Syllabus

ANCIENT JEWISH MYSTICISM - 14286

Last update 23-02-2014

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Jewish

Academic year: 1

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr Reimund Leicht

Coordinator Email: leichtreimund@pluto.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Sunday 15:00-15:30

Teaching Staff: Dr. Reimund Leicht
Course/Module description:
The main works of Jewish mysticism in the Talmudic and Geonic period are preserved in so-called Hekhalot Literature. Ancient Jewish mysticism reveals certain features which clearly distinguish it from other trends in Jewish mysticism of later period. In the course we will read selected texts from this corpus and will learn about the prevailing interpretative approaches in modern research.

Course/Module aims:
Knowledge of the literary sources for ancient Jewish mysticism, acquaintance with the status questions of modern research.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Ability to analyze a text from Hekhalot literature within the context of the questions of modern research.

Attendance requirements(%):
80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lecture, source reading, presentations by participants

Course/Module Content:
1. 16 February 2014
Introduction

2. 23 February 2014
3. 2 March 2014
Mysticism, Jewish Mysticism, Ancient Jewish Mysticism – what is it?

4. 2 March 2014
5. 9 March 2014
"Maaseh Merkava" – Jewish Mysticism in Rabbinic Literature?

6. 23 March 2014
7. 30 March 2014
Hekhalot Rabbati
8. 11 May 2014  Hekhalot Zutarti
9. 18 May 2014  Maaseh Merkavah
10. 25 May 2014  Shiur Qomah
11. 1 June 2014  Shiur Qomah
12. 2014 יוני 8.12
13. 15 June 2014 3 Enoch and the apocalyptic tradition

Required Reading:
Martha Himmelfarb, "Merkava Mysticism since Scholem: Rachel Elior's The Three Temples", *Peter Schäfer* (ed.), *Mystical Approaches to God: Judaism, Christianity and Islam* (Munich 2006), 19-36

משה אידל, קבלה, היבטים חדשים (וורשה 1993), 7-52
רחל אליאור, מקדש ומקדש, קהילות ומקדשים, התודות במקדשים היהודיים ומדאונים (וורשה 241-277), 2002

Martha Himmelfarb, "Merkava Mysticism since Scholem: Rachel Elior's The Three Temples", *Peter Schäfer* (ed.), *Mystical Approaches to God: Judaism, Christianity and Islam* (Munich 2006), 19-36

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Martha Himmelfarb, "Merkava Mysticism since Scholem: Rachel Elior's The Three Temples", *Peter Schäfer* (ed.), *Mystical Approaches to God: Judaism, Christianity and Islam* (Munich 2006), 19-36


Peter Schäfer, *Hidden and Manifest God* (Tbingen 1996)

Martin S. Cohen, *The Shi‘ur Qomah: Liturgy and Theurgy in Pre-Kabbalistic Jewish
Mysticism (Lanham 1983)
Martin S. Cohen, The Shiʻur Qomah: Texts and Recensions (Tbingen 1985)
Martha Himmelfarb, "Heavenly Ascent and the Relationship of the Apocalypses and the Hekhalot Literature", Hebrew Union College Annual 59 (1988), 73-100
Andre Orlov, The Enoch-Metatron Tradition (Tbingen 2005)

Additional Reading Material:
According the the requirements of the course

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 100 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: