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 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
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
12. Ezekiel the tragedian
13. Philo and the events in the reign of Gaius Caligula
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:

Bell, Harold Idris. Egypt, From Alexander the Great to the Arab Conquest. Oxford 1948 DT 92 B46
Frey, P. Jean-Baptiste. Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaicarum, II. Roma 1952 CN 745 F7 [Y5]
Gruen Erich S., Diaspora: Jews amidst Greeks and Romans, Cambridge 2002 DS 122.2 G78 2002

**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:**