

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Sources in the Historian's Toolbox - 13540

Last update 18-09-2024

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: Hannah Teddy Schachter

Coordinator Email: hannah.schachter@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Ms. hannah schachter

Course/Module description:

In this exercise, students will examine sources of various types relating to the cultural and social history of the Jews in the Middle Ages. Through the sources, issues related to individual lives, community, Jewish-Christian relations, as well as relations between the Jews and surrounding cultures will be discussed. Through the discussion of the sources and the studies written about them, the use of basic tools and methods in historical research will be demonstrated. All sources will be offered in side-by-side original language and English/Hebrew translation for optimal analysis and discussion.

Course/Module aims:

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

Students will familiarize themselves with a broad array of primary sources from the European Middle Ages and learn how to interpret them. By the end, each student will understand how each genre of source is another tool in the historian's toolbox, which can be used to study the lives of medieval people.

Attendance requirements(%):

Class attendance and preparation for each class (10%)

A number of short exercises (50%)

final course work (40%)

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

Source Genres include but are not limited to:

Privileges,

Responsa Literature,

Takanot and Communal Ordinances,

Tombstones and their inscriptions,

Narratives as a historical source,

Medieval Manuscripts,

Polemical literature and Jewish-Christian debate,

Medieval Illumination as a window into everyday medieval life.

Required Reading:

Tzafrir Barzilay, Elisheva Baumgarten, and Eyal Levinson, "Introduction," in *Jewish Daily Life in Medieval Northern Europe, 1080-1350: A Sourcebook*, eds. T. Barzilay, E. Baumgarten, and E. Levinson (Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 2022),

Jonathan Ray, "The Jew in the Text: What Medieval Charters Tell Us About Medieval Society", *Medieval Encounters* 16 (2010), 243-67

חיים סולובייצ'יק, שו"ת כמקור הסטורי, ירושלים, תשנ"א עמ' 87-106

מנחם בן-ששון, "הצעקה אל הציבור בבית הכנסת בארצות האסלאם בראשית ימי הביניים", שולמית אליצור, משה דוד הר, אביגדור שנאן וגרשון שקד (עורכים), כנסת עזרא - ספרות וחיים בבית הכנסת, ירושלים תשנ"ה, עמ' 350-327.

Louis Finklestein, *Jewish Self-Government in the Middle Ages*, New York, 1964 p. 15-18

Elisheva Baumgarten, "Epilogue: Tales in Context: A Historical Perspective," in Rella Kushelevsky, *Tales in Context: Sefer ha-ma'asim in Medieval Northern France* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2017a), pp. 687-722.

Elliott Horowitz, "The Way We Were": Jewish Life in the Middle Ages", *Jewish History* 1 (1986), pp.75-90

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 40 %
Active Participation / Team Assignment 25 %
Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 25 %
Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

Additional information: