Syllabus

Franz Rosenzweig: The Star of Redemption - 14920

Last update 28-09-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Jewish thought

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Benjamin Pollock

Coordinator Email: benjamin.pollock@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Staff:
Prof
Course/Module description:
The Star of Redemption, written by Franz Rosenzweig at the end of the First World War, is one of the most original, most important (and unfortunately, most difficult) books of the Jewish philosophical tradition. This course will be dedicated to a careful reading of The Star. Our discussion of the philosophical and historical context of the book will deal especially with post-Kantian German philosophy, and the ways in which Rosenzweig grappled with and contributed to this tradition. We will discuss Rosenzweig's utilization of traditional Jewish concepts (creation, revelation, redemption) in order to present a novel philosophical position (Rosenzweig saw his book as contributing to a "New Thinking"). We will dedicate serious attention to questions regarding Rosenzweig's philosophical method. We will try to make sense of what Rosenzweig aimed to contribute to his readers through his book. And we'll ask: did he succeed? Why or why not?

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
- to read and to analyze a complex and deep philosophical text, in order to understand it both at the level of the whole, and at the level of its particular claims

Attendance requirements(%):
50%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: class reading, discussions, lectures here and there

Course/Module Content:
Lesson 1-2: Rosenzweig's Thought in its biographical and historical context
Lesson 3-4: On Death and Philosophy: Star of Redemption, Introduction to Part I
Lesson 5: Self-Construction of the Element of God (Part I, Book 1)
Lesson 6: Self-Construction of the Element of World (Part I, Book 2)
Lesson 7: Self-Construction of the Element of Self (Part I, Book 3)
Lesson 8: Achievements and Limitations of the Elements ("Transition" at the end of Part I)
Lesson 9-10: The Relation between Philosophy and Theology (Introduction to Part II)

Lesson 11-12: Creation (Part II, Book 1)
Lesson 13-14: Revelation (Part II, Book 2)
Lesson 15-16: Redemption (Part II, Book 3)
Lesson 17: Philosophy of Language in the Star, Part II
Lesson 18: "Threshold": End of Part II of the Star
Lesson 19-20: Faith, Redemption, and History: Introduction to Part III
Lesson 21-22: The Jewish People (Part III, Book 1)
Lesson 23: Christianity (Part III, Book 2)
Lesson 24-25: Truth (Part III, Book 3)
Lesson 26-27: Between Book and Life: The End of the Star of Redemption

Required Reading:
* F. Rosenzweig, The Star of Redemption (Der Stern der Erloesung), according to the schedule listed above in "Course/Module Content"
* "Franz Rosenzweig", Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy:
  http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rosenzweig/

Additional Reading Material:
Recommended Readings:
F. Rosenzweig, Philosophical and Theological Writings (2000)
Batnitzky, Leora, Idolatry and Representation: The Philosophy of Franz Rosenzweig Reconsidered (2000)
Bienenstock, Myriam, Cohen face x Rosenzweig: Dibat sur la pensee allemande (2009)
Casper, Bernhard, Das Dialogische Denken: Eine Untersuchung der religionsphilosophischen Bedeutung Franz Rosenzweigs, Ferdinand Ebners und Martin Buber (1967)
Gibbs, Robert, Correlations in Rosenzweig and Levinas (1992)
Gordon, Peter, Rosenzweig and Heidegger: Between Judaism and German Philosophy (2003)
Mendes-Flohr, Paul (ed.), The Philosophy of Franz Rosenzweig (1988)
Mosé, Stéphane, System and Revelation: The Philosophy of Franz Rosenzweig (1992)
B. Pollock, Franz Rosenzweig's Conversions: World Denial and World Redemption (2014)

**Course/Module evaluation:**
- End of year written/oral examination 0 %
- Presentation 10 %
- Participation in Tutorials 25 %
- Project work 65 %
- Assignments 0 %
- Reports 0 %
- Research project 0 %
- Quizzes 0 %
- Other 0 %

**Additional information:**
* every student will be expected to present a summary of the weekly reading (with some questions) once over the course of the year (10% of final grade)
* the grade for participation (25%) includes a number of reading exercises over the course (e.g., summarizing arguments, raising questions)