Syllabus

Resurrection of the Dead: The Bible-1000CE - 24420

Last update 17-05-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Religious Studies

Academic year: 2

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Yonatan Moss

Coordinator Email: yonsmoss@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: By coordination

Teaching Staff:
Yonatan Moss
Course/Module description:
We will analyze the idea of bodily resurrection, as it is reflected in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, from antiquity to the beginning of the Middle Ages. In addition to textual analysis, we will also study burial practices, grave markers and other cultural manifestations, such as martyrdom and the cult of saints, in order to understand the history of the idea of the resurrection of the dead and its social contexts.

Course/Module aims:
The aim of the course is to trace the notion of the resurrection of the dead over the course of the years of its articulation and dominance, in its various instantiations. The goal is to understand this idea, which to us seems strange and esoteric, but which was central in its importance in antiquity. We will do so through different angles: historical, philosophical, social, archeological and political.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
To acquire intimate knowledge of the subject of the resurrection of the dead in the three monotheistic religions. They will also acquire tools for gaining new knowledge and understanding of similar subjects in these religions. Given the fact that the resurrection is intimately connected in these religions to a range of other areas, the students will be exposed over the course of the seminar to other fundamental issues in the study of these religions and to some of the historical and methodological problems in the study of religion.

Attendance requirements(%):
100 % unless coordinated

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Close reading of primary texts in chronological order and their analysis alongside treatment of a range of opinions about them in the secondary literature. The method of instruction encourages active student participation in the analysis of the primary texts and in the critical evaluation of the opinions expressed in the secondary literature. During the course there are two guided tours related to the subject.

Course/Module Content:
Class 2 (3.11): Biblical Whispers
Class 3 (10.11): The Agitated Search: Sources from Second Temple Times
Class 4 (17.11): First Fruits of the Sleepers: Paul and the Paulines
Class 5 (24.11): 'God of the Living': Resurrection in the Gospels
Class 6 (1.12): Tour of the Holy Sepulcher and the Garden Tomb
Class 7 (8.12): De Resurrectione: Christianity in the Second and Third Centuries
Class 8 (15.12): De Resurrectione: Christianity in the Fourth and Fifth Centuries
Class 9 (22.12): 'He who Raises the Dead': Jewish Sources from Late Antiquity
Class 10 (29.12): Quran and Early Islam
Class 11 (5.1): Early Middle Ages: Jews, Christians and Muslims
Class 12 (12.1): Tour of Mt. Scopus
Class 13-14 (19.1, 26.1): Student Presentations and Conclusion

Required Reading:

Class 1:
Background:
• Claudia Setzer, Resurrection of the Body in Early Judaism and Christianity, Tobias Nicklas et al., eds., The Human Body in Death and Resurrection (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2009), 1-12.

Class 2:
Primary:
Deuteronomy 32; 1 Sam. 2; 2 Sam. 7, 14; 1 Kngs, 17; 2 Kngs 4; 13; Is. 26; Ez. 37; Ps. 90; Job 7; 14.

Secondary:

Class 3:
Primary: Daniel 12; 2 Macc. 7; 1 Enoch 22; Josephus, BJ 2, 119-166.

Secondary:
• John J. Collins, The Afterlife in Apocalyptic Literature, in Avery-Peck and Neusner, eds., Judaism in Late Antiquity, 119-139.
• Bremmer, Rise and Fall of the Afterlife, 41-55.

Class 4:
Primary:
1 Thess. 4; 1 Cor. 15; 2 Cor. 5; Rom. 5-11; '3 Cor.'
Secondary:
Ben F. Meyer, Did Paul’s View of the Resurrection of the Dead undergo

Class 5:
Primary:
Mk. 12; 14-15; Matt. 28; Lk. 24; Jn. 11; 20.

Secondary:

Class 7:
Primary:
Epistle to Rheginus (NHC 1.4); Origen, On First Principles 2.10; Tertullian, De Resurr., selections; Ps. Justin, De Resurr., selections.

Secondary:
Bynum, Resurrection of the Body, 21-58.

Class 8:
Aphrahat, Dem. 8; Gregory of Nyssa, De Resurr., selections; Jerome, selections.

Secondary:
Bynum, Resurrection of the Body, 59-114.

Class 9:
Avot 4; Tosefta Berachot 6, 6; Sifra 194; Sifrei Deut. 329; Sanhedrin 90-94.
Secondary:

Class 10:
Primary:
Quran 7, 18, 22, 36, 75.

Secondary:
L. Gardet, Encyclopedia of Islam 2nd Ed.
Jane Idleman Smith and Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, The Islamic Understanding of

Class 11:
Primary:
Job of Edessa, Book of Treasures, last chap.; R. Saadia Gaon, Book of Beliefs and Opinions, chap. 7; al-Ghazzali, Incoherence of the Philosophers, chap. 20.

Secondary:
Steven Harvey, Logistical and other Otherworldly Problems in Saadya, in Benjamin Harry and Haggai Ben Shammai, eds., Esoteric and Exoteric Aspects in Judeo-Arabic Culture (Leiden: Brill, 2006), 55-84.

Additional Reading Material:
Class 1:
Leora Batnitzky, From Resurrection to Immortality: Theological and Political Implications in Modern Jewish Thought, Harvard Theological Review 102 (2009), 279-96

Class 2:
John Goldingay, Death and Afterlife in the Psalms, in Avery-Peck and Neusner, eds., Judaism in Late Antiquity, 61-85.
Benjamin Studevent-Hickman, Mesopotamian Roots for the Belief in the Resurrection of the Dead, Religion Compass 3 (2009), 524-536.

Class 3:
Segal, Life after Death, 285-321.
Mladen Popović, Bones, Bodies and Resurrection in the Dead Sea Scrolls, in Human Body in Death and Resurrection, 221-241.

Class 4:
Jacob Thiessen, Firstfruits and the Day of Christ’s Resurrection: An Examination of the Relationship between the Third Day in 1 Cor 15:4 and the Firstfruit in 1 Cor 15:20, Neotestamentica 46 (2012), 379-393.
Class 5:


  Adela Yarbro Collins, “Ancient Notions of Transferal and Apotheosis in Relation to the Empty Tomb Story in Mark,” in Metamorphoses, 41-57.

Class 7:
  Setzer, Resurrection of the Body, 125-143.


Class 8:


Class 9:


Class 10:


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

**Additional information:**
Explanation of Course Requirements:
Preparation of the primary and secondary readings from class to class (40%); towards the end of the semester: a 'seed paper' written and reported to the class (20%), which will, in turn, 'sprout into' either a final paper (10-15 pages) or a seminar paper (20-30 pages) (40%). There is also the option of presenting to the class an article from the additional readings and gaining bonus points.