Syllabus

READINGS IN MAIMONIDES GUIDE OF THE PERPLEXED - 14211

Last update 19-04-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Jewish Thought

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Aviram Ravitsky

Coordinator Email: aravitsky@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Mon. 15:00-16:00

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Esther Eisenmann
Dr. Aviram Ravitsky

Course/Module description:
In the course we will read the philosophic Magnum Opus of the main medieval Jewish philosopher – Maimonides’ Guide of the Perplexed. We will learn about Maimonides’ method of reconciling religion and philosophy and about his views on Divine attributes, prophecy, and the purpose of Jewish law.

Course/Module aims:
3. Gaining knowledge of Maimonides’ world view.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
The students will read fluently The Guide of the Perplexed in the translation of R. Samuel ibn Tibbon, and will understand the basic concepts of medieval Jewish philosophy in general, and of Maimonides in particular.

Attendance requirements(%):
10 lectures per semester

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures and reading

Course/Module Content:
1. Divine Attributes: Negative Attributes and Attributes of Action
2. The world view of the Kalam
3. The creation of the world vs. its eternity
4. Prophecy: Psychology and Politics
5. The Purpose of Jewish Law
6. Maimonides: Between al-Farabi and ibn Bajja

Required Reading:
1. Zev Harvey, "The Question of God’s Incorporeality in Maimonides, Rabad, Crescas and Spinoza", Studies in Jewish Thought (Hebrew) S. Heller-Wilensky and
3. Eliezer Schweid, Our Great Philosophers: The Medieval Jewish Philosophy (Hebrew), Tel Aviv 1999, pp. 275-299
4. Jacob Levinger, Maimonides as a Philosopher and a Codifier (Hebrew), Jerusalem 1990, pp. 21-38

Additional Reading Material:
H. A. Davidson, Moses Maimonides: The Man and His Work, Oxford 2005


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

Additional information:  
Assignments and requirements  
1. Attendance in class, at least 10 lectures, per semester (10% of final grade)  
2. Reading relevant bibliography  
3. Submitting a short paper (2 pages) in the semester (20% of final grade)  
4. Final exam at the end of the semester (70% of final grade)