



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Restoration: The Jews of Egypt from the Diaspora Revolt to the Islam - 13950

Last update 14-09-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: History of Jewish People & Contemporary Jewry

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Noah Hacham

Coordinator Email: noahh@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Noah Hacham

Course/Module description:

Following the destruction of Egyptian Jewry during the Diaspora Revolt, a new era began in the history of the Jews of Egypt, a period considered poor in every possible respect. Only centuries later would a strong and significant Jewish community emerge in Egypt – the Genizah community.

In the seminar, we will examine the validity of the assumption regarding the impoverishment of Egyptian Jewry during the Byzantine period. We will study papyrological sources in various languages and genres and attempt to reconstruct a new history of the Jews of Egypt during the Byzantine era based on them.

Course/Module aims:

To become familiar with the primary sources on the history of the Jews of Egypt in the Late Roman and Byzantine periods, to criticize the prevailing view regarding this community, and to attempt to propose an alternative suggestion.

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

To find papyrological sources on the history of the Jews in Egypt during the Byzantine period.

To interpret Jewish papyri from that period.

To extract specific and general historical information from the papyrological sources.

To create a synthesis from the information derived from the various sources and propose a general historical thesis.

To write a research paper based on one aspect or one source related to the history of the Jews of Egypt during the Byzantine period.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: seminar

Course/Module Content:

- 1. Introduction: From the End of the Diaspora Revolt to the Genizah Society*
- 2. The Late Roman Period in Egypt: A Summary*
- 3. Literary Sources on the Jews of Egypt during the Byzantine Period*
- 4. Documentary and Literary Evidence on the Jews of Egypt from the 2nd-3rd Centuries*
- 5. The 4th Century: Was There a Change?*
- 6. Jewish-Christian Relations – How to Differentiate Between Jews and Christians?*
- 7. 4th-7th Centuries: Documentary and Literary Texts*
- 8. Conclusion – Changing the Overall Picture*

Required Reading:

E.M. Smallwood, The Jews under Roman Rule: from Pompey to Diocletian, Leiden 2001, pp. 516-519

Tcherikover, CPJ I, pp. 93-111

ביבליוגרפיה לשאר השיעורים תימסר בהמשך

Additional Reading Material:

Tcherikover V. A. Fuks and M. Stern, Corpus Papyrorum Judaicarum, III, Cambridge MA., 1964

other bibliography will be announced during the course

Grading Scheme:

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

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 20 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

Additional information: