

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Reading the Sealed Book: Scripture and Hermeneutics Between Paul and Tannaitic Midrash - 17722*

*Last update 12-09-2024*

*HU Credits:* 2

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

*Responsible Department:* Hebrew Literature

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 1st Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Dr. Yael Fisch

*Coordinator Email:* [yael.fisch@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:yael.fisch@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* on appointment

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Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yael Fisch

Course/Module description:

*This seminar will be dedicated to scriptural interpretation in Paul's letters and the question of its relationship to interpretation in Tannaitic midrashim. We will discuss cases of parallel interpretive traditions that arise in both corpora, but our main focus will be on a comparative study of the reading techniques and exegetical rhetoric used by Paul and the Tannaim. We will explore the question of whether and how Paul's self-identification as a Pharisee may be used to recover a history of midrash and the methodological problems surrounding it. We will look into the mobility between Jewish literature in Greek and that written in Hebrew, examine shared and polarized ideas in the epistles and midrash, and consider the state of research. This is an opportunity for an in-depth study of Paul's and rabbinic hermeneutics.*

Course/Module aims:

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

*At the conclusion of the seminar, students will be able to discuss Pauline and Rabbinic scriptural interpretations from hermeneutical and conceptual perspectives. Additionally, they will be able to discuss various historical and analytical approaches for examining parallels in their broader cultural context and apply them to primary sources.*

Attendance requirements(%):

90

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

- 1 | Opening remarks and introduction: History, methodology, genealogy
- 2 | The scriptures: Greek and Hebrew, between Second Temple period and Rabbinic Judaism
- 3 | Strack and Billerbeck and additional resources: Critical reading
- 4 | Allegory and midrash 1
- 5 | Allegory and midrash 2

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6	Goy
7	Marriage
8	Deeds and reward
9	Removing the veil 1
10	Removing the veil 2
11	Student presentations
12	Student presentations
13	Summary

Required Reading:

רשימת קריאה (מסודרת אלפביתית)

Boyarin, Daniel. *A Radical Jew: Paul and the Politics of Identity*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994.

———. “The Subversion of the Jews: Moses’s Veil and the Hermeneutics of Supersession.” *Diatrics* 23 (1993): 16–35.

Cover, Michael Benjamin. “Paulus als Yischmaelit? The Personification of Scripture as Interpretive Authority in Paul and the School of Rabbi Ishmael.” *JBL* 135 (2016): 617–37.

Dawson, David. *Allegorical Readers and Cultural Revision in Ancient Alexandria*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992.

Heath, Jane. “Moses’ End and the Succession: Deuteronomy 31 and 2 Corinthians 3,” *NTS* 60 (2014): 37–60.

Fisch, Yael. “‘Midrash-Pesher’: A Shared Technique of Interpretation in Qumran, Paul, and the Tannaim.” *Revue de Qumrân* 32 (2020): 213–33.

———. “The Origins of Oral Torah: A New Pauline Perspective.” *JSJ* 51 (2020): 43–66.

———. *Written for Us: Paul’s Interpretation of Scripture and the History of Midrash*. Leiden: Brill, 2023.

Fredriksen, Paula. *Paul: The Pagans’ Apostle*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017.

Hays, Richard B. *Echoes of Scripture in the Letters of Paul*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.

Jeremias, Joachim. “Paulus Als

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Hillelit." *Neotestamentica et Semitica*, 1969, 89–90.

Kister, Menahem. "A Common Heritage: Biblical Interpretation at Qumran and Its Implications." In *Biblical Perspectives: Early Use and Interpretation of the Bible in the Light of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Proceedings of the First International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature*, 12-14 May 1996, edited by Michael E. Stone and Esther G. Chazon, 101–11. *STDJ* 28. Leiden: Brill, 1998.

———. "Allegorical Interpretations of Biblical Narratives in Rabbinic Literature, Philo, and Origen: Some Case Studies." In *New Approaches to the Study of Biblical Interpretation in Judaism of the Second Temple Period and in Early Christianity: Proceedings of the Eleventh International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature, Jointly Sponsored by the Hebrew University Center for the Study of Christianity*, 9-11 January, 2007, edited by Gary A. Anderson, Ruth Clements, and David Satran, *STDJ* 106. Leiden: Brill, 2013. 133–83.

———. "Deeds, Reward, and Divine Mercy: Jewish Views and Pauline Passages." *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 52 (2021): 1–44.

Moyise, Steve. "Does Paul Respect the Context of His Quotations?" In *Paul and Scripture: Extending the Conversation*, edited by Christopher D. Stanley, 97–114. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

Ophir, Adi, and Ishay Rosen-Zvi. *Goy: Israel's Multiple Others and the Birth of the Gentile*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Rosen-Zvi, Ishay. "Pauline Traditions and the Rabbis: Three Case Studies." *Harvard Theological Review* 110, no. 2 (2017): 169–94.

Sanders, E. P. *Paul and Palestinian Judaism*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977.

Stanley, Christopher D. *Paul and the Language of Scripture: Citation Technique in the Pauline Epistles and Contemporary Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Stowers, Stanley K. *A Rereading of Romans: Justice, Jews, and Gentiles*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994.

Hermann L. Strack and Paul Billerbeck. *Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch*, 6 Volumes. Munich: Beck, 1922.

Thiessen, Matthew. "Paul's Argument against Gentile Circumcision in Romans 2:17-29." *Novum Testamentum* 56 (2014): 373–91.

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Watson, Francis. *Paul and the Hermeneutics of Faith*. Continuum International Publishing Group, 2004.

Zurawski, Jason M. "Mosaic Torah as Encyclical Paideia: Reading Paul's Allegory of Hagar and Sarah in Light of Philo of Alexandria's." In *Pedagogy in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity*, edited by Karina M. Hogan, Matthew Goff, and Emma Wasserman, Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2017, 283-308.

דניאל בויארין, "דורשי רשומות אמרו", באר שבע 3 (1988): 23-35.

אסף רוזן צבי, "אף על פי שאין ראייה לדבר, זכר לדבר": מובנו, אופיו ומשמעותו של הביטוי בספרות התנאים", תרביץ עח (תשס"ט), 323-344.

ישי רוזן-צבי ועדיאל שרמר, "הגדות על דופי", תעודה לא, 381-410.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Additional information: