Syllabus

In the Footsteps of Travellers and Travalogues in the Medieval Islamic World - 13311

Last update 29-01-2017

HU Credits: 2

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: Prof. Miriam Frenkel

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

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 14.00-15.00

Teaching Staff:
Prof Miriam Frenkel
Course/Module description:
The course deals with medieval travelogues written by Jewish travellers to the east and with the religious and social significance of medieval travels. The course is accompanied by 2 full days excursions to Haifa, Acre, Ramla and Askalon and a half day excursion in Jerusalem and its environs.

Course/Module aims:
The student will be acquainted with travel literature written by medieval Jewish travellers as an exceptional source for Jewish history and for the encounters between Judaism Islam and Christianity in the middle ages.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
- to analyze travel literature in a deconstructive way; to realize the limits of positivist information that can be deduced from travel literature; to be aware of its merits as reflecting contemporary cultural trends; to recognize the uniqueness of Jewish travel literature; to relate historical descriptions to existing sites; to guide academic audience in historical sites.

Attendance requirements(%):
100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Reading and analyzing medieval texts combined with frontal lectures and excursions.

Course/Module Content:
1. Introduction
2. The literary corpus of medieval Jewish travel literature
3. Incentives for travel: commerce, pilgrimage, adventure.
4. Holy shrines in Palestine
5. Holy places around the Islamic world
6. Common holy sites
7. Overt and covert polemics in travel literature
8. The charms of the Orient
9. Gender and race perspectives in travel literature
10. In quest of the lost ten tribes
11. Excursion in pilgrimage sites in Jerusalem
12. Excursion in Ashkelon and Ramla
13. Excursion in Acre and Haifa
**Required Reading:**


Touati Houari, *Islam & Travel in the Middle Ages*, Chicago 2010. BP 190.5 T73 T683 2010


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**Additional Reading Material:**


Euben Roxanne, *Journeys to the Other Shore: Muslim and Western Travellers in Search of Knowledge*, Princeton 2008 (online)


**Course/Module evaluation:**
End of year written/oral examination 0 
Presentation 0 
Participation in Tutorials 10 
Project work 90 
Assignments 0 
Reports 0 
Research project 0 
Quizzes 0 
Other 0 

Additional information: 
Students must write excursion reports after each excursion