Syllabus

Christian Kabbalistic writings in the 16th century – 14743

Last update 24-08-2016

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Jewish Thought

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Judith Weiss

Coordinator Email: Judith.weiss@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays, 1-2pm, or by appointment

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Judith Weiss
Course/Module description:
In the last third of the 15th century and throughout the 16th century, Catholic European scholars showed great interest in Kabbalah. A close acquaintance with this interreligious phenomenon and its examination from ideological, textual and historical perspectives will be the main object of the seminar. In addition some of the basic scholarly questions in this field of research will be dealt with.

Course/Module aims:
Acquiring a thorough acquaintance with some of the prominent Kabbalistic-Christian writers in the 16th century Based on an understanding of the wider context in which they were active

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Find their bearings in the corpus of Renaissance Christian Kabbalah and to understand it in its wider context. Students versed in Latin will acquire tools for conducting research on Christian-Kabbalistic primary sources.

Attendance requirements(%):
Participation in 80% of classes

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures, class discussions and student presentations

Course/Module Content:
- The beginnings of Christian study of Kabbalah in the context of inter-religious discourse in the late Middle-Ages
- the increase in Christian-Kabbalistic literary activity in the Renaissance with reference to the cultural context of the period
- Close readings in the writings of prominent Renaissance Christian-Kabbalistic writers: Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, Johann Reuchlin, Egidio da Viterbo, Francesco Zorzi, Guillaume Postel, Guy Lefevre de la Boderie

Required Reading:
משה אידל, 'הפירוש המאגי והניאופלטוני של הקבלה בתקופת הרנסאנס', מחקרי ירושלים במחשבת ישראל 112, עמ' 60-112
Joseph Leon Blau, The Christian Interpretation of the Cabala in the Renaissance,
New York 1944
Wouter J. Hanegraaff, Esotericism and the Academy: Rejected Knowledge in Western Culture, Cambridge 2012
Moshe Idel, »On European Cultural Renaissances and Jewish Mysticism«, Kabbalah 13 (2005), pp. 43–78
Wilhelm Schmidt-Biggemann, Philosophia Perennis: Historical Outlines of Western Spirituality, Dordrecht 2004
Yosef Schwartz, »The Esoteric and Inter-Religious Aspects of the Relation Philosophy/Kabbalah in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe«, Studia Judaica 16 (2008), pp. 126–143

Additional Reading Material:
Will be provided in class

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

Additional information: