



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

THE JEWS OF EGYPT IN THE HELLENISTIC & ROMAN PER - 13437

Last update 19-04-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Jewish History and Contemporary Judaism

Academic year: 2

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Noah Hacham

Coordinator Email: noahh@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wed. 12:15-13:10

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Noah Hacham

Course/Module description:

Egyptian Jewry was the largest and most important Jewish community in the diaspora in the Second Temple period, till 117 CE. The uniqueness of this community is that it existed and flourished alongside an independent Jewish State and Temple, a religious center in Jerusalem. The seminar will examine the history of this important community, will discuss the challenges that stood in front of her, the relations of this community with the gentile environment and with Jewish homeland, their spiritual and cultural life, their literature, and their administrative arrangements and leadership. We will read some papyri, a unique primary source for the history of Egypt. Considerable space will be devoted to the diaspora revolt (116-117), which brought the end of this community.

Course/Module aims:

Understanding the history of Egyptian Jewry from Alexander the Great to the Diaspora revolt; understanding the historical processes in relation to this community at this time;

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

*To analyze and annotate the historical processes of Egyptian Jews in the Hellenistic and Roman periods;
to analyze the various historical sources for the history of the Jews in Hellenistic Roman Egypt;
to get into historical conclusions from these sources
to analyze the complex reality and situation of Jews in the diaspora, and the historical dynamics of the development of Jewish existence in the diaspora in general and in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt in particular;
to sum up the complex relationship between Jews and the authorities in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt
to understand the implications of global events on Jewish history;
to research independently historic problem, to present it in class and to write a paper on it*

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lectures, seminar

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction: Egypt during the Hellenistic and Roman periods: an overview
2. Beginnings: Jewish settlement in Egypt
3. The legitimacy of the Jewish Diaspora: the third book of Maccabees.
4. The Translation of the Torah into Greek and the Letter of Aristeas
5. Temple of Onias: establishment and status in the Hellenistic and Roman periods
6. Tobiads and Egyptian Jewry
7. Dositheos son of Drimylos, Tiberius Julius Alexander
8. The contribution of Papyrology to the history of the Egyptian Jewry in the Hellenistic-Roman period.
9. 3 Maccabees C: an anti-Dionysian polemic
10. The civil status of the Jews of Hellenistic and Roman Egypt;
11. Jewish Politeuma in Heracleopolis
11. Ezekiel the tragedian
12. Philo and the events in the reign of Gaius Caligula
13. Egypt - the cradle of anti-Semitism?
14. Martyrs of Alexandria
15. The debate about the Exodus
16. The Diaspora revolt against Trajan (116-117)
17. Rabbinic literature on the Jews of Egypt

Required Reading:

Additional Reading Material:

- A54 122.3 DS . אפלבאום, שמעון. יהודים ויוונים בקיריני הקדומה. ירושלים תשכ"ט.
- G88 485 BM . גוטמן, יהושע. הספרות היהודית ההלניסטית א-ב. ירושלים תשי"ח-תשכ"ג
- G6 235 DF . גולן, דוד. תולדות העולם ההלניסטי. ירושלים תשמ"ז.
- DS . גרואן, אריק. גולה: יהודים בין יוונים ורומאים, תל אביב תשס"ד (עדיף הנוסח האנגלי המובא להלן)
- 122.2 G781 2004
- . כשר, אריה. יהודי מצרים ההלניסטית והרומית במאבקם על זכויותיהם, תל-אביב תשל"ט.
- DS 135 E4 K38
- J68 122.24 DS . כשר, אריה. נגד אפיון, תרגום מהמקור עם מבוא ופירושים, א-ב. ירושלים תשנ"ז.
- 1996
- . צ'ריקובר, אביגדור. היהודים במצרים בתקופה ההלניסטית-הרומית לאור הפאפירולוגיה, ירושלים תשכ"ג.
- 1963 T35 E4 135 DS
- . צ'ריקובר, אביגדור. אלף שנות היסטוריה יהודית במצרים (תרגום: א' רפפורט), 1974.
- E4 135 DS . T361
- . צ'ריקובר, אביגדור. היהודים והיוונים בתקופה ההלניסטית, ירושלים תל-אביב תשכ"ג
- DS 122.22 T35 1963

רפפורט, אוריאל. 'היהודים במצרים', מ' שטרן (עורך), הפזורה היהודית בעולם ההלניסטי-רומי
 H58 134 DS 53-21 'עמ' תשמ"ג, י, תשמ"ג, עמ' H58 134 DS 53-21
 Bar-Kochva Bezalel. *Pseudo-Hacataeus On the Jews: Legitimizing the Jewish
 Diaspora*. Berkeley, Los Angeles & London 1996 DS 115.5 B36
 Bell, Harold Idris. *Egypt, From Alexander the Great to the Arab Conquest*. Oxford
 1948 DT 92 B46
 Pucci Ben Zeev, Miriam, *Diaspora Judaism in Turmoil: 116/117 CE: Ancient Sources
 and Modern Insights*, Leuven 2005 DS 122.3 P82 2005
 Bevan, Edwyn Robert. *The House of Ptolemy: A History of Egypt under the Ptolemaic
 Dynasty*. London 1927 [Chicago 1968] DT 92 B47 [DT 92 B48 1968]
 Barclay, John M. G. *Jews in the Mediterranean Diaspora*. Edinburgh 1996 DS 135
 M43 B36
 Collins John J. *Between Athens and Jerusalem, Jewish Identity in the Hellenistic
 Diaspora*. New York 1983.
 Frey, P. Jean-Baptiste. *Corpus Inscriptiomum Iudaicarum, II*. Roma 1952 CN 745 F7
 [Y5]
 Gruen Erich S. *Heritage and Hellenism*. Berkeley, Los Angeles & London 1998 BM
 176 G78 H46
 Gruen Erich S., *Diaspora: Jews amidst Greeks and Romans*, Cambridge 2002 DS
 122.2 G78 2002
 Hengel Martin. *Judaism and Hellenism, Studies in their Encounter in Palestine during
 the Early Hellenistic Period. I-II*, London & Philadelphia 1974.
 Hölbl Günther. *A history of the Ptolemaic Empire*. London & New York 2001
 DT 92 H6513 2001
 Horbury William & Noy David. *Jewish Inscriptions of Graeco-Roman Egypt*.
 Cambridge 1992 DS 135 E4 H67
 Meleze Modrzejewski, Joseph. *The Jews of Egypt, From Rameses II to Emperor
 Hadrian*. Philadelphia & Jerusalem 1995 DS 135 E4 M643
 Schäfer, Peter. *Judeophobia, Attitudes toward the Jews in the Ancient World*,
 Cambridge & London 1998
 Tcherikover Victor A., Fuks Alexander & Menahem Stern. *Corpus Papyrorum
 Iudaicarum. I-III*, Cambridge, Massachusetts 1957-1964. PA 3301 T37

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
 Presentation 10 %
 Participation in Tutorials 0 %
 Project work 80 %
 Assignments 10 %
 Reports 0 %
 Research project 0 %
 Quizzes 0 %
 Other 0 %

Additional information: