



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Major Trends in Medieval Jewish Philosophy - 14628

Last update 14-09-2023

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: Reimund Leicht

Coordinator Email: leichtreimund@googlemail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday 15-16

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Werthmann Tanja

Course/Module description:

The course provides a survey of the important Jewish thinkers of the middle ages from Saadia Gaon to the late middle ages/Renaissance in the form of lecture and common reading of selected primary sources.

Course/Module aims:

Acquaintance with the main Jewish philosophers of the middle ages and their thought within their cultural and historical contexts.

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

Basic acquaintance with the classical works of Jewish philosophy and ability to read primary texts. Familiarity with important questions of modern research.

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction
2. What is Jewish Philosophy?
3. The beginning of Jewish Thought in the middle Ages in the Islmaicate World: al-Muqammis and Saadia Gaon
4. "Jewish Neoplatonism": Isaak Israeli and Salomon Ibn Gabirol
5. Asceticism, "Ethics" and Philosophy in al-Andalus in the 11th and 12th century
6. Jewish philosophy in al-Andalus in the 12th century: Abraham Ibn Ezra and Abraham ibn Daud
7. Criticism of philosophy in the name of religion: Judah ha-Levi
8. Maimonides

9. and 10. After Maimonides: Followers and Critics

11. Levi ben Gershom

12. Jewish Thought in the later middle Ages

13. Summary

Required Reading:

Basic acquaintance with the classical works of Jewish philosophy and ability to read primary texts. Familiarity with important questions of modern research.

Additional Reading Material:

All texts for the course (short primary sources, one article/chapter of a book per meeting) will be provided on Moodle.

Grading Scheme:

Written / Oral / Practical Exam 100 %

Additional information:

no