



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Tetragrammaton in Medieval Kabbalah and Philosophy - 14454

Last update 21-10-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Jewish Thought

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Idan Pinto

Coordinator Email: Idan.Pinto@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Idan Pinto

Course/Module description:

The course will review a selection of medieval writings, both from the Iberian Jewish philosophers and from the Kabbalists of the 13th century. The class structure will be divided as follows: approximately one-third will be dedicated to philosophy, while two-thirds will focus on Kabbalah. Based on an examination of the philosophical views on the names of God, particularly the four-letter Ineffable Name – YHWH – in the writings of Jewish philosophers, the course will undertake a textual and conceptual analysis of the theories and praxis related to the Tetragrammaton developed by the Kabbalists, who in turn drew heavily from the earlier philosophical perspectives. In general, the course aims to direct students' attention to the linguistic aspects of Jewish theology, theosophy, and mysticism in the medieval period.

Course/Module aims:

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

By the end of this course, students will be able to identify the figures and writings discussed in class, and decipher Hebrew, philosophical, and Kabbalistic terminology and texts from the medieval period.

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

1. The Tetragrammaton in Medieval Jewish Thought – Introduction (Lesson 1).
2. The Tetragrammaton in the Writings of Medieval Jewish Philosophers (Lessons 2-4).
3. The Tetragrammaton in Medieval Kabbalistic Literature (Lessons 5-12).

Required Reading:

Will be given in class as needed.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 90 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 5 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 5 %

Additional information: