

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *The David Story: Bible Literature Political Thought Art - 19833*

*Last update 06-09-2022*

*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:* אילנה פרדס

*Coordinator Email:* [mspardes@mscc.huji.ac.il](mailto:mspardes@mscc.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:*

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Ilana Pardes

Course/Module description:

*This course will be devoted both to the remarkably nuanced representations of political life in the biblical text itself and to their afterlives. Among the topics to be addressed: Why has the biblical account of the seductions of power become a touchstone for literary reflections on political rule? To what extent do contemporary readers of the text follow the Bible's insistence to avoid idealization and idolization of rulers? What happens to the configurations of royal loves when they are transferred from biblical courts to modern literature? While focusing on the literary reception of biblical politics (from Shakespeare and Melville to Daliah Ravikovitch and Leonard Cohen), we will also consider other pertinent afterlives in the realm of art (from Michelangelo to Adi Nes). Our reading list will include an array of responses to biblical politics by Martin Buber, Robert Alter, Mieke Bal, Moshe Halbertal, and Stephen Holmes.*

Course/Module aims:

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

*Students should be able to deepen their understanding of the complex interrelations between literature and politics in the Book of Samuel. They will also acquire tools that will enable them to analyze different modes of biblical reception - from literary renditions to visual interpretations.*

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

*The seminar will be devoted to readings of pivotal scenes in the Book of Samuel. We will read these episodes in light of diverse literary and political responses to this text.*

Required Reading:

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*The Book of Samuel*  
*Selected articles and literary adaptations.*

*Additional Reading Material:*

*Course/Module evaluation:*

*End of year written/oral examination 80 %*

*Presentation 0 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 10 %*

*Project work 0 %*

*Assignments 10 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 0 %*

*Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*