



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Charlatans and Imposters: Between History and Literature - 13805*

*Last update 11-09-2024*

*HU Credits:* 2

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

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

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 2nd Semester

*Teaching Languages:* English

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Dr. Oded Zinger.

*Coordinator Email:* [odedzinger@gmail.com](mailto:odedzinger@gmail.com)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* by prior arrangement

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Teaching Staff:

Dr. Oded Zinger

Course/Module description:

*Figures of imposters, charlatans and fools fill the pages of history. Sometimes these are flesh and blood historical figures and sometimes they are unforgettable literary characters. In this course we will walk the line between history and literature and examine such figures in the pre-modern world.*

Course/Module aims:

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

*Develop methodological tool to analyze the figures of Charlatans and imposters and we will ponder the lines between history and literature.*

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Seminar

Course/Module Content:

*the list of topics will be revised according to students' interests. A few possible topics are:*

*Why do pre-modern people adopt a false identity?*

*How imposters are discovered?*

*The uses of forgery*

*Why are there more male impostors than female ones?*

*Women imposing as men and men imposing as women?*

*Can we define tricksters? what role do tricksters perform?*

Required Reading:

See Moodle

Additional Reading Material:

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Grading Scheme:

*Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %*

*Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture/ Seminar / Pro-seminar / Research proposal 10 %*

*Active Participation / Team Assignment 20 %*

Additional information: