

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Early Islamic State - 16915

Last update 14-09-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Arabic Language & Literature

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Michael Lecker

Coordinator Email: lecker@huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: appointment by mail

Teaching Staff:

Prof Michael Lecker

Course/Module description:

The large literary evidence on the prophet Muhammad and early Islam does not abound with solid facts about the early Islamic state. But obviously without a well-organized system of rewards it would not have been established and would not have achieved its brilliant successes in the first decades after Muhammad's death. We shall make use of hints in a variety of sources in order to reconstruct the institutions of this state.

Course/Module aims:

To find out how a puzzle picture is created in order to reconstruct the above-mentioned institutions.

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

To use digital text repositories in order to reconstruct an elusive historical reality. To practice their detective skills and adopt a critical attitude towards the primary sources.

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Reading and interpreting texts in Classical Arabic while employing digital tools.

Course/Module Content:

The Arabian Peninsula: nomads and sedentaries
The political situation in Mecca
The political situation in Yathrib
'Ahd al-Umma
Muḥammad's army
Muḥammad's mosque
Muḥammad's market
Gold and silver
Najrān
Ṣawāfī
Customs dues
Mu'ādh ibn Jabal in the Yemen
The sadaqa tax

The Anṣār
Governors and tax collectors

Required Reading:

Petra M. Sijpesteijn, Shaping a Muslim State. The World of a Mid-Eight Century Egyptian Official, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

F.M. Donner, The Articulation of Early Islamic State Structures, Surrey: Ashgate, 2012.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 100 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

Participation in the discussion: in certain cases a fluctuation of up to 20% in each direction will take place.