Syllabus

The Medieval Judaeo-Arabic Culture - 13163

Last update 20-09-2016

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: history of jewish people & contemporary jewry

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Miriam Frenkel

Coordinator Email: miriam.frenkel@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday 12.30-13.30

Teaching Staff:
  Prof Miriam Frenkel
Course/Module description:
The Jews, who lived during the Middle-Ages in the lands of Islam, constituted the largest and most active part of the medieval Jewish people. It was in these parts of the world that a rich and unique culture, written in Arabic, emerged and flourished. This Judeo-Arabic culture which gave birth to the fundamental cultural assets of Judaism is the subject of this course. It will deal with literal products as well as with material culture between 7th-12th centuries. The course includes guided excursion at the Israel Museum.

Course/Module aims:
Acquaintance with the main cultural products of literature and material culture produced by Jews in medieval Muslim lands, their social background, their crucial place in Jewish culture and their relation to the surrounding Islamic civilization.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
To read critically medieval literal texts and historical documents. To apply general theories in various fields (literature, anthropology) to the topic of the course.

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Guided reading of primary sources + frontal lectures

Course/Module Content:
Sylabus
28.10- Introduction
4.11: Historical and cultural Background of the Emergence of the Judeo-Arabic Culture
Readings:
Joshua Blau, The Emergence and Linguistic Background of Judaeo-Arabic, Jerusalem 1999, pp. 19-50 (chapter 2)
רינה דרורי, ראשית המגעים של הספרות היהודית עם הספרות הערבית במאה ה-10 ( очерק), תל אביב 1999, עמ', 184-179(סיבוב).
11.11-The Cairo Geniza and Its contribution to the Discovery and Study of the Judeo-Arabic Culture.
Primary Source: Book lists from the Geniza
Readings:
18.11 - The Revolution of the Book.
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Readings:

The Medieval Midrash
Primary source: selected stories from [Ⅱ Pirqei de Rabi Eliezer[Ⅱ]
Readings: 1974, ירושלים, אקדמאיות אינטראקציה, ספר ייונון

21.12 -The Medieval Midrash
Primary source: selected stories from the Midrash on the Ten Commandments.
Readings: ירושלים, והירושלמיות, טקסט; הדרדוק עשרת מדרש, שפירא ענת
25.11 - The Medieval Midrash
Primary source: selected stories from medieval Ben Sirach
Readings: ירושלים, ותולדותיהן אגדות, יוסף היינמן, 1974, עמי 183-205

16.12 -Historcal writings
Primary source: A Jewish chronicle on the discovery of The Rock
Readings: ירושלים, והירושלמיות, טקסט; אגרות על מ Lansing, גיל משה, תשמ'א (ספ' א). 54-61

13.1 - Letters and Epistles
Primary source: The epistle by Solomon b. Judah on the earthquake in Ramla.
Readings: ירושלים, והירושלמיות, טקסט; "שלום וברכה, "שוחרי אגרות קדומים מ נבנדה", קבצ על די, סדרת חידוש ספרי ח"ג, "ספרים". 45-79

30.12 - Halkhic Responsa as literary Genre
Primary source: Rav Hai's responsum on magic.
Readings: ירושלים, והירושלמיות, טקסט; "רשב"ה, מreck ori, בינט▪, ששל ת"ע (פרקים נשים. 69-78, 1974, עמי 11-17

9.12 - The stories of medieval Ben Sirach
Primary source: selected stories from medieval Ben Sirach
Readings: ירושלים, ותולדותיהן אגדות, יוסף היינמן, 1974, עמי 183-205

2.12 -Continuation
Primary source: selected fragments from the Midrash on the Ten Commandments.
Readings: ירושלים, והירושלמיות, טקסט; הדרדוק עשרת מדרש, שפירא ענת

6.1 - Continuation
Primary source: Maimonides' responsum on the woman teacher.

16.12 -Historcal writings
Primary source: A Jewish chronicle on the discovery of The Rock
Readings: ירושלים, והירושלמיות, טקסט; אגרות על מ Lansing, גיל משה, תשמ'א (ספ' א). 54-61

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20.12 - Continuation
Primary source: Maimonides' epistle on forced conversion.
Readings: ירושלים, והירושלמיות, טקסט; "רשב"ה, מreck ori, בינט▪, ששל ת"ע (פרקים נשים. 69-78, 1974, עמי 11-17

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Primary source: A Geniza letter on the fate of the Jews of the Maghreb during the rule of the Muwahudun.
Readings: "˗˗, "האלמוחדון בתקופת בהשתמדות עיון-האנוסים של הזהות,"שנairport 'השומע', "עימ' 16-37 (עתון), עָיִן 42.

Second semester:
3.3- Halkhic monographs
Primary source: [Name and details]
Readings: [Name and details]

10.3- The Emergence of the Author and the Composition (Ta'liq)
Primary source: The introduction to Saadia Gaon's, Kitab al-Imanat wa'l-I'tiqadat.
Readings: [Name and details]

17.3- Continuation
Primary source: Selected fragments from Maimonides' Mishne Torah.
Readings: [Name and details]

14.4- The Hebrew Maqama; Humour, satire and literary art.
Primary sources: selected verses from Al-Harizi's Book of Maqamat.
Readings: [Name and details]

12.5- The Jewish Residential House and its Furniture.
Primary source: Trousseau lists from the Geniza.
Joseph Sadan, Le mobilier au Proche-Orient médieval, Leiden 1976
GT 455 N4 S2
19.5- Cemeteries, Tombstones and Burial Customs.
Primary source: Wills concerning burial habits from the Geniza.
Readings: Phillipe Aries, The Hour of our Death, New York, 1981. BD 444 A7

26.5- Magical Amulets and prescriptions
Primary source: Magical amulets and magical prescriptions from the Geniza
Readings: Gideon Bohak, “Towards a Catalog of the Magical,
Astrological, Divinatory, and Alchemical Fragments from the Cambridge Geniza
Collections”, in: Ben Outhwaite and Siam Bhayro (eds.), From a Sacred Source;
53-80.

2.6- Clothing and Jewellery.
Primary source: Trousseau lists from the Geniza.
Yedida Stillman Kalfon, Arab dress : a short history : from the dawn of Islam to
modern times, Leiden 2000
GT 1380 S75

9.6- Visit at the Israel Museum

16.6- Food and Beverage
Primary source: recipes from the Geniza

23.6- Concluding Remarks and an overall View on the Subject.

Required Reading:
indicated in the syllabus

Additional Reading Material:
indicated in the syllabus.

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