

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Negative Theology (via negativa) in Philosophy and Kabbalah in the Middle Ages - 14983

Last update 28-10-2024

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Jewish Thought

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Tanja Werthmann

Coordinator Email: tanja.werthmann@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday, 15:00-16:00

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Werthmann Tanja

Course/Module description:

The course will deal with negative theology in medieval Jewish philosophy and Kabbalah against the background of ancient Greek philosophical concepts and their modifications in Christian and Islamic thought.

Course/Module aims:

The course aims at introducing the students to the ancient Greek philosophical concepts, their adaptation by Christian, Arabic and Jewish philosophers and their transposition into a mystical key by medieval Kabbalists.

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

On successful completion of this course students should be able to identify links between ancient Greek, Christian and medieval Arabic and Jewish philosophical sources and medieval Kabbalah, based upon profound acquaintance with relevant concepts and terminology.

Attendance requirements(%):

90

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture, close reading of sources and discussion in class

Course/Module Content:

- (a) Concepts of the First Principle in ancient Greek thought;
- (b) Negative theology in medieval Arabic philosophy;
- (c) Negative theology in medieval Jewish philosophy;
- (d) Kabbalistic notions of the concealed dimension of the Divine which developed on the basis of philosophical sources

Required Reading:

The bibliography will be handed out at the beginning of the course.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %
Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture/ Seminar / Pro-seminar / Research
proposal 15 %
Active Participation / Team Assignment 15 %

Additional information: