

Scriptures Lost and Found
Dr. Catherine Murphy
OLLI Spring 2014

First Class: From Quills to Computers

Worksheet for Your Questions

Video 1 Introduction

24 minutes, 11 seconds

This video introduces the Professor and the course. It explains the title "Scriptures: Lost and Found" and surveys the main questions that we'll be exploring in our month together. It shows you how to add your comments on the blog below the video, which will allow us to continue our conversation with each other outside of class.

Video 2 Manuscripts in the News

34 minutes, 36 seconds

This video presents manuscripts that have made the headlines in recent years, from the tiny *tefillin* of new Dead Sea Scrolls published in March 2014 to the *Gospel of Jesus' Wife* (September 2012), the lead Jesus tablets (March 2011), the Gabriel Revelation or Jeselsohn Stone (July 2008), and the *Gospel of Judas* (May 2006), to name just the most recent. It discusses why manuscripts often make the news, and alerts you to the "scripts" or narratives within which these discoveries are often placed (before they're even found!). It embeds a couple of video clips about manuscript discoveries so that you can see those scripts in action.

Video 3 The Truth behind the Bible

22 minutes, 53 seconds

This video discusses what you're really looking at when you open a Bible. Far from being one book, it is of course many books—but you could have guessed that from looking at its table of contents. What you might not know from the table of contents is how ancient each of these books is. That is, how close are the versions you're reading (in English translation, of course) to the "autograph" or original text we imagine each ancient author wrote (in Hebrew or Aramaic, for the Jewish scriptures, in Greek for the Christian books)? Do we have any of those original versions, and if not, what evidence for each book is available?

Video 4 Why the Manuscripts Matter

16 minutes, 59 seconds

This video explains how the gradual discovery of more and more manuscripts has influenced the "development" of the Bible in modern times. It explores the evidentiary basis for the main modern versions, from the King James Bible (1611) to the New Revised Standard Version (1990). It introduces the view of scripture in Judaism and in some of the main Christian denominations to explain why they might be more or less open to changing their Bibles in the wake of new manuscript discoveries.

Video 5 The Great Manuscript Discoveries

23 minutes, 31 seconds

This video describes the great manuscript discoveries of the 19th and 20th centuries that we will explore in our remaining three classes. You'll see when and where they were found, learn in general what was found in each cache, and explore how these discoveries have shaken up what we thought we knew about the Bible, Judaism and Christianity.

Video 6 Technology & the Texts

9 minutes, 30 seconds

This video shows you how technology is reshaping the study and publication of ancient manuscripts. From the online publication of the long scattered leaves of Codex Sinaiticus to Google's partnership with the Israel Antiquities Authority to put the Dead Sea Scrolls online, you'll get a first-hand look at some of the high-tech resources for analyzing and presenting the ancient texts.
