Syllabus

The Jewish Community in Todays Germany: Jewish - 54681

Last update 24-07-2014

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: German Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Susanne Cohen-Weisz

Coordinator Email: itsusi@netvision.net.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff: Susanne Cohen-Weisz
Course/Module description:
Two generations after the Shoah, there is again vibrant Jewish life in Germany, the Jews "feel at home" and manifest a strong self-confidence as Jews in Germany, which had been unimaginable even three decades ago. The course examines how more than national politics, inner-Jewish political, social and identity developments have contributed to this rather unique communal reconstruction. The impact of the various immigration waves, the changing roles of the Shoah and the State of Israel in Jewish group identity and the rising cultural and religious pluralism are discussed. Eventually there will be a comparison with the Vienna Jewish community, which had a similar starting point after the Shoah.

Course/Module aims:
1. Show the social, political and institutional development of Germany's Jewish community, and its relations to non-Jewish Germany and to Israel,
2. Outline the influence of Jewish group identity on communal development in Germany.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
1. Be acquainted with and understand Germany's Jewish community,
2. Understand the influence of Jewish group identity on communal development,
3. Be able to use this model to examine developments in other Jewish communities.

Attendance requirements(%):
80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Seminar
Lectures by the lecturer, short students' presentations, seminar discussions

Course/Module Content:
1. Background: Policies and attitudes towards the Jews and the Shoah after 1945
2. Renaissance of the German Jewish community, or a new Jewry? Who are the Jews in Germany today? Return, Immigration, demography, and distribution over Germany. The various groups within today's German Jewry—including Israelis—and their relations with the Jewish institutions.
3. Jewish identity of Germany's Jews – What is personal and group identity, how
does it influence communal developments? Jewish identity of the various groups and their influence on the community's character.

4. Community disunity – The battle over the communal political framework
5. The end of the unity community (Einheitsgemeinde) principle
6. The Shoah in Jewish group identity of today’s German Jews
7. The State of Israel in Jewish group identity of German Jews
8. Identity crisis – the battle for strengthening Jewish group identity
9. Germany in Jewish group identity of German Jews - Are the suitcases unpacked?
10. Jewish institution building in Germany
11. The relations of the leaders of German Jewry towards Germany, its society and politicians.
12. The relations of the German Jewry and Israel
13. Comparison with a community with a similar starting point in 1945: Influence of Jewish group identity on social and political development of Vienna’s Jewish community.

Required Reading:
5. Fleischmann, Lea (1994), Identity Problems of Postwar Generation Jews in Germany: A Historical Perspective, in Lorenz, Dagmar and Weinberger, Gabriele (eds), Insiders and Outsiders: Jewish and Gentile Culture in Germany and Austria, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, pp.308-312
6. Bodeman, Michal Y. (2006), Between Israel and Germany from the "Alien Asiatic
People" to the New German Jewry, Jewish History, Vol.20, No.1, pp.91-109
12. for German speakers: Korn, Salomon (2005), Zwischen allen Sthlen - Zur Rolle des Zentralrats der Juden in Deutschland im Geflecht der deutsch-israelischen Beziehungen; http://www.zentralratdjuden.de/de/article/284.html

Additional Reading Material:
Reading material in German will be given on request.

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 70 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 30 %

Additional information:
None