



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Trends in 20th Century Poetry - 19172*

*Last update 05-08-2022*

*HU Credits: 2*

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

*Responsible Department: General & Compar. Literature*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 1st Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Asif Rahamim*

*Coordinator Email: [asif.rahamim@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:asif.rahamim@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 13:00-14:00*

*Teaching Staff:*

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Dr. Asif Rahamim

Course/Module description:

The 20th century is undeniably one of the most tumultuous eras in human history. This century of unprecedented technological achievements and of two world wars, of the space race and of industrial killings, generated a radical shift in human consciousness and in the traditional ways by which it used to make sense of its world. A highly sensitive barometer, poetry stands at the pinnacle of human responses to the tectonic changes brought about by the 20th century. This course seeks to review some of those responses: Dadaism, Surrealism, German Expressionism, Italian and Russian Futurism, Anglo-American Imagism, WWI poetry, Beat Generation poetry, post WWII poetry, etc. We will read poems, manifestoes, and other texts written by prominent figures of each school, and learn about their connections with other artists – writers, painters, architects, and sculptors. We will try to conceptualize the major questions that those texts convey: the crisis of language, the question of meaning in a world gone mad, and art's capability to redeem human existence.

Course/Module aims:

Students will be able to accurately map major trends in 20th century Western poetry and connect them to historical events and to broader questions which arouse in the 20th century, such as the crisis of language and the search for meaning.

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

Students will be able to accurately map major trends in 20th century Western poetry and connect them to historical events and to broader questions which arouse in the 20th century, such as the crisis of language and the search for meaning.

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

Class 1: Introduction: Friedrich Nietzsche, "On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense".

Class 2: Introduction b: The precursors of Modernity: Baudelaire, Rimbaud, and Mallarme (Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life"; Walter Benjamin on Baudelaire).

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*Class 3: German Expressionism.*  
*Class 4: Dadaism and Surrealism.*  
*Class 5: Italian and Russian Futurism.*  
*Class 6: Poetry of the trenches - WWI poems.*  
*Class 7: R. M. Rilke and the "poetry of things".*  
*Class 8: Anglo-American modernism a - T. S. Eliot.*  
*Class 9: Anglo-American modernism b - Ezra Pound and the Imagist movement.*  
*Class 10: post-WWII poetry a - the American Beat.*  
*Class 11: post-WWII poetry b - poetry after Auschwitz.*  
*Class 12: Land-poetry and Concrete poetry.*  
*Class 13: Confessional poetry.*

*Required Reading:*

*See the course's site on Moodle.*

*Additional Reading Material:*

*Course/Module evaluation:*

*End of year written/oral examination 0 %*  
*Presentation 0 %*  
*Participation in Tutorials 10 %*  
*Project work 90 %*  
*Assignments 0 %*  
*Reports 0 %*  
*Research project 0 %*  
*Quizzes 0 %*  
*Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*