



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

A TEMPLE IN EGYPT: HIST. OF ONIAS'S LAND & TEMPLE - 13892

Last update 02-03-2014

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Dep. of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry

Academic year: 3

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. 12:30-13:30

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Noah Hacham

Course/Module description:

Onias' temple was founded in Leontopolis in the mid-second century BCE, while there was a Temple in Jerusalem. Onias' temple was in the middle of a military colony, which took main part in the political and military history of Ptolemaic Egypt. In the seminar we will examine variety issues such as the circumstances of the establishment of the Temple, the identification of Onias that immigrate to Egypt, the status of the Egyptian temple in Egyptian Jewry and in all over the Jewish world. Sources like Jewish Hellenistic literature, Josephus writings, papyri, inscriptions, the literature of the Sages and gentile literature, will be our material for discussion and research.

Course/Module aims:

Study the history of the temple in Egypt, its status and attitude to the Temple in Jerusalem and other places of worship.

Knowing the status of Jewish military settlement in Leontopolis: its relationship to previous waves of immigration, the status of Onias family in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt in Egyptian Jewry and in the land of Israel, and its attitude towards the Jews of the Land of Israel.

Learning the Jewish and non-Jewish, literary and epigraphic primary sources on the Land of Onias and on the Temple.

Exposure of various Jewish sources - Hellenistic Jewish literature, Rabbinic and others - who deal with Onias and defining their attitude to this phenomenon

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

Know the primary sources on Onias Temple and Onias settlement in Ptolemaic Egypt.

Read and analyze the sources in broader historical context, conclude and evaluate them historically specifically on the religious status of Onias Temple and on the Jews' status in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt

Write independent research on the subject.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Seminar

Course/Module Content:

Introduction: the Jews of Egypt in Hellenistic-Roman Period

Who and When: Flavius Josephus, 2nd Maccabees

Who and When: Papyri on Onias Temple

Joseph and Aseneth and Onias Temple

Sybilan Oracles and Onias Temple

Pseudo-Hecataeus and Onias Temple

Rabbinic Literature and Onias Temple

Political involvement: Greek Esther and Joseph and Aseneth

Onias land: The History of the military settlement

Epigraphy and Papyrology

Required Reading:

ר' ינקלביץ, 'מקדש חונו - מציאות והלכה', א' אופנהיימר, י' גפני ומ' שטרן (עורכים), יהודים ויהדות בימי בית שני המשנה והתלמוד, ירושלים תשנ"ג, עמ' 107-115

א' צ'ריקובר, 'מלחמות, א', א', א' בתור מקור היסטורי, היהודים בעולם היווני והרומי, תל-אביב ירושלים תשכ"א, עמ' 135-145

ד' שוורץ, 'יהודי מצרים בין מקדש חונו למקדש ירושלים ולשמים', י' גפני (עורך), מרכז ותפוצה: ארץ ישראל והתפוצת בימי בית שני המשנה והתלמוד, ירושלים תשס"ד, עמ' 37-55

מ' שטרן, 'מותו של חונו השלישי', מחקרים בתולדות ישראל בימי הבית השני, ירושלים תשנ"א, עמ' 35-50

Bohak, G., *Joseph and Aseneth and the Jewish Temple in Heliopolis*, Atlanta 1996

Bohak, G., 'CPJ III 520: the Egyptian Reaction to Onias' Temple', *JSJ* 26 (1995), pp. 32-41

Collins, John J. *Between Athens and Jerusalem: Jewish Identity in the Hellenistic Diaspora*. Grand Rapids-Cambridge-Livonia 20002, pp. 69-78

Frey Jörg, "Temple and Rival Temple - The Cases of Elephantine, Mt. Gerizim, and Leontopolis", Beate Ego, Armin Lange & Peter Pilhofer (eds.), *Gemeinde ohne Tempel (Community without Temple): Zur Substituierung und Transformation des Jerusalemer Tempels und seines Kultus im Alten Testament, antiken Judentum und frühen Christentum* (WUNT 118), Tübingen Mohr Siebeck, pp. 171-203

Goldstein, Jonathan A., "The Tales of the Tobiads", *Christianity, Judaism and Other Greco-Roman Cults: Studies for Morton Smith at Sixty* (J. Neusner Ed.), 3, Leiden 1975, pp. 85-123

Gruen, E.S., "The Origins and Objectives of Onias' Temple", *SCI* 16 (1997), pp. 47-70

Hacham Noah, 'Bigthan and Teresh and the Reason Gentiles Hate Jews', *Vetus Testamentum* 62 (2012), pp. 318-356

Hacham Noah, 'Joseph and Aseneth: Loyalty, Traitors, Antiquity and Diasporan Identity', *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha* 22 (2012), pp. 53-67

Hacham Noah, 'The High Priesthood and Onias' Temple: The Historical Meaning of a Rabbinic Story', *Zion* 78 (2013), pp. 439-469 [Hebrew]

Meleze Modrzejewski, *Joseph, The Jews of Egypt: From Ramses II to Emperor Hadrian*. Philadelphia-Jerusalem 1995, pp. 121-133

Parente, F., 'Onias III' Death and the Founding of the Temple of Leontopolis', F. Parente & J. Sievers (eds.), *Josephus and the History of the Greco-Roman Period* (Morton Smith memory vol.) Leiden 1994, pp.69-98
Rainbow, Paul A., 'The Last Oniad and the Teacher of Righteousness', *JJS* 47 (1997), pp. 30-52
Seeligmann, I. L., *The Septuagint Version of Isaiah and Cognate Studies*, Tübingen 2004, pp. 252-257
Taylor, Joan E., 'A Second Temple in Egypt: the Evidence for the Zadokite Temple of Onias', *JSJ* 29 (1998), 297-321

Additional Reading Material:

Horbury William & Noy David. *Jewish Inscriptions of Graeco-Roman Egypt*. Cambridge 1992

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 20 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 70 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: