Objective
The goal of this course is for you to attain a foundational understanding of Jewish Hellenistic literature (including documents from Qumran) by studying selected texts within their historical, cultural and literary settings.

Requirements
1. Read the prescribed pages from the textbooks and the passages listed under the rubric “Texts” in each day’s assignment.
2. Attend class, ask questions, and take good notes. The assigned readings offer important introductions and discussions, but they are a starting point. The class sessions will supplement, clarify, and query those readings, especially as we examine specific, representative passages.
3. Write three examinations: February 19, April 2, and May 13. These exams will test your knowledge of the readings and the material covered in class. EACH EXAM COVERS ONLY THE MATERIAL SINCE THE PREVIOUS EXAM. Barring extraordinary circumstances, you are expected to take the exam at the time it is scheduled.
4. If you are registered for honors credit, please contact me early in the term.

Required Texts and Resources

Additional articles and texts will be supplied in digital form by the professor (marked DC in the syllabus). Readings from the Bible, the Apocrypha, and Jewish Hellenistic texts are accessible via links embedded in the online syllabus.

A class email list is available (classics346-1-s16), which I will use to announce new posts to the web site or any other communication relevant to the course. Moreover, anyone in the class may submit a query or comment for discussion outside of class. All posts to the list are expected to be germane to the course and show proper respect for other class members.
Grades
Your final grade will be a composite of your grade on the exams, with the second and third exams weighted more heavily than the first (25%, 35%, and 40%).

Office Hours
I will be available in my office (958 Van Hise) 12:20-1:15 on Tuesdays and 10:00-10:50 on Wednesdays. If neither of these times is compatible with your schedule, please contact me (rltroxel@wisc.edu) to arrange an appointment.

Class Schedule

Key to abbreviations:

NB = George Nickelsburg, *Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishnah*

VK = James VanderKam, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today*

DC = Digital Copy – Reading supplied by professor as a digital copy.

Texts = Readings from the Bible, Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, etc., all of which are accessible via links in the online syllabus. (Some "Texts" are accessible via ER assignments, as noted.)

Week One
January 19  Israel’s Origins and Traditions
WEB A narrative summary of Israel’s history is available
January 21  Jewish Roots
NB 8-14
Texts Isaiah 56; Haggai 1-2; Jonah 1-4; Nehemiah 7:73-8:8

Week Two
January 26  Greek Origins
DC John Collins, “Retrieving the World of Ancient Judaism”
January 28  Hellenism
NB 41-43 (down to "Literature Attributed to Enoch")

Week Three
February 2  Bewilderment: Qoheleth/Ecclesiastes
DC James Crenshaw, “Ecclesiastes – Odd Book In”
Text Qoheleth/Ecclesiastes 1-12
February 4  Confrontation: 1 & 2 Maccabees
NB 102-110
Text 1 Maccabees 1-3; 2 Maccabees 3-6

Week Four
February 9  Confrontation: Daniel 7-12 and Apocalyptic
NB 17-26 (top), 77-83
Text Daniel 7-12
February 11  Confrontation: 1 Enoch
   NB 43-53
   Text 1 Enoch 1-36

Week Five
February 16  Assimilation: Ben Sirach
   NB 53-63
   Text Sira 1-5; 15; 44-50 (skim these final 6 chapters)
February 18  EXAM

Week Six
February 23  Apologetic: Letter of Aristeas
   NB 196-199 (top)
   Text The Letter of Aristeas
February 25  Adaptation: Aristobulous, 4 Maccabees
   NB 256-259
   DC (Text) Aristobulous
   Text 4 Maccabees

Week Seven
March 1  Adaptation: Philo of Alexandria
   NB 212-221
   DC Louis Feldman, “Philo”
   DC (Text) “On the Creation” §§17-19, 72-75 and “On the Special Laws” IV,
   §§100-115
March 3  Wariness: Testaments of the Twelve
   NB 302-315
   Text Testaments of Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Issachar

Week Eight
March 8  Testament of Job, Life of Adam and Eve (& Apocalypse of Moses)
   NB 315-322, 327-332
   DC (Text) Testament of Job 1-27 (each chapter is very short)
   Text Life of Adam and Eve
March 10  Exemplary characters: Joseph and Aseneth
   NB 332-338
   Text Joseph and Aseneth 1-21 (each chapter is short)

Week Nine
March 15  Exemplary characters: Judith, Tobit
   NB 29-35, 97-102
   DC Levine, Amy Jill “Tobit: Teaching Jews How to Live in the Diaspora”
   Text Judith 1-16; Tobit 1-5
March 17 Rewritten Bible: The Book of Jubilees  
**NB** 69-74  
**Text** The Book of Jubilees 1-3, 6, 30:1-17  

******** SPRING BREAK ********

**Week Ten**  
March 29 Rewritten Bible: Psuedo-Philo (Book of Biblical Antiquities)  
**NB** 265-270  
**DC (Texts)** The Book of Biblical Antiquities 3, 32-33  
March 31 **EXAM**

**Week Eleven**  
April 5 Wisdom Literature: Wisdom of Solomon, 4Q184, 4Q185  
**NB** 205-212  
**VK** 67-68  
**Text** Sira 24; Wisdom of Solomon 1-2, 7-8  
April 7 **TBA**

**Week Twelve**  
April 12 Jewish Hellenistic Psalms  
**NB** 132-137 ("The Thanksgiving Hymns"), 238-247 ("The Psalms of Solomon")  
**VK** 62-64  
**DC (Text)** 1QH VIII X 10-30  
**Text** Psalms of Solomon 3, 8, 17  
April 14 Qumran: archaeology  
**VK** 1-27

**Week Thirteen**  
April 19 Qumran: identity and ideology  
**VK** 64-119 (beginning with “5. Eschatological Works”)  
**DC (Text)** Rule of the Community  
April 21 Qumran’s Primary Legal Codes  
**VK** 55-59 (through “c. The Temple Scroll”)  
**NB** 154-159  
**DC (Text)** Selections from the Community Rule and the Damascus Document

**Week Fourteen**  
April 26 Qumran: the sect’s history  
**VK** 43-54 (section on “Commentaries on Biblical Material”), 59-60 (on 4QMMT)  
**NB** 127-130 ("Pesharim" through "Commentary on Psalms"), 147-149 (4QMMT)  
**DC (Text)** Pesher on Habakkuk, 4QMMT  
April 28 Romans and Jews: The Sybilline Oracles  
**NB** 193-196 (top)  
**DC (Text)** Sybilline Oracles 3 & 5
Week Fifteen

May 3 Romans and Jews: 3 Maccabees, 2 Baruch
   NB 199-202, 277-283
   DC (Text) 2 Baruch 16-20, 44-47
   Texts 3 Maccabees 1-7

May 5 Romans and Jews: Josephus
   NB 288-296
   DC Louis Feldman, “Flavius Josephus”

EXAM May 10, 10:05-12:05 (location TBA)