

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Kabbalah and German Idealism - 14876

Last update 21-02-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Jewish Thought

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Paul Franks

Coordinator Email: paul.franks@yale.edu

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Paul Franks

Course/Module description:

An exploration of the use of kabbalistic concepts within German Idealist philosophy by Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi, Salomon Maimon, Johann Gottlieb Fichte, Friedrich Wilhelm Josef Schelling, Franz Josef Molitor, and Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. Concepts include ein sof (the infinite), tsimtsum (contraction), and levush (garb or guise). What problems are these concepts employed to address? How successfully are these attempted solutions? How are the concepts transformed when compared to their sources in writings of Moses Cordovero, Isaac Luria, Haim Vital, and Abraham ha-Kohen Herrera? What new light is shed on German Idealism by the centrality of these kabbalistic concepts? What is the significance for our understanding of the relationship between Jewish thought and German philosophy?

Course/Module aims:

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

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Attendance requirements(%):

דרישות נוכחות

80% Attendance requirements

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80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

Course/Module content

Required Reading:

Moses Cordovero, Pardes Rimonim

Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi, Letters to Herr Moses Mendelssohn on the Philosophy of Spinoza

Salomon Maimon, Autobiography

Johann Gottlieb Fichte, Foundations of Natural Right

Friedrich Wilhelm Schelling, Stuttgart Seminars

Franz Josef Molitor, Philosophie der Geschichte

*Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Fragment on the Life-Course of God,
Phenomenology of Spirit, Science of Logic*

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 70 %

Assignments 20 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: