



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

JEWS AND JUDAISM IN THE GRECO-ROMAN PERIOD - 13144

Last update 17-09-2021

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History of Jewish People & Contemporary Jewry

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Daniel R. Schwartz

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

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 12-13

Teaching Staff:

Prof Daniel Schwartz

Course/Module description:

The course deals with the major events and processes of Jewish history - the history of the Jews and of Judaism - between the beginning of the Second Temple period in the 6th century BCE and the Islamic conquest of the land of Israel in the 7th century CE.

Course/Module aims:

(1) Understanding of the transformation of the Jews from a group oriented around a single place and/or shared descent into one that shared a common and universally available religion. (2) Introduction to the sources for the study of Jewish history in antiquity and the methods needed to study them.

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

(1) Describe the major events and developments in the history of the Jews, Judaism, and Palestine during the millennium to which the course is devoted and explain the attendant changes in Jewish identity. (2) Appreciate the need for critical study of the ancient sources in order to reconstruct history on their basis.

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lectures, accompanied by sources

Course/Module Content:

Definition of the period and its subdivisions
the ancient sources
modern historiography
the Persian period
the Hellenistic period
Hellenism and the Jews
the Hasmonean revolt
Jews of the Diaspora
sects
Judea vs. Rome

Birth of Christianity
the Great Rebellion and destruction of the Second Temple
Rabbinic literature as an historical source
The Yavneh generation
From Midrash to Mishnah
Messianism and revolts
Hadrian's decrees and martyrdom
Sages and Patriarchs
The Jews in the Byzantine Empire
The Islamic Conquest of Palestine
Summary

Required Reading:

Reading for each of two quizzes based on chapters on the Second Temple period, and on the period of the Mishnah and the Talmud, in A History of the Jewish People (ed. H. H. Ben-Sasson, 1976)

Additional Reading Material:

Supplementary reading for each session, according to a list to be distributed in the course and posted via Moodle.

Course/Module evaluation:

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

Additional information:

Successful completion of the two quizzes is a condition for taking the final exam.