



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Literature Prophecy Apocalypse - 19824

Last update 06-08-2019

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: General & Compar. Literature

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Ilana Pardes

Coordinator Email: mspardes@mscc.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Ilana Pardes

Course/Module description:

What is the role of literature in imagining the future? Why has the prophetic cry over forthcoming disasters become a touchstone for modern reflections on catastrophic events? In what ways do modern writers and thinkers respond to the prophetic ethical legacy? Why are prophecy and poetry interconnected in the biblical text and to what extent is this aesthetic preference relevant within the context of modernity? We will begin with selected chapters from Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the Book of Revelation. We will then move on to explore different modern adaptations of prophetic and apocalyptic texts: From Whitman to Phillip Roth and the American TV series The Handmaid's Tale in the American context. Within the context of Israeli literature and culture, we will read selected poems by Bialik and Yonah Wallach as well as contemporary dystopic novels such as The Third by Yishai Sarid and Mud by Dror Burstein. Our focus will be literary, but we will also consider films and visual media. Our theoretical reading list will include essays and articles by Benjamin, Buber, Arendt, and Eshel.

Course/Module aims:

To explore different prophetic modes in literature.

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

Students will be able to analyze the role of literature in fashioning imaginings of the future.

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

The reading list will include American literary texts - from Whitman to Kushner as well as texts by modern Hebrew poets and writers - from Bialik to Pedaya .

Required Reading:

The required reading will include literary works by Whitman, Allen Ginsberg Atwood, Bialik, Wallach, Burstein, and. We will also read a variety of theoretical texts by Buber, Benjamin, Alter, Eshel and others.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 80 %

Assignments 10 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: