Syllabus

INTRODUCTION TO MEDIAEVAL JUDAEO-ARABIC - 16820

Last update 07-02-2014

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Arabic Language and Literature

Academic year: 4

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof Simon Hopkins

Coordinator Email: hopkins@huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 9.30 - 10.30, Room 6325

Teaching Staff: Prof Simon Hopkins
**Course/Module description:**
This MA seminar is a traditional component of Arabic studies at the HU, combining the worlds of Judaism and Islam, Arabic and Hebrew. Many of the great names of Jewish culture, e.g. Maimonides, wrote their works in Arabic and this mediaeval Judaeo-Arabic is an integral component of Arabic studies in Jerusalem. Mediaeval Judaeo-Arabic is written in varieties of "Middle Arabic" and is of great importance for the history of Arabic, forming a link between the classical literary language of Islam and the modern spoken dialects of today. In addition to cultural and linguistic features, this course also provides an introduction to the world of manuscripts, especially from the Cairo Geniza. Special attention is paid to matters of palaeography, transmission of mediaeval texts and principles of editorial technique. Students wishing to write a seminar paper are normally required to edit a specimen of an unpublished Judaeo-Arabic text.

**Course/Module aims:**
This course aims to familiarize the students with the mediaeval Judaeo-Arabic, which forms a link between classical Arabic and the spoken dialects today.

**Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:**
1. Expose advanced students to a kind of Arabic and a cultural world which they may not have met before
2. Enable the students to read in the original language some of the major works of mediaeval civilization
3. Provides an introduction to the world of manuscripts, especially from the Cairo Geniza

**Attendance requirements(%):**
90%

**Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:** During this course we will read texts in mediaeval Judaeo-Aabic. Preparation of the texts and regular attendance in class are compulsory. Students are also required to study recommended academic literature on certain central topics (e.g. Maimonides, Cairo Geniza, Hebrew loanwords, regional dialects of Judaeo-Arabic) and to make oral presentations in class based upon this reading.

**Course/Module Content:**
Characteristics of the mediaeval Judaeo-Arabic; comparison between middle Arabic, classic Arabic, and spoken Arabic; reading manuscripts from the Cairo Geniza

Required Reading:
The texts studied in class are usually taken from J. Blau’s annotated anthology of mediaeval Judaeo-Arabic texts. Reproductions of original manuscripts are also read.

Additional Reading Material:
The following works of J. Blau:
The Emergence and Linguistic Background of Judaeo-Arabic: A Study of the Origins of Middle Arabic
A Dictionary of Mediaeval Judaeo-Arabic Texts
A Grammar of Mediaeval Judaeo-Arabic

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 70 %
Presentation 20 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
The final mark is composed of a written examination and a mark for the course. The latter is based upon attendance and participation etc. The former consists of three questions: (i) explanations of underlined words in a passage of seen Judaeo-Arabic, (ii) translation of a passage of unseen Judaeo-Arabic, (iii) a general question on a subject elucidated in class or discussed in the set literature.