conducting the Course

- A. Method of Instruction: A modified seminar approach, including lectures on introductory topics, student presentations, and daily assignments.
- B. Types of Assignments:
 1. Each student will prepare two papers not to exceed 2000 words each. The first will discuss the nature and content of one of the non-Biblical scrolls, and the second will deal with some aspect of the formation of the OT canon. Both papers will be presented in class on the dates indicated in the attached schedule.
 2. The reading and translation of certain passages in the Biblical scrolls. In addition, students will be expected to compare these with their counterparts in the Massoretic Text and in the Septuagint and to reach conclusions concerning the most probable original reading. A collection of duplicated copies of the primary readings will be made available in class for a nominal charge.
 3. Readings from secondary sources as noted on the schedule below.
Required texts are:
Brotzman, Ellis R., *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
Bruce, F. F., *The Canon of Scripture*, Downers Grove, IL: IVP,
Vanderkam, James, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
Wise, Michael, *et. al.*, *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation*, San Francisco: Harper/Collins, 1996.

A recommended text is:

Wurthwein, Ernst, *The Text of the Old Testament*, 4th ed., tr. E. F. Rhodes, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979.

Students should also own critical editions of the Massoretic Text and the Septuagint, such as *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* and *Septuaginta* (Rahlfs).

Other helpful readings may be found in the select bibliography below.

C. Evaluation: The final course grade will be computed on the basis of the following:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Class performance | 1/3 |
| 2. Papers | 1/3 |
| 3. Examinations | 1/3 |

III. Tentative Schedule

Feb. 9 Introduction

11 The Finds: The Historical Context	Vanderkam pp. 1-27 Wise pp. 3-13, 36-37 (Trever pp. 13-113)
16 The Historical Context	Vanderkam pp. 71-119 Wise pp. 13-35 (Tushingham pp. 785-808)
18 The Community and Christianity	Vanderkam pp. 121-185 (Brotzman pp. 87-96)
23 Text Criticism	Brotzman pp. 9-24; 97-132
25 Text Criticism, Paleography	Brotzman pp. 133-170 (Cross pp. 170-264)
Mar. 2 Reports	Vanderkam pp. 29-70 (Wise)
4 Reports	(Wise)
9 Isaiah 6	
11 Isaiah 6	Brotzman pp. 25-35
16 Isaiah 58	
18 Isaiah 58	
23 Isaiah 58	Brotzman pp. 37-62

25	Examination	
30	Pss. 131, 141	
Apr. 1	Pss. 141-144	Brotzman pp. 63-85
13	1 Sam. 1:22-2:6	
15	1 Samuel 2:16-25	
20	Exodus 32:10-30	
22	Exodus 32:10-30; Jeremiah 48:25-39	
27	Jeremiah 48:25-39	
29	Growth of the Canon	Bruce
May 4	Growth of the Canon	Bruce
6	Papers	
11	Papers	
13	Papers	
17	Final examination	

IV. Select Bibliography

- Barthelemy, D. *Critique Textuelle de L'Ancien Testament*. Gottingen. 1982- . (Two volumes completed; others in progress.)
 and J. T. Milik. *Qumran Cave 1. Discoveries in the Judean Desert [of Jordan] 1*. Oxford, 1955.
 This series (DJD, or DJDJ), now running to 14 volumes, is the official publication of the Scrolls.
- Barr, James. *Holy Scripture: Canon, Authority, Criticism*. Philadelphia, 1983.
- Beckwith, R., *The Old Testament Canon of the New Testament Church*. Grand Rapids, 1985.
- Bickermann, E., *Jews in the Greek Age*. Cambridge, Mass. 1988.
- Burrows, M., *The Dead Sea Scrolls*. New York. 1961.
- Charlesworth, J. H., ed. *Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls: The Controversy Resolved*. Garden City, NY, 1997.

- Cross, *The Ancient Library of Qumran and Modern Biblical Studies*. Garden City, N.Y. 1961.
- * "The Development of the Jewish Scriptures." *The Bible and the Ancient Near East*. Ed. G. E. Wright. Garden City, N.Y. 1961.
- * and Talmon S. eds., *Qumran and the History of the Biblical Text*. Cambridge, MA, 1976.
- Golb, N., "Khiret Qumran and the Manuscripts of the Judean Wilderness," *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 49 (1990), 103-114.
- Who Wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls*. New York, 1994.
- Goshen-Gottstein, M. H., "The Theory and Practice of Textual Criticism." *Textus* III. Jerusalem. 1963.
- Gowan, D., *Bridge Between the Testaments*. Rev. ed. Pittsburg, Pa. 1980.
- Jagersma, H., *A History of Israel from Alexander the Great to Bar Kochba*. Fortress, 1986.
- Klein, R., *Text Criticism of the Old Testament*. Philadelphia. 1974.
- McCarter, P. Kyle. *Textual Criticism: Recovering the Text of the Hebrew Bible*. Philadelphia, 1986
- Rost, L., *Judaism Outside the Hebrew Canon*. Tr. D.E. Green. New York. 1976.
- Russell, D. S., *Between the Testaments*. Rev. ed. Philadelphia. 1965.
- Schiffman, L. H. *Reclaiming the Dead Sea Scrolls*. New York, 1994.
- "The Significance of the Scrolls,"
- Tov, E. "Hebrew Biblical Manuscripts from the Judean Desert: Their Contribution to Text Criticism," *Journal of Jewish Studies* 39:1 (Sp. 1988), 5-37.
- The Text-Critical Use of the Septuagint in Biblical Research*. Jerusalem, 1981
- Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis, 1992.
- *Trever, J., *The Untold Story of Qumran*. Westwood, N.J. 1965.
- *Tushingham, A. D., "The Men Who Hid the Dead Sea Scrolls." *The National Geographic*. 114 (1958) 785-808.
- Vermes, G., *The Dead Sea Scrolls: Qumran in Perspective*. New York. 1979.
- Weingreen, J., *Introduction to the Critical Study of the text of the Old Testament*. Oxford, 1982.
- Wise, M. et al., "Methods of Investigation of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Khirbet Qumran Site," *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. 722 (1994).

Items marked with an asterisk (*) may be found on the reserve shelf.

The bibliography on the Dead Sea Scrolls now runs into the thousands. Wise offers a helpful selection.

Though the Old Testament reveals no formal notion of inspiration, the later Jews at least must have possessed the idea (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21). There is an instance of a Talmudic doctor distinguishing between a composition "given by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit" and one supposed to be the product of merely human wisdom. There are both psychological and historical reasons against the supposition that the Old Testament canon grew spontaneously by a kind of instinctive public recognition of inspired books. True, it is quite reasonable to assume that the prophetic office in Israel carried its own credentials, which in a large measure extended to its written compositions. reference to the Canon and Text of the Old Testament. As expanded and recast in the German edition, the Author expresses the hope that it may prove useful to theological students. For the English edition Professor Buhl has supplied some additional references to the most recent literature, and at. Testament," in which also the collection of the Old Testament writings is treated. Surveys of this literature will be found in the following among other treatises : Scholz (Catholic), EinUitung in die heiligen Schriflen des Alien und Neuen Testa- menics,i. 184 5, p. 3 ff Keil, Lehrbuch der Uistorisch-kritiselich . As the Scriptures themselves reveal, the Old Testament is essentially a Levitical document"canonized under the authority of the Aaronic priesthood. Canonization"as it is called from the Greek kanon, meaning "rule or measuring rod" is a process by which a collection of writings come to be considered authoritative, definitive and fixed by a particular religious authority. Numerous texts were known historically to exist alongside the Scriptures"and many were purported to be sacred. Thus, the texts which make up the Old Testament were canonized in order to assure their singular position as the inspired Word of God. Outline of Bible-related topics Bible portal . v. t. e. The Old Testament is the first section of the two-part Christian biblical canon; the second section is the New Testament. The Old Testament includes the books of the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh) or protocanon, and in various Christian denominations also includes deuterocanonical books. Orthodox Christians, Catholics and Protestants use different canons, which differ with respect to the texts that are included in the Old Testament. Study of the OT canon in such circles is a study of the history of the growth of the error of Biblical acceptance and belief on the part of the Christian Church. It is clear that conservative and liberal Christians approach the subject of the OT canon from very different viewpoints. It is more important to assess the evidence bearing on the subject with care, and also to judge whether opposition to the historic view of the canon stems from compelling argument or from theories previously adopted on other grounds. The conservative scholar is not without bias. He freely confesses that full inform