

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Sacred Time in Judaism and Christianity - 13647

Last update 12-09-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History of Jewish People & Contemporary Jewry

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Israel Yuval

Coordinator Email: israel.yuval@huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: to be scheduled

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Israel Yuval

Course/Module description:

Sacred time offers a launching point between the sacred metaphysical and the transient physical. It attaches to it abstract ideas and distant historical memories, and boasts of eternal cycles. It seeks to block the flow of the present, but in practice it reflects its changing values and thus reflects the tension between the permanent and the transient.

In both religions, the holy time has an ancient, biblical or pagan origin, and in both the ancient holidays received a new interpretation that suited the spirit of the times and their religious ideals. The calendrical and liturgical calendar of the two religions brings together their sacred time, and this closeness also created the need for differentiation, with each side denying the sanctity of the other's time. The bulk of the liturgical texts of the two religions was created in the first millennium AD, at the time of the establishment of houses of prayer in both religions, and it reflects a hidden discourse with the competing religion. In the Middle Ages, additional customs and prayers were added to them. The course will present the development of the Holy Days from the beginning of Christianity and the destruction of the Second Temple to the end of the Middle Ages.

Course/Module aims:

Course requirements:

Full attendance and active participation in classes, preparation and reading bibliography.

Writing a seminar paper, or a paper instead of a test. The topic should be approved by the teacher.

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

To think critically, and to adopt original perspectives

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

Lesson 1: Introduction – holy time and holy place; the weekly and annual

organization; The need for differentiation

Lesson 2: From Lent to Easter; From Purim to Passover

Lesson 3: Passover – from a holiday of sacrifice to a family celebration

Lesson 4: Passover - from Passover in Egypt to Passover in Jerusalem

Lesson 5: Pesach and Passover in the Middle Ages

Lesson 6: Shavuot and Pentecost

Lesson 7: Tisha B'av - the debate about the consolation prophecies

Lesson 8: Judgment Day and Rosh Hashanah

Lesson 9: From Sukkot to the dedication of the temple

Lesson 10: Hanukkah and Christmas - the birth of light and Christ

Lesson 11: Sabbath versus Sunday - rest or idleness

Lesson 12: Summary

Required Reading:

to be published

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 100 %

Additional information: