



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *The Return to the Bible in Modern Jewish Philosophy - 14625*

*Last update 01-09-2018*

*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: Benjamin Pollock*

*Coordinator Email: [benjamin.pollock@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:benjamin.pollock@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: by appointment with the instructor*

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Benjamin Pollock

Course/Module description:

*What is the role of the Bible in modern Jewish philosophy? On the one hand, modern Jewish philosophers inherited a long-standing tradition of the philosophical reading of the Torah. As those who continued this tradition, they related to the Bible both as the object of metaphysical and moral study, and as a unique Jewish source for ideas, questions, and ways of thinking. But on the other hand, political and intellectual developments at the beginning of the modern period undermined the authority of the Bible as the word of God, and opened the door to Biblical criticism, which suggested that one read the Bible - in the famous words of the English scholar Benjamin Jowett - "like any other book." In this course, we will learn about the contribution of Jewish thinkers to the modern revolution in the study of the Bible, and we will especially study the original and influential responses of Jewish thinkers to this revolution, and the ways these responses opened up creative paths of Jewish thinking.*

Course/Module aims:

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

- \* analyze the Biblical text from different philosophical perspectives
- \* explain the revolution in Biblical criticism, and the Jewish philosophical responses to it, to their friends
- \* to think independently about the relation between Scripture and reason

Attendance requirements(%):

75

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: collaborative reading of texts in class, lectures*

Course/Module Content:

*an updated syllabus will be distributed at the first class*

Required Reading:

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*an updated syllabus will be distributed at the first class*

*Additional Reading Material:*

*Course/Module evaluation:*

*End of year written/oral examination 70 %*  
*Presentation 0 %*  
*Participation in Tutorials 20 %*  
*Project work 0 %*  
*Assignments 0 %*  
*Reports 0 %*  
*Research project 0 %*  
*Quizzes 0 %*  
*Other 10 %*  
*reading assignments*

*Additional information:*