

# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Rabbi Abbahu: his Life Mishnah and Bible Exegesis in the Context of the Roman Empire - 14351*

*Last update 06-09-2023*

*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:* Maren R. Niehoff

*Coordinator Email:* [maren.niehoff@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:maren.niehoff@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* by appointment

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Maren Niehoff

Course/Module description:

While Rabbi Abbahu was a towering figure in Caesarea, the capital of the Roman province in the third century, the details of his life, thought and Bible exegesis are shrouded in enigma because of the nature of our sources. During the course we will approach Abbahu through close readings of key-passages from the Midrash and the Talmud. We will also pay attention to the traces of editing the ancient sources, which took place in Tiberias, the rivalling intellectual centre.

Course/Module aims:

the objective of the course is to uncover the enigmatic figure of Rabbu Abbahu and appreciate him in the context of his time.

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

the students will be able to analyze passages from the Midrash and the Talmud both in light of the manuscripts and the larger cultural context.

Attendance requirements(%):

mandatory attendance

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: seminar with focus on analysis of texts and discussion in class

Course/Module Content:

Abbahu as a leader of the Jewish community in Caesarea and his relations with the Roman administration, his Bible exegesis in view of Greco-Roman hermeneutics, his halacha in

Required Reading:

see syllabus on the site

Additional Reading Material:

see syllabus on the site

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Grading Scheme:

*Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 85 %*

*Active Participation / Team Assignment 15 %*

Additional information:

*two home exercises will be given, one in the middle of the course, the other at the end.*