

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *The Jews of Spain facing the challenge of conversion - 13748*

*Last update 24-08-2022*

*HU Credits:* 4

*Degree/Cycle:* 2nd degree (Master)

*Responsible Department:* History of Jewish People & Contemporary Jewry

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* Yearly

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Ram Ben-Shalom

*Coordinator Email:* [Ram.Ben-Shalom@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:Ram.Ben-Shalom@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* Tuesday. 14:15-16:00

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Ram Ben-Shalom

Course/Module description:

Spanish Jewry in the Iberian peninsula faced two major crises of destruction in its last 101 years of existence.

This seminar analyzes the response of the Jewish leadership to the riots of 1391 and to the expulsion from Spain (1492).

The main focus of the seminar will be the waves of Jewish conversion and the development of the society of Anusim (Conversos).

Course/Module aims:

1. Historical analysis of the development of the society of Conversos.
2. Understanding the social and spiritual responses of the Jewish communities in Spain to the crisis of 1391, the Valladolid laws and Vicente Ferrer's sermons (1412-1415), and the expulsion of the Jews from Spain (1492).
3. Learning the Jewish-Conversos discourse.
4. Pursuit the new language of conversion.

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

1. Analyze historical texts of Sephardi Jewish leadership.
2. Understand the Spanish discourse of conversion.
3. Write a short thesis on one of the seminar's topics.
4. Know major chapters from the history of the Jews in Christian Spain.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture, exercises and critical reading

Course/Module Content:

1. The development of the society of converts (anusim).
2. The missionary sermons of Vincent Ferrer and the Tortosa disputation.
3. The literary and intellectual response to the new crisis - Reading in Profayt Duran's treatises.
4. The project of Hasdai Crescas and Profayt Duran.
5. The new discourse of conversion.

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6. *The Alba Bible of Moses Arragel.*
  7. *Solomon ubn Verga and "Shevet Yehudah".*
  8. *Isaac Abravanel's project of Biblical interpretation.*

*Required Reading:*

*See Hebrew section*

*Additional Reading Material:*

*Will be given during the seminar*

*Course/Module evaluation:*

*End of year written/oral examination 0 %*

*Presentation 10 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 5 %*

*Project work 85 %*

*Assignments 0 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 0 %*

*Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*