



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Philology of Emotions: Between Literature and History - 19837

Last update 26-08-2023

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. Gur Zak

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

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Prof Gur Zak

Course/Module description:

The Study of the emotions has been at the center of various disciplines in recent years, including history, philosophy, psychology, the neurosciences, and literature. Within historical studies, there emerged a particularly influential subfield – the history of emotions. In the field of literature and literary theory, at the same time, “affect theory”, which seeks to explore the bodily, sensual, and pre-linguistic effects of literary works, has been at the forefront. This seminar will seek to bring together the insights of these two fields in an attempt to analyze the literary history of emotions from antiquity to the Renaissance. In doing so, the course will strive to develop a critical approach that might be dubbed “philology of emotions”. Among the emotions we will focus on in the course will be love, sorrow, compassion, and anger.

Course/Module aims:

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

1. To demonstrate deep acquaintance with contemporary theories of emotions, from the fields of both history and literature
2. To analyze in a critical and informed manner the representation of emotions in literary works from antiquity to the present

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and discussion

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction: History of Emotions and Affect Theory
2. Cont.
3. Poetry and Pathos in the Virgilian Epic
4. Desire, anger, and revenge in Ancient Tragedy: Seneca
5. Philology of Emotions in Medieval Romance: Perceval
6. Cont.

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7. *Desire and Anger in Dante's Commedia*
 8. Cont.
 9. *Desire, Anger, and Revenge in Boccaccio's Decameron*
 10. Cont.
 11. *Emotions in Italian Humanism: Petrarch and Bruni*
 12. *Emotions in Italian Humanism: Alberti*

Required Reading:

1.
Alex Houen, "Affect and Literature: Introduction," in *Affect and Literature* (Cambridge, 2020), 1-30.
Katie Barclay, "State of the Field: The History of Emotions," *History* 106.371 (2021): 456-466.
Charles Breslin, "Philosophy or Philology: Auerbach and Aesthetic Historicism," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 22.3 (1961): 369-381
2.
Barbara Rosenwein, *Emotional Communities in the Early Middle Ages* (Ithaca, 2006), Introduction
Dana LaCourse Munteanu, "Poetic Fear-Related Affects and Society in Greco-Roman Antiquity," in *Affect and Literature*, 33-48
Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Book 6.438-674
3.
Virgil, *Aeneid*, Books 2, 4
Gian Biagio Conte, *The Poetry of Pathos: Studies in Virgilian Epic* (Oxford, 2007), 23-57
4. סנקה, נשי טרויה; תיאסטס, תרגום רחל בירנבאום (ירושלים, 2020)
Alessandro Schiesaro, *The Passions in Play: Thyestes and the Dynamics of Senecan Drama* (Cambridge, 2003), 221-252.
5.
Chrétien de Troyes, *Perceval: The Story of the Grail*, trans. Burton Raffel (New Haven, 2008) (available via huji).
Andrew Lynch, "'What cheer?' Emotion and Action in the Arthurian World," in *Emotions in Medieval Arthurian Literature: Body, Mind, Voice*, eds. Carolyne Larrington, Corinne Saunders, Frank Brandsma (London 2015), 47-63.
6. Cont.
7. דנטה, הקומדיה האלוהית, תרגום ראובן כהן (ירושלים, 2014), תופת 5, 7-9, 32-33
8. דנטה, הקומדיה האלוהית, פורגטוריו 15-17, פרדיסו 15
Heather Webb, *Dante, Artist of Gesture* (Oxford, 2022), 131-155
9. בוקאצ'ו, דקאמרון, תרגום גאיו שילוני ואריאל רטהאוז (ירושלים, 2000), סיפורים 4.1, 4.4, 8.7
10. בוקאצ'ו, דקאמרון, סיפורים 2.8, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8
11. לאונרדו ברוני, הנבלה של סלאוקוס ואנטיוכוס, תרגום יונתן פיין
Petrarch, *The Triumph of Love*, trans. Wilkins
12.
Leon Battista Alberti, *The Book of the Family*, trans. Guido Guarino (Lewisburg, 1971), Books 2 and 4

Stephen J. Milner, “‘Bene Comune e Benessere’: The Affective Economy of Communal Life”, *Emotions, Passions, and Power in Renaissance Italy*, eds. Riciardelli and Zorzi (Amsterdam 2015), 237-251

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 20 %

Additional information: