

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Plato's Republic in Medieval Hebrew Philosophy - 14745*

*Last update 25-08-2016*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 2nd degree (Master)

*Responsible Department:* jewish thought

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 1st Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Prof. Zeev Harvey

*Coordinator Email:* [zeev.harvey@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:zeev.harvey@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* Th 11:30-12:30

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Zeev Harvey

Course/Module description:

Plato's Republic had a great influence on medieval Jewish philosophers, e.g., Maimonides. Like Alfarabi and Averroes, he was an Aristotelian in most areas of philosophy, but a Platonist in politics. Averroes' Epitome of the Republic was translated into Hebrew in 1320 by Samuel of Marseilles. We'll read together Averroes Epitome and compare it to Plato's original. We shall also refer to various medieval Hebrew philosophic works.

Course/Module aims:

Skills in reading medieval Hebrew philosophic texts, evaluation of the place of Plato's Republic in the history of medieval Jewish philosophy.

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

Ability to analyze a medieval Hebrew philosophic text; familiarity with technical philosophic terminology

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: seminar discussion

Course/Module Content:

1. The Republic in Arabic philosophy.
2. Maimonides and Plato
3. Averroes' Epitome of the Republic
4. Rabbi Samuel of Marseilles' Hebrew translation
5. Rabbi Joseph Kaspi's Epitome

Required Reading:

"קיצור בן רשד לספר הנהגת המדינה לאפלטון", בתוך:

Samuel of Marseille's Hebrew translation of Averroes Epitome of the Republic in E.I.J. Rosenthal, ed. and trans., Averroes' Commentary on Plato's Republic, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1956, 1966, 1969, pp. 21-108

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Additional Reading Material:

1. Lawrence V. Berman, *Review of Rosenthal, Averroes' Commentary on Plato's Republic*, *Oriens* 21-22 (1968-1969), pp. 436-439.
2. -----, "Greek into Hebrew: Samuel ben Judah of Marseilles," in Alexander Altmann, ed., *Jewish Medieval and Renaissance Studies*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1967, pp. 289-320.
3. Steven Harvey, "The Greek Library of the Medieval Jewish Philosophers," in Cristina D'Ancona, ed., *The Libraries of the Neoplatonists*, Leiden: Brill, 2007, pp. 493-506.
4. J.L. Teicher, *Review of Rosenthal, Averroes' Commentary on Plato's Republic*, *Journal of Semitic Studies* 5 (1960), pp. 176-195.
5. Ralph Lerner, trans. and annotated, *Averroes on Plato's Republic*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1974.
6. Abraham Melamed [מלמד אברהם], *The Philosopher-King in Medieval and Renaissance Jewish Political Thought*, Albany: SUNY Press, 2003.
8. Leo Strauss, "Farabi's Plato," in Louis Ginzberg Jubilee Volume, ed. A. Marx, S. Lieberman, S. Spiegel, and S. Zeitlin, New York: AAJR, 1945, pp. 357-393.

Course/Module evaluation:

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

Additional information: