

# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### **LAWS OF NATURE - 15976**

*Last update 27-07-2017*

*HU Credits:* 2

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

*Responsible Department:* philosophy

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 1st Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Aaron Segal

*Coordinator Email:* [aaron.segal1@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:aaron.segal1@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* Sunday 14:30-16:00

*Teaching Staff:*

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Dr. Aaron Segal

Course/Module description:

We will focus on the metaphysics and epistemology of laws of nature: What is it to be a law of nature? Are there any laws of nature? Can we know what the laws are? If so, how?

Course/Module aims:

To better understand the metaphysics and epistemology of laws of nature

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

not applicable

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lecture + discussion

Course/Module Content:

- 1) Significance of lawhood
- 2) Theories of lawhood
  - a) Humeanism
  - b) Universals
  - c) Aristotelianism
  - d) Counterfactualism
  - e) Primitivism
- 3) Are there laws?
- 4) Epistemology of laws of nature

Required Reading:

Articles and book excerpts by D.M. Armstrong, Helen Beebe, John Carroll, Nancy Cartwright, John Earman, Ned Hall, Tyler Hildebrand, Marc Lange, David Lewis, Barry Loewer, Tim Maudlin, John Roberts, Theodore Sider, Michael Tooley, Bas van Fraassen, and the instructor

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Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 10 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 90 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: