

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Women philosophers in Ancient Judaism. A close reading of Philo's "On the Contemplative Life" - 14319

Last update 19-10-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Jewish Thought

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Assaf Roth

Coordinator Email: maren.niehoff@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 12-13.00, with appointment, Rabin Bldg. 3111

Teaching Staff:

Prof Maren Niehoff

Course/Module description:

The course will introduce the students to the community of philosophers near Alexandria, which included women taking part in Bible interpretation and philosophical discussions. We will examine their precise status, for example in leading the discussions and participating in the choir of the synagogue. We will also try to establish their prior educational background and ask whether they reflect the general education of Jewish girls in Alexandria. We will moreover compare them to female philosophers in the Hellenistic period, such as Hypatia.

Course/Module aims:

The course aims at a close reading of Philo's text and an in-depth understanding of the women philosophers described in it. The course will enable the students to identify gender questions, based on theoretical readings, and will familiarize them with comparative methods of research.

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

The students will have an in-depth knowledge of the Jewish women philosophers known from antiquity. They will also be able to identify and discuss gender questions in other texts.

Attendance requirements(%):

10

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lecturing, discussion in the class room and 2 exercises

Course/Module Content:

to be filled in later

Required Reading:

קריאה בסיסית:

פילון, חיי עיון, בתוך: כתבי פילון (בעריכת סוזן דניאל נטף ואחרים), כרך א, עמ' 169-181.
מארן ר. ניהוף, פילון האלכסנדרוני. ביוגרפיה אינטלקטואלית (תל אביב תשע"ט). קטעים נבחרים
Joan E. Taylor. Jewish Women Philosophers of First Century Alexandria. Philo's

'Therapeutae' reconsidered. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2003. (נבחרים קטעים)
Edward J. Watts, Hypatia. The Life and Legend of an Ancient Philosopher. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2017 (select passages).

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 80 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 20 %
participation

Additional information: