

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Petrarch and European Humanism - 19711

Last update 30-08-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: General & Compar. Literature

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Gur Zak

Coordinator Email: gur.zak@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Gur Zak

Course/Module description:

Francesco Petrarch is considered the "Father of European Humanism" or at least the most significant and influential figure in early humanism. The aim of the course is to dive into the depths of Petrarch's "humanism" in order to understand its meanings and the connection between it and contemporary concepts of humanism and humanitarianism. The course will also examine Petrarch's direct influence on the development of humanism in Italy in the 15th and 16th centuries. The first part of the course will be devoted to examining the characteristics of Petrarchan humanism through a study of a series of issues arising from his writings: the nature of humanitas, the rise of historical consciousness, the classical world and Christianity, the ethics of care of the self, and the relationship between literature and gender. The second part of the course will focus on a number of Petrarch's successors in Renaissance Italy, including female humanists like Laura Cereta and Isotta Nogarola

Course/Module aims:

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

1. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the major characteristics of Petrarchan humanism and its influence on the Western humanistic tradition
2. Critically and deeply analyze literary works and articles related to Petrarch and the humanist tradition

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

1. What is Petrarchan Humanism?
2. Humanism and humanitas
3. Humanism and Secularization
4. Love and Self-Control: Petrarch's Scipio
5. Loss, Grief, and Consolation
6. Political Petrarchism
7. Bruni and Petrarch

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8. *Alberti and Petrarch*
 9. *Female Petrarchists: Nogarola and Fedele*
 10. *Female Petrarchists: Cereta*

Required Reading:

פטררקה, נודד לזמנים אחרים, עורך גור זק, תרגומים אברהם ארואטי, עמינדב דיקמן, גור זק, נתן רון (ירושלים: מאגנס, 2023)

Paul Oskar Kristeller, "The Humanist Movement," in *Renaissance Thought and Its Sources* (New York, 1957), 22-32

Kenneth Gouwens, "What Post-Humanism Isn't: On Humanism and Human Exceptionalism in the Renaissance," In *Renaissance Posthumanism* (New York, 2016), 37-61

בוקאצ'ו, דקאמרון, תרגום גאיו שילוני ואריאל רטהאוז (ירושלים, 2000), יום עשירי סיפור עשירי

Christian Hoigel, *The Human and the Humane: Humanity as Argument from Cicero to Erasmus* (Gottingen, 2015), 41-84

Livy, *From the Founding of the City*, 30.1-18

Petrarch, *Triumphs*, trans. Wilkins

Petrarch, *Africa* 5, trans. Thomas Bergin

Jennifer Rushworth, "Commune dolor o dolore unico? Petrarch, Mourning, and Community," in *Petrarchan Passions* (Berlin, 2022), 27-38

W. Scott Blanchard, "Petrarch and the Genealogy of Asceticism," *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 62.3 (2001): 401-423

James Hankins, *Virtue Politics* (Harvard, 2019), 153-192, 517-520

Leonardo Bruni, "The Dialogues," in *The Humanism of Bruni*, ed. Hankins et al. (Binghamton, 1987), 63-84

Leonardo Bruni, "Lives of Dante and Petrarch," 85-100

Leonardo Bruni, "On the Correct Way to Translate," 217-228

ברוני, "הנובלה של סלאוקוס", תרגום יונתן פיין

Alberti, *Vita*, trans. Watkins

Alberti, Dinner Pieces, trans. Marsh, selections

Casandra Fedele, Letters and Orations, ed. Diana Robin (Chicago, 2000), 154-166

Isotta Nogarola, Complete Writings, eds. King and Robin (Chicago, 2004), selections

Aileen Feng, Writing Beloveds: Humanist Petrarchism and the Politics of Gender (Toronto, 2017), 68-105

Laura Cereta, Collected Letters of a Renaissance Feminist, tr. Robin (Chicago, 1997), 20-63

Feng, Writing Beloveds, 106-132

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %
Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture/ Seminar / Pro-seminar / Research proposal 20 %
Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Additional information: