Syllabus

SRCS. TO EVENTS IN 2ND TEMPLE & TALMUDIC PERIODS - 13020

Last update 19-04-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry

Academic year: 1

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Daniel R. Schwartz

Coordinator Email: danielr.schwartz@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday, 11:00-12:00

Teaching Staff:
Prof Daniel Schwartz
Course/Module description:
This course introduces students to the main written sources for Jewish history in the Greco-Roman period. It focuses on the methods that may allow historians to determine the text and interpretation of the sources, what they refer to, their biases, and their relations to other sources, and so, in the end, to decide "what really happened."

Course/Module aims:
The course aims to point up the challenges that must be faced by those who would learn history from ancient sources and to introduce the methods that may be used to deal with those challenges, so as to prepare students for independent work as historians of the Jews in antiquity.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
- find and apply information about textual variants and lexicographical choices;
- notice evidence for the composite nature of texts and for biases in historical narratives;
- weigh how the fact that a text is interpreting another one impacts upon its status as a witness to events;
- and analyze the degree to which differences among modern historians result from their use of different sources or, rather, their different approaches to the same sources.

Attendance requirements(%):
- apart from the field trip on 22 December, attendance will not be checked, but final test will be on what was done in the class

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Instruction will be based upon the course's booklet of sources, which are arranged in "topics". From one session to the next students should prepare the sources of the coming topic, and the point of the course is to learn what such "preparation" entails. Students will submit 4 short reports (one in the wake of the Dec. 22 field trip), and there will be a final test which will be based upon what we learned in the course.

Course/Module Content:
- Seven topics, about two weeks each:
  1. History or literature?
  2. How can we determine the text?
  3. How can we determine that an ancient text used a source?
  4. Chronological problems as scalpels for dissecting narratives
  5. Sovereign historiography vs. diasporan historiography
6. Religious literature as historical source
7. What does language indicate?

**Required Reading:**
the source booklet and occasional items apropos of the sources studied and for the four reports

**Additional Reading Material:**
Optional material, according to the course's topics:

• א. היסטוריה או ספרות

ד' גרא, "קרב בית זכריה בראי ספרות" מ"ת: א' אופנהיימר י' גפני וד' שוורץ (עורכים), הודוים ב': ברכי העלות ברית וה₡ים וה‡ים ע' לעון כתובות שעון ושתים, ספ', ג' 53-55
ב' ברכב, "ימאים קרב בית זכריה המצא סערות ו매 злоות הועטור?" מ"ת: ח' ח' 22-

D. R. Schwartz, On Drama and Authenticity in Philo and Josephus, Scripta Classica Israelica 10 (1989/90) 113-129

ב. שעון נסיך

ד' שטרן, אגריפס הרשוש מ"ת יודה האחדות, ירושלים תשנ"ו, עמ 143-1.selected.


ג. קהל של מי? בעיות של שימוש עתיק במקורות

מ' שטרן, "משום ממכסה כל_byte כתובות ישראלו...", ב: "ל" מ"ת: ח' מ"ת: י"ע, ירושלים תשנ"ו, ש"ג 464-445
ב' ב-כ"א, "انبושה למשה" י"ע, י"ע, ירושלים תשנ"ו, ש"ג 44-74

ד. בעיות מקורות וכרונולוגיה

ג' שטרן, "משום ממכסה כל_byte כתובות ישראלו...", ב: "ל" מ"ת: ח' מ"ת: י"ע, ירושלים תשנ"ו, ש"ג 398-383


Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 50 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 40 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
Students are required to participate in a study trip to Qumran and Masada on Dec. 22.