

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Syyid Qutb: From Modern Literature to the Sovereignty of God - 16446*

*Last update 20-08-2018*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 1st degree (Bachelor)

*Responsible Department:* Arabic Language & Literature

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 1st Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Dr. Daniel Lav

*Coordinator Email:* [daniel.lav@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:daniel.lav@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:*

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Teaching Staff:

Dr. Daniel Lav

Course/Module description:

Sayyid Quṭb is known to many as one of the most influential and controversial Islamic thinkers of the twentieth century. The course will examine the different stages in Quṭb's thought and writing, from his first literary efforts and up to his Islamist writings in the 1950s and '60s. Class discussions will focus on situating Quṭb's thought in relation to major trends in the modern Arab world (nationalism, pan-Arabism, the Muslim Brotherhood, etc.) and on examining continuities and discontinuities between the different periods of his work. Special attention will be devoted to Quṭb's final works, which left a profound mark on Islamic thought in the years following his death.

Course/Module aims:

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

Independently read and analyze Sayyid Quṭb's writings; understand the relation between Quṭb's thought and different tendencies in modern Egypt and in the modern Muslim world in general; assess Quṭb's influence on various contemporary trends in modern Islam.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Instruction will focus on reading primary sources together in the classroom setting, with guidance from the instructor. Students will be expected to prepare the readings in advance of each class. The instructor's lectures will serve primarily to introduce new topics.

Course/Module Content:

A Portrait of the Author as a Young Man: Literature and Politics in Egypt in the First Half of the Twentieth Century

The Islamic Solution: Writings from Quṭb's Middle Period and His Activitism in the Muslim Brotherhood

The Sovereignty of God: Quṭb's Late Writings and their Impact on Modern Islamic Discourse

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Required Reading:

*Selections from Sayyid Quṭb's writings, e.g. al-Taṣṣawur al-fannī fī'l-qur'ān, Fī ḡilāl al-qur'ān, Ma'ālim fī'l-ṭarīq*

*Rabī' b. Hādī al-Madkhalī, Aḡwā' islāmiyya 'alā 'aqīdat Sayyid Quṭb wa-fikrihi*

*Muhammad Qasim Zaman, "The Sovereignty of God in Modern Islamic Thought," Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society 25/3 (2015)*

*William E. Shepard, "Sayyid Qutb's Doctrine of 'Jāhiliyya'," International Journal of Middle East Studies 35/4*

*Andrew F. March, "Genealogies of Sovereignty in Islamic Political Theology," Social Research 80/1 (2013)*

Additional Reading Material:

*John Calvert, Sayyid Qutb and the Origins of Radical Islamism*

*Richard P. Mitchell, The Society of the Muslim Brothers*

*Armando Salvatore, Islam and the Political Discourse of Modernity*

Course/Module evaluation:

*End of year written/oral examination 50 %*

*Presentation 0 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 10 %*

*Project work 0 %*

*Assignments 40 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 0 %*

*Other 0 %*

Additional information: