Syllabus

Contesting the Land: Eretz Israel (Roman Palesti - 1747

Last update 22-02-2017

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor) and 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Jewish studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Oded Irshai

Coordinator Email: oded.irshai@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Staff:
Course/Module description:

Brief Course Description: An examination of the course of the Christian appropriation of late Roman Palestine from the Jews between the days of Constantine the Great (early 4th century) and the Arab conquest (7th century). This period was indeed formative and shaped for generations to come Christianity's attitude towards the Land of Jesus as well as other issues, like sacred space, memory, pilgrimage and the formation of liturgy, all of which will be studied and discussed also through the lens of social theoretical approaches. The core of the course will revolve around the strategies and mechanisms via which Christianity (institutional and lay) attempted and achieved its goal as well as around the possible manifestations of Jewish resistance to the transformation of the Holy Land.

Course/Module aims:

See supra

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

It is hoped that as an outcome of the seminar students should be able to decipher Patristic and other texts, read between the lines as well as contextualize such texts within a wider historical picture.

Attendance requirements(%):

full attendance

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The method by which students' acquaintance with the topic is to be accomplished is three fold: First - by an in depth reading and discussion of primary sources (if possible in their original languages). Secondly- by assigning weekly readings of secondary literature and thirdly by submission of a short mid-term paper (up to 5pp.) and a final paper up to 15pp. (the possibility of a short presentation in class will be discussed as another option).

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Course/Module Content:
Main topics:

1. Jewish Life and Culture in late Roman Palestine
2. Explicit and Implicit Mechanisms and Strategies of social and religious confrontation of religious groups in Late Antiquity: The Roman Palestinian example
3. The holy land in early Jewish and Christian thought
4. How was late Roman Palestine appropriated and Christianized

Required Reading:
Course's Bibliography:
M. Avi-Yona, The Jews of Palestine: A Political History From the Bar Kochba War to the Arab Conquest, Oxford 1976 Overseas Library E931 A957
A. Cameron et al. (eds.), The Cambridge Ancient History, Vol. XIV: Late Antiquity Empire and Successors, AD 425-600, Cambridge 2000 E-Book 001882056;
G. Stemberger, Jews and Christians in the Holy Land: Palestine in the Fourth Century, Edinburgh 2000 Main Library DS 122.3 S83 2000; JOS on order;
H. Sivan, Palestine in Late Antiquity, Oxford 2008, pp. 16-50 Main library DS 112 S58 2008;
P. Burke, What is Cultural History?, Cambridge 2008 Main Library D 13 B942 2004

Resources, Sources and Bibliography on the Christian Holy Land:
J. Wilkinson, Jerusalem Pilgrims before the Crusades, Guildford 1977 Main Library BX 2320 W54
E.D. Hunt, Holy Land Pilgrimage in the Later Roman Empire, Oxford 1982 Main Library DS 123.1 H85
P.W.L. Walker, Holy City, Holy Places: Christian Attitudes to Jerusalem and the Holy
Land in the Fourth Century, Oxford 1990 Main Library DS 109.913 W34
P. Maraval, Lieux saints et pèlerinages d'Orient, Paris 1985 Main Library BX 2320.5 N33 M37
Y. Tsafir, L. Di Segni & J. Green, Tabula Imperii Romani d'Judaea Palaestina: Maps and Gazetteer, Jerusalem 1994 Main Library DS 103.5 T78
M. Piccirillo & E. Alliata (eds.), The Madaba Map Centenary 1897-1997, Jerusalem 1999 Archaeology Library ARC HIRSCHFELD MAD-PIC
J. Wilkinson, Jerusalem Pilgrimage before the Crusades, Warminster 1977 Main Library BX 2320 W54.

1st week: Introduction: Chronological Framework, Sources, Topics and Methodology

2nd Week: Political, Religious and Cultural Atmosphere in Late Antique Palestine (4th-7th Centuries)
Bibliography:
G. Stemberger, Jews and Christians in the Holy Land: Palestine in the fourth century (supra, section 1), pp. 298-315 Main Library DS 122.3 S83 2000; ERESERVE 001416686

3rd Week: Holy Space: Archetypes and Phenomenology
Sources and Bibliography:
Jonathan Z. Smith, Map is not Territory, Leiden 1978 Overseas Library 290 S652;
Jonathan Z. Smith, 'To replace' in To Take Place: Toward Theory in Ritual, Chicago 1987, pp. 74-95 Main Library BL 580 S64; ERESERVE 001212749
The Notion of the Nave (Omphalos) of the World:
Sanctity of the Land in early Jewish Thought and Practice:
Readings from the Mishna Kelim, Sifre Zuta, Baylonian Talmud, Baba Kama, Philo, and Dead Sea Scrolls.
4th Week: The Land and its Inhabitants in Early Christian Thought
Sources and Bibliography:
Gospels (Readings from the NT)
Library 296.133.3 D257; ERESERVE 001420906
Early Church Fathers: Readings from Melito of Sardis and Origen.
O. Irshai, 'From Oblivion to Fame: The History of the Palestinian Church (135-303
CE), in: O. Limor and Guy G. Stroumsa (eds.), Christians and Christianity in the Holy
Land [From the Origins to the Latin Kingdom, Turnhout 2006, pp. 91-139
(background). Main Library BR 1110 C47 2006; ERESERVE 001416190
Robert L. Wilken, The Land Called Holy: Palestine in Christian History and Thought,
(supra, bibliography), New Haven 1992, pp. 46-81 Overseas Library E263.042
W681; ERESERVE 002030723

