

Qumran Hebrew: reading course

Tania Notarius

Qumran Hebrew is the language of sectarian writings found in Qumran caves in the second part of the last century. It is the latest stage in the development of Biblical Hebrew, spoken and written in the Land of Israel at the end of the Second Temple Period, mainly in the Roman period. The language is characterized by intensive imitation of classical biblical style, but many elements of late biblical Hebrew of the Persian period are equally noticeable, as well as some specific elements typical only for this type of Hebrew.

Length: 15 academic hours

Pre-requisite: level 4 in Biblical Hebrew, level gimel in Modern Hebrew. The reading course is designed for the second-year students, or students that have equivalent qualification.

Description and method: the class is held in target language, corresponding to the level of students (allowing combination of Biblical and Modern Hebrew). It includes a short introduction into the literature of Qumran and the reading of selected passages from the Qumran biblical scrolls, Sectarian Scroll, Damascus Covenant, Temple Scroll, Hodayot Scroll, and Peshar Habakkuk. The reading will be combined with the explanation of new words and thought-provoking notions, exercises in vocabulary and grammatical forms, dialogues and quizzes, including elements from studied text.

Bibliography:

Discoveries in the Judaean Desert (DJD). Oxford: Clarendon, 1955–.

Qimron, E. 2010. *Megillot Midbar Yehuda: Ha-Ḥiburim ha-’Ivriyim*. Jerusalem: Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi

M.G. Abegg et al., *The Dead Sea Scrolls Concordance: The Non-Biblical Texts*. Leiden 2002.

Reymond, E. D. 2014 *Qumran Hebrew: An Overview of Orthography, Phonology, and Morphology*. Society of Biblical Lit.