Syllabus

THE JEWISH COMEDY - 19928

Last update 14-01-2014

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: General & Comparative Literature

Academic year: 1

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof Sidra Ezrahi

Coordinator Email: sidra.dke@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: 16:30

Teaching Staff:
Prof Sidra Ezrahi
Course/Module description:
An exploration of the comic impulse in Jewish literature—from akedat yitzhak and the scroll of Esther in the ancient world to Kafka, Philip Roth and Hanokh Levin in the twentieth century. We will explore the changing functions of comedy in different Jewish contexts: as diasporic "defense" in Eastern Europe in the face of impotence or danger (laughter in "real time") or as "laughter after" in the wake of disaster; as context for the affirmation of cultural amalgamations in the American diaspora; and as a disarming way of "speaking truth to power" in the context of Jewish sovereignty in contemporary Israel.

Course/Module aims:
 n/a

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

Attendance requirements(%):
 95%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: n/a

Course/Module Content:
 n/a

Required Reading:

Isaac Bashevis Singer, Gimpel the Fool (1945), tr. Saul Bellow, A Treasury of Yiddish Stories, pp. 401-413.
Arthur Koestler, Comedy, Insight and Outlook (1949).
Sidra DeKoven Ezrahi, America as the Theatre of Jewish Comedy: From Sholem Aleichem to Grace Paley, Studia Judaica XIII, 2005, ed. Gyemant Ladislau (Cluj, Romania), pp. 74-82.

Additional Reading Material:
n/a

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 25 %
Project work 25 %
Assignments 30 %
Reports 20 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
 n/a