5th Week: Christian Holy Space
Sources and Bibliography:
Readings - Sections from Eusebius of Caesarea's Onomasticon and from The Martyrs
of Palestine.
(eds.), Late Antiquity: A guide to the Post Classical World, Cambridge Mass. 1999,
pp. 21-59 ERESERVE 001419937

6th Week: Pilgrimage in Late Antique Society [Introduction
Bibliography:
J. Elsner & I. Rutherford (eds.), Pilgrimage in Graeco-Roman and Early Christian
Antiquity: Seeing the Gods, Oxford 2005 Main library DF 121 P44 2005; E-Book
001831258
B. Bitton – Ashkeloni, Encountering the Sacred: The Debate on Christian Pilgrimage
in Late Antiquity, Berkeley 2005, pp. 65-105 (Jerome) E-Book 001831258

The Christianization of the Holy Land in the 4th Century in the Eyes of the Local
Christian Leadership.
Sources & Bibliography:
Readings from Eusebius of Caesarea, Cyril of Jerusalem and Gregory of Nyssa will
be distributed separately.
L. Perrone, "Rejoice Sion Mother of All Churches": Christianity in the Holy Land
During the Byzantine Era", in: Limor & Stroumsa (eds.), Christians and Christianity in
the Holy Land [From the Origins to the Latin Kingdom (supra, section 5b), pp.
141-173 (background) Main Library BR 1110 C47 2006; ERESERVE 001416191
P. W. L. Walker, Holy City, Holy Places: Christian Attitudes to Jerusalem and the Holy
Land in the Fourth Century (supra section 1), Oxford 1990, pp. 93-130; 133-170
ERESERVE 001422144; Main Library DS 109.913 W34
Jonathan Z. Smith, 'To replace' in To Take Place: Toward Theory in Ritual, Chicago
7th Week: Contest and Appropriation of the Land: The Case of Jerusalem
The Prohibition Concerning the Entering the City by Jews: History or Fiction?
Readings will be submitted separately.
O. Irshai, 'Constantine's prohibition of the Jews to enter Jerusalem: History and

The "instrumental" Jew: Jews as Carriers of Christian Tradition
Sources & Bibliography:
(readings will be supplied separately)
55-77. Overseas Library 296.133(08) C678; ERESERVE 002030724

The Account of the Bordeaux Pilgrim (333 CE)
Sources and Bibliography:
Readings from the account in the translation of J. Wilkinson (supra, section 1, the
text will be submitted separately).
J. Elsner, 'The Itinerarium Burdigalense: Politics and Salvation in the Geography of
O. Irshai, 'The Christian Appropriation of Jerusalem in the Fourth Century: The Case

8th Week: The Apparition of the Cross in Jerusalem in 351 CE and the Jews: Spiritual
Power and Politics
Sources and Bibliography:
Cyril of Jerusalem's Epistle to the Emperor Constantius II.
Book 001788743
Julian the "Apostate" and the Jerusalem Temple
Sources and Bibliography:
Readings from Julian's epistles and from his Against the Galileans, as well as from
Christian histories and invectives.
M. Stern, Greek and Latin Authors on Jews and Judaism Vol. II, Jerusalem 1980,
(Commentary on the Julian's writings) Overseas Library 296.132 S839
G. W. Bowersock, Julian the Apostate, Cambridge Mass. 1978 Main library DG 317
B68
A. Momigliano, 'The Disadvantage of Monotheism for a Universal State', in: Idem, On
Pagans, Jews, and Christians, Middletown CT. 1987, pp. 142-158 Overseas Library
291.09(37) M732; ERESERVE 002030725

9th Week: Jesus and King David: The Jewish Patriarch versus Christ
Sources and Bibliography:
Readings from Roman Imperial Law (translated and annotated by A. Linder) and from the Story of Joseph of Tiberias, (Epiphanius' Panarion, 30), Lucian of Kafar Gamla's Vision and the discovery of St. Stephen's Bones
Andrew S. Jacobs, Remains of the Jews: The Holy Land and Christian Empire in Late Antiquity (supra, section 1), pp. 182-190 Main Library DS 123 J32 2004

10th Week: The Jewish / Rabbinic Response to the Christian Appropriation of the Land: Implicit and Explicit Strategies
This is a work in progress topic, based on varied genres of literature (extensive readings will be supplied)

11th Week: Jewish Palestinian Synagogue Art and Polemics
Sources and Bibliography:
Texts and a Power Point presentation will be submitted later.
G. Stemberger, Jews and Christians in the Holy Land: Palestine in the Fourth Century (supra, section 1), pp. 121-160 Main Library DS 122.3 S83 2000; ERESERVE 001416686
J. Elsner, 'Late Antique Art: The Problem of the Concept and the Cumulative Aesthetic', in: S. Swain & M. Edwards (eds.), Approaching Late Antiquity: The Transformation from Early to Late Empire, Oxford 2004, pp. 271-309 (background) Main Library DG 311 A66 2004; ERESERVE 001416331

12th Week: Judeo- Christian "End of Days" Schemes and Calculations in Polemical
Context

Sources and Bibliography:
Readings will be submitted later.

13th Week: "Nation against Nation" - Byzantium, Persia and the Arabs in the Holy Land
Sources & Bibliography: The Apocalypse of Zerubabel and parallel texts (the readings will be submitted later).
G. W. Bowersock, 'Polytheism and Monotheism in Arabia and the Three Palestines', DOP 50 (1997), pp. 1-10 E-journal

Additional Reading Material:
None

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 40 %
Project work 40 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
None