



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

ANCIENT JEWISH EXEGESIS - 21350

Last update 27-08-2017

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: bible

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Michael Segal

Coordinator Email: Michael.Segal@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: M 16:00-17:00

Teaching Staff:

Prof Michael Segal

Course/Module description:

General description of the rich body of Jewish literature from the Second Temple period, with a focus on the exegetical (of the Bible) aspects of this literature. Close readings of ancient exegetical sources.

Course/Module aims:

To:

- (1) describe the Jewish exegetical compositions from the Second Temple period.
- (2) define the exegetical enterprise, and trace its development.
- (3) introduce and exemplify the exegetical methods in the Jewish tradition, from the latest biblical books until the end of the Second Temple period.
- (4) identify some of the historical, cultural and ideological causes that influenced the history of Jewish biblical interpretation.

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

Analyze the text of early Jewish exegetes in their cultural and historical context. Discuss comprehensively the biblical text and the exegetical issues that arise when reading it. Assess the advantages and disadvantages of specific interpretations/interpreters. Formulate clearly these conclusions in oral and written form.

Attendance requirements(%):

85

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Targil - interactive classroom discussions.

Course/Module Content:

- (1) Introduction
 - (a) Jewish Literature of the Second Temple period
 - (b) The Bible in the Second Temple period
 - (c) The Sources for Early Biblical Exegesis
- (2) The Story of Shechem and Dinah in Early Exegesis
- (3) Early Halakhic Exegesis: Profane Slaughter

Required Reading:

(1) Introduction

- א. ח' מאק, הפרשנות הקדומה למקרא, עמ' 9-16
ב. J. Kugel, *Bible the of Traditions*, pp. 1-35

(2) *The Story of Shechem and Dinah in Early Exegesis*
Sources

1. Genesis 34
2. Gen 49:5-7; 48:22
3. Judith 9:1-4
4. Jubilees 30
5. Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs: Levi 5-7; Simeon 5
6. Aramaic Levi Document from Qumran
7. Pseudo-Philo LAB 8:7-8
8. Theodotus, Fragments 1-8
9. Philo of Alexandria:
 - a. On Abraham's Migration 223-225
 - b. On the Change of Names, 193-195
10. Josephus, Antiquities, I, 337-341
11. Joseph and Asenath 23
12. 4Maccabees 2:19-20
13. Septuagint
14. Aramaic Targumim (Onqelos, Neofiti, Pseudo-Jonathan)
15. Genesis Rabbah 80 (and additional rabbinic sources)

And studies on each of these sources.

3. *Ancient Halakhic Interpretation: Non-sacral Slaughter*

1. Lev 17:1-9
2. Deuteronomy 12:1-28
3. 4QLeviticus-d and Samaritan Pentateuch to Lev 17
4. 11QTemple 52:13 - 53:8
5. 4QMMT B 27-35
6. Leviticus Rabbah 22, 7 (and additional rabbinic sources)

And studies on each of these sources.

Additional Reading Material:

יוסף הינמן, אגדות ותולדותיהן: עיונים בהשתלשלותן של מסורות (ירושלים, 1974).

יצחק הינמן, דרכי האגדה (ירושלים, 1954).

י"א זליגמן, "ניצני מדרש בספר דברי הימים", תרביץ מט (תש"ם), עמ' 14-32 [מודפס שנית באוסף

מאמריו: י"א זליגמן, מחקרים בספרות המקרא (עורכים א' הורביץ, ע' טוב וש' יפת, ירושלים, תשנ"ב), עמ' 454-474.

י' זקוביץ, מבוא לפרשנות פנים מקראית (אבן יהודה, תשנ"ב).

ע' טוב, ביקורת נוסח המקרא: פרקי מבוא (ירושלים, תש"ן).

ח' מאק, הפרשנות הקדומה למקרא (תל-אביב, תשנ"ג).

מ' סיגל, ספר היובלים: שכתוב המקרא, עריכה, אמונות ודעות (ירושלים, 2007).

י' פרנקל, דרכי האגדה והמדרש (שני כרכים; גבעתיים, 1991).

מ' קיסטר (עורך), מגילות קומראן: מבואות ומחקרים (שני כרכים; ירושלים: יד יצחק בן-צבי, תשס"ט).

Carson, D.A. and H.G.M. Williamson (eds.), *It is Written: Scripture Citing Scripture, Essays in Honor of Barnabas Lindars, SSF* (Cambridge, 1988).

Fishbane, M., *Biblical Interpretation in Ancient Israel* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1985).

Ginzberg, L., *The Legends of the Jews* (Philadelphia: JPS, 1909-1938).

Holladay, C. R. *Fragments from Hellenistic Jewish Authors* (4 vols.; Atlanta: Scholars, 1983-1995).

Kraft, R.A. and G.W.E. Nickelsburg (eds.), *Early Judaism and its Modern Interpreters* (Atlanta, 1986).

Kugel, J., *Traditions of the Bible* (Cambridge, Mass./London: Harvard University Press, 1998).

Kugel, J. and R. Greer, *Early Biblical Interpretation* (Philadelphia, 1986).

Kugel, James L., Lawrence H Schiffman, and Louis H Feldman. *Outside the Bible: Ancient Jewish Writings Related to Scripture* (3 vols.; Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2013).

Mulder, M.J. (ed.), *Mikra: Text, Translation, Reading and Interpretation of the Bible in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988).

Nickelsburg, G.W.E., *Jewish Literature Between Bible and Mishnah* (Philadelphia, 1978).

Saebø, M. (ed.), *Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: The History of its Interpretation. I: From the Beginnings to the Middle Ages* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1996).

Stone, M. (ed.), *Jewish Writings of the Second Temple Period* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984).

Vermes, G., *Scripture and Tradition in Early Judaism: Haggadic Studies* (Leiden: Brill, 1973).

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 100 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: