Syllabus

AN INTRO. TO WOMANS STATUS IN TALMUDIC LIT. - 8290

Last update 31-10-2013

HU Credits:  2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: honours program

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dalia Hoshen

Coordinator Email: dalia.hoshen@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tue 18.00-17.00

Teaching Staff:
  Dalia Hoshen
Course/Module description:
The course will discuss issues of gender and socio-biological status in the Talmudic literature, whose epistemological infrastructure is Torah study. Beruria's study method will serve as a paradigm to examine the results of the discussion of the question of women's status in the Sages' sources. Special attention will be paid to the unique nature of the Talmudic text, through comparative literary theories.

Course/Module aims:
1) Develop study skills (terminology, concepts and approaches) required for the discussion of women's status, as relevant to the Talmudic literature, as (Derridaesque) different from Western or post Talmudic sources.
2) Acquire detailed comprehension of Beruria's study in Halakha, Aggada and Midrash, and its linkage to other known approaches among the Sages'.
3) Exercise literary-philosophical reading of the Talmudic text.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
1) Analyze a Talmudic text or character, while aware of the nuances and the variance of conceptions which were active within the Sages' world.
2) Examine the different research approaches to women's status, such as taught in the course and others, according to textual-critical methods, while forming an individual position.
3) Read texts with sensitivity to the complex inter-relations between meaning and form (structure, words), taking into account well known methods on the issue, such as structuralism and deconstructionism.
4) Identify the special properties of the Talmudic text (such as intertextuality or 'Windows text', symbolic text, inexhaustibility, etc.) and to apply these properties in novel reading of these texts.
5) Compare Beruria's methods and principles with those of other Tannaim and Amoraim.
6) Using the logical criteria (terms, concepts, definitions), and the bibliography in an innovative way, with regard to diagnosing and analyzing the course content, women's status, and its laboratory data, the Talmudic texts.

Attendance requirements(%):
50

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Parallel teaching:
Oral: Weekly frontal lectures
Writing: Guided reading of bibliography (textbook and other) to be submitted weekly

Course/Module Content:
1) The Torah as a-sociological value and its relation to the socio-biological definition of status
2) The distinction between the obligation by commandments and Torah-study, and hence to the problematic status of the students of Torah.
3) The theory of the Talmudic text as secondary text, and the theory of the Bible as the ideal text.
4) Between the culture of the Sages and the Western discourse: Between Midrash and Structuralism and Deconstruction.
5) Approaches to women's status and Beruria in the Talmudic literature, against the background of the development of the research of the Sages' thought in general.
6) Beruria's study: Analysis of all the texts, included in the corpus attributed to her in the Tannaitic and Amoraic literature.
7) Between Talmudic literature and post-Talmudic literature: An irreparable fracture:
   a. "The Beruria incident" (the post-talmudic Beruria, Rashi BT AZ 18b)- what was it? Or was it not?
   b. "The Beruria incident" (the Talmudic Beruria)-Reconstructing the Talmudic Sugia (BT AZ 17b-18b)
   c. "Whoever teaches his daughter Torah is teaching her 'tiflut'-sex"-what does "Torah" means here? Is it an historical misreading or, a question of culture? On the nature of human knowledge, and the value of sexuality for the completeness of the human, man or woman.

Required Reading:
15
-------------------------------------, הכשוף והנס )תדפיס אלקטרוני
http://aleph520.huji.ac.il/F/9AD8NE6E695782RP6KL4S1VCE5XG2SUKE6JX5V2V3R1
8GHSKM-15649?funcfind-acc&acc_sequence008168496
1989 , זאב לוי, הרמנויטיקה, ספרית הפועלים והקיבוץ המאוחד, , תל אביב,
http://aleph520.huji.ac.il/F/9AD8NE6E695782RP6KL4S1VCE5XG2SUKE6JX5V2V3R1
8GHSKM-14384?funcfind-acc&acc_sequence007826885
1987 , ג'ון סטורוק, סטרוקטורליזם, רסלינג, תל אביב
http://aleph520.huji.ac.il/F/9AD8NE6E695782RP6KL4S1VCE5XG2SUKE6JX5V2V3R1
8GHSKM-16678?funcfind-acc&acc_sequence008186260
Dalia Hoshen, Beruria the Tannait: A Theological Reading of a Female Mishnaic Scholar, 2007, Chp., 3.
Tal Ilan, Integrating women into Second Temple history, Tubingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1999, pp. 175-194
--------, "The quest for the historical Beruriah, Rachel, and Imma Shalom", AJS Review 22,1 (1997) 1-17 (internet version)
Tova Hartman, " 'Beruriah said well': the many lives (and deaths) of a Talmudic social critic", Prooftexts 31,3 (2011), 181-209 (internet version)

Additional Reading Material:
http://benyehuda.org/bialik/article02.html
http://aleph520.huji.ac.il/F/MV5X8EDR387CXUFV3JQIF35TU8E18D6UGPSXNE4CUH9P RGPL25-01349?funcfind-acc&acc_sequence009312465
Jaques Derrida, Shibboleth, in Midrash and Literature, ibid, pp. 307-348.

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 80 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: