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The Dead Sea Scrolls

Course Guidebook

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Professor Gary A. Rendsburg holds the Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History in the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University. He also serves as Chair of the Department of Jewish Studies and holds an appointment in the History Department. He previously taught at Canisius College from 1980 to 1986 and at Cornell University from 1986 to 2004.

Professor Rendsburg majored in English and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received his B.A. in 1975. He then pursued graduate work in Hebrew Studies at New York University and received his Ph.D. in 1980.

Professor Rendsburg's areas of special interest include literary approaches to the Bible, the history of the Hebrew language, the history of ancient Israel, and the development of Judaism in the postbiblical period. It is this last field that the subject of the Dead Sea Scrolls fits most prominently.

Professor Rendsburg held a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship and taught as a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Colgate University, the State University of New York at Binghamton, and the University of Sydney. He is a frequent guest of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he has twice served as Visiting Research Professor and has twice held the position of Visiting Fellow at the university's Institute for Advanced Studies.

Professor Rendsburg is the author of 6 books and more than 120 scholarly articles. His most popular book is a general survey of the biblical world entitled *The Bible and the Ancient Near East* (1997), coauthored with

the late Cyrus H. Gordon. His most recent book is *Solomon's Vineyard: Literary and Linguistic Studies in the Song of Songs* (2009), coauthored with Scott B. Noegel.

Professor Rendsburg has visited all the major archaeological sites in Israel, Egypt, and Jordan and has participated in excavations at Tel Dor and Caesarea. Most pertinent to this course, he has visited Qumran, the site of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, repeatedly over the span of several decades.

For more about Professor Rendsburg, visit <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/link/grendsburg>. ■

